

Gethin Tasker– Objection received 02/08/2022

Compton Club, License – Objection

My name is Gethin Tasker, my family and I live at [REDACTED].

Our house backs directly on to the Compton Club.

We have lived at this address for over nine years.

Public nuisance.

We have suffered greatly over the years from excessive noise, music and shouting from the club.

Groups of people congregating in the car park creating a disturbance.

Items have been stolen from our garden.

Various objects have been thrown over our fence, table decorations, glass candle holders, drinking glasses, cigarette butts.

The club was previously a sports club for bowls and then a British Legion club. Turning the Compton club into a late night drinking and music venue isn't in keeping or true to the spirit of the original intention for the building.

The village is well served with a nearby pub, The Withies, and a village hall both of which cater very well for the needs of the local population.

The club is surrounded by residential properties whereas the pub and village hall are more isolated and more suited for late night activities.

There is no continuity with management, members of the committee who oversee the running of the club are constantly changing with no one individual taking responsibility. Not the basis for a well run organisation.

Yours faithfully,

Gethin Tasker

Stuart Anderson – Objection received 06/08/2022

Good afternoon,

We have lived at [REDACTED] for over 12 years now and have rubbed along relatively well as neighbours for the best part of a decade with the Compton Club Limited. I have cut the hedge and sanded the benches and fixed the fences in my time at the Club and will help where I can. However, in the last few years there has been an absence of control at the club and we must object to you renewing the license. The noise level can reach obscene levels now to the point where you can clearly hear the songs through the walls and throughout our house, often well beyond the hours listed in this application notice. We have raised complaints but these are generally just shrugged off and batted away. There have been many of these issues over the last two years with particular issues around an event held on Christmas Day and a Halloween / Fancy Dress / Fireworks event in early November. As I mentioned there were many other events on top of this that breached regulations and many that we weren't here to witness for being abroad or away at other venues ourselves. That is not to say other neighbours in Bowling Green, Fowlers Croft and the Street haven't been effected by these events. I would be surprised if you were not to receive other complaints from other neighbours surrounding the Club.

Apart from the clear lack of control around the noise levels the club and quite often the patrons at these events the club are incapable of closing up and leaving quietly after an event. When the events run later into the evening there is never the organisation nor transport capacity to remove the inebriated guests, there are no buses and there are rarely enough taxis. Without fail the patrons and occasionally the staff sit on the picnic bench tables outside the venue talking as quietly as you would expect drunk people to speak up to 2 to 2:30 am. As the venue is often closed at this point they up urinating either where they are or on the pavement. This area where the patrons loiter is right by the bedroom windows of the Bowling Green properties. If they loiter at the back then it will be the same problem for everyone at Fowlers Croft. It is a venue that is very much out of the way for public transport and Uber cars are very difficult to hail in the area never mind getting through to local firms in Godalming and Guildford, there simply isn't the transport capacity to clear them from the venue after 11pm. The social cost is to the residents in the immediate vicinity of the club and it has very little effect on the committee members who live far enough away from the club for it not to affect them personally.

The venue and has become wholly unsuitable for these late licenses as the team that run the site are incapable or /and unwilling to manage their guests. The noise meter has never been calibrated (so they tell me) or checked since it was put in place. The club staff also tell me that even if it were calibrated the band or DJ present just turns it off as soon as it raises a warning for the noise level or they ignore it so the volume just increases through the evening. The final result of this being that after three or four hours of music coming through the walls the people leaving the venue are talking at the top of their voices as their hearing has been "adjusted" throughout the evening.

The fireworks that were set off at the event in November were set off at 11pm on the basketball court opposite the club and next to the playground were incredibly thoughtless, this wasn't licensed and the spent fireworks were left there until the mid-afternoon the following day. Any curious child could have caused themselves a serious injury. Not only was the timing of the fireworks outside of legal limits but the lack of management at the time in relation to how incredibly drunk they all were could have led to someone being injured at the time or worse still a child could have seriously hurt themselves the following morning. This particularly annoyed me given the impact it could have had on any child from the area. This party was for one of the committee members family members....they really should know better.

Furthermore the bike club that has made an appearance last year has added a great deal of noise and the egregious speeds they travel through the village to the club is obscene. I mentioned this to a committee member about the aggressive driving of this group might lead to someone being killed on The Street at the speeds they travel and they responded glibly that as long as it wasn't on The Compton Club premises he didn't really care and it wasn't his problem. We wrote to the Parish Council about this as it was becoming a particular risk to the pedestrians on the Street and Spiceall.

Regarding the food at the bikers events and other evenings put on in the last couple of years there are often signs up saying "cash only". At a time in the middle of a pandemic of hyper vigilance from everyone else regarding card only protocols for hygiene reasons the cash only mantra raised eyebrows. It is known that at some of these events KFC takeaways were being purchased, stored and reheated which is pretty unpleasant and must be in breach of a number of catering guidelines.

With the event on Christmas Day 2021 we didn't get to sleep until 2am on Christmas day / Boxing Day, not because we were partying with family and friends but because the club had let the venue out under a special license where the patrons supplied their own alcohol – this wasn't a local family to Compton. As a result they were just left to their own devices....this was particularly thoughtless with regards to the Club's neighbours on that day of all days.

On the occasions where I have just had enough of the noise and gone around to ask the venue to turn the music down the attitude is awful and the people partying there can present an intimidating front. We live here and they don't, they really don't care in the slightest. Mike (also on the committee) says 'You shouldn't live near a club if you don't want to hear music' I explained it had really only been a problem in recent years and he just laughed. The song that Wednesday evening blaring through the walls was Californication by the Red Hot Chilli Peppers. Great song but not when it is waking up three kids on a Wednesday evening at 10pm. Again like I say they have no regard for the community. It now very much has the feel of club for the committee rather than the community.

The bright spot over the last couple of years was [The Thai Kitchen](#), it made the club feel alive and there were a really pleasant bunch that would eat out on the picnic benches whilst having a pint from the bar. Every other event has been pretty awful for the residents near to the club.

We have plenty of correspondence to this effect with committee members at the club along with the Parish council if you wish to see it and we can forward images and videos if you need them to verify what has been going on under the current management, I have attached just one of the events for you to get some kind of understanding of the lack of control it was sent at 1.02 am on the 6th November – they finally left at 2am . This is not a rare event, there are 16 other emails to Tim Carter from April 2021. We have to live in and around these people so I've never escalated it to the council or noise abatement, seeing the notice for a new application seems like the right time to draw your attention to just how bad things have been. I would urge please not to renew any of the late licenses. They cannot manage anything in a reasonable manner for the neighbours.

Kind regards

Stuart Anderson