

**Shropshire Council  
Environmental Protection**

**Representations in relation to a new Premises Licence – Rowley's  
Mansion Courtyard, Barker Street, Shrewsbury**

I, Robert BOWLAND am the authorised Officer within the Environmental Protection Team with delegated powers to formally comment on Premises Licence Applications in relation to the Licensing Objective The Prevention of Public Nuisance.

I have nearly 30 years' experience in Environmental Health dealing with noise complaints from both domestic and commercial premises. I worked for the Council's Out of Hours Team between 2014 and 2020 involved in regulating the Nighttime economy. My qualifications include a BTEC in Environmental Health, a Certificate in Acoustics from the University of the West of England, and the Professional Licensing Practitioners Qualification (Merit)

I refer to the application from Capital Bars Frankwell Ltd to Licence a paved area between Rowley's House and Barker Street for the supply of alcohol and Provision of Late-Night Refreshment 7 days a week. The application is for the Provision of Late-Night Refreshment Monday – Thursday to 03:00, and Friday and Saturday until 05:00. I understand that following discussions with the Police the weekend times have been scaled back to 3:00 am

Acting as the Responsible Authority for the Licensing Objective the Prevention of Public Nuisance I have a duty to consider the impact that this application may have on nearby residents in terms of Public Nuisance.

**I am of the opinion that granting this Premises Licence as currently proposed will undermine the above Licensing objective and therefore have to formally object.**

The proposed Licensed area is a paved courtyard to the front of Rowley's Mansion covering approximately 200 Square Meters. The site is currently unused and rather unloved. The closest residential building is The Tannery which houses people who would otherwise be homeless and support staff. This building is directly across the road from the site, approximately 25m away. The next nearest properties are on Hills Lane, some 30m away. These properties are shielded by Rowley's House itself which is a substantial 3 story building. The next closest properties are on Claremont Place, which is in an elevated position to the rear of Alberts Shed some 70m away. There is a gap between Alberts Shed and The Tannery through which sound can travel unimpeded. Indeed, there is direct line of sight from Rowley's mansion to the rear of properties on Claremont place.

This part of Shrewsbury, sometimes referred to as the West End has a number of Licensed Premises which trade into the early hours at the weekend and could be regarded as the centre of the Night Time Economy. The venues with the latest Licenses are Labyrinth and Alberts Shed both of which can trade to 4.30am at the weekend.

Late night food offerings in the area are limited to Kebab Shops on Mardol and Hills Lane which are Licensed to 4:00 am at the weekend. The application site will be the only venue in the area offering a seated area to eat Late Night Refreshment outside. I expect the venue to be popular and may attract people not just from Alberts Shed but also from other venues in the town centre, many of which close at 1am or 2 am.

Depending on the type and arrangement of the furniture the site could potentially accommodate upto 100 people. The exact maximum number will be determined by a fire risk assessment.

There is potential for that number of people who may well be in high spirits after a night out to generate a considerable amount of noise. Alcohol is a social lubricant and generally increases the volume at which people talk and can result in raucous behaviour. Shropshire Council has previously had complaints about people noise from Licensed Premises and has taken Licence Reviews to restrict the permitted hours of outdoor space.

Having worked as an Out of Hours Officer from November 2014 to August 2020 with responsibilities for helping regulate the Night time economy I have direct experience of how busy this part of town is at the weekend. It is a lively atmosphere with a lot of people enjoying a night out, moving from venue to venue, people queuing to gain entry to Premises, people on the streets smoking / vaping traffic, eating take away food, vehicles and taxis collecting and dropping people off, plus music that spills out of venues such as Montgomery's Tower, Labyrinth and Alberts Shed all adds to a noisy environment.

To confirm that my perceptions of the Night Time Economy are still correct have visited and spoken with staff at the Councils CCTV centre on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 about when this part of town is busy, and therefore noisy.

I am of the opinion that while the proposed venue will generate some additional noise, I do not feel that the impact will be significant at the weekend and will in my judgment not add noticeably to an environment that already has elevated noise levels. Therefore, I have no objection to a Premises Licence being granted until 3 am on a Friday and Saturday night and a Sunday prior to a Bank Holiday Monday.

However, the area is much less busy on weekday nights, with far less footfall. I visited the area on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 22:50 and stayed in the area approximately half an hour. Alberts Shed, Labyrinth, Blind Tiger and the Loopyshrew were closed, Montgomerys Tower while open had very few people inside and was playing background music which was not audible outside.

I carried out a noise assessment from Claremont Place. The area was quiet, the predominant sound was distant traffic and fan noise. I carried out a 5 minute measurement between 23:02 – 23:07, the measured value was 32.0 dB(A)

I monitored the noise from next to Rowleys mansion, the area was relatively quiet with few people about. There was no music audible and little traffic. The predominant noise was fan noise from cooling systems. I carried out a 5 minute noise measurement, the measured value being Laeq 37 dB(A).

The above assessment illustrates how quiet the area is in the week despite it being in the centre of town. The noise environment in the week is a total contrast to the noise environment at the weekend.

In Environmental Law, such as The Noise Act 1996 and World Health Organisation Regulations, the hours 23:00 to 07:00 are classed as night time and individuals should be afforded a level of protection from noise that does not prevent or interrupt sleep.

I am of the opinion that allowing Rowley's Courtyard to trade in the week after 23:00 would attract people into the area and produce a new noise source which would stand out and dominate an otherwise relatively quiet noise environment.

Accordingly, I am of the opinion that allowing the area to be used after 23:00 Sunday to Thursday is likely to undermine the Licensing Objective The Prevention of Public Nuisance.

I would however remove my objection with immediate effect if the trading hours Sunday to Thursday were modified so the area closes at 23:00

**Rob Bowland**  
**Environmental Protection Officer**  
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**Health, Wellbeing and Prevention Directorate**  
**Shropshire Council**