



Memo

From Thomas Crabb, Environmental Noise Solutions Limited

To Mr. Calum Reford, Architecture Unknown Ltd.

Subject Proposed Wedding Venue, Middleton Conservative Club, Middleton

Date 6 February 2026

Thank you for forwarding the consultation response from the Rochdale Borough Council. Please find herewith the response:

1. *Section 4.2 of the noise assessment states details of the plant & equipment to be installed was not available, drawing number 23.150.304, Dated: July 2024 shows a self-contained flat on the first floor however no reference has been given to this within the noise assessment.*

It is not clear whether the two points contained in this comment are related.

With respect to fixed plant and equipment, it is commonplace to condition this aspect of the development as final plant details are rarely finalised at planning stage.

With respect to the self-contained flat, it is understood that this will be kept within the ownership of the venue. This aspect is amenable to a suitably worded planning condition.

2. *Section 4.3 refers to the music noise breakout the venue will feature a main wedding hall (Wedding Hall 1) at ground floor, with an additional overflow space (Wedding Hall 2) at first floor level. It is understood that wedding receptions are to be held in Wedding Hall 1 and it is assumed that this may include musical entertainment. The section states wedding hall one will be appropriate however no details have been given for wedding hall 2.*

The noise model has been updated to include music noise breakout from both wedding halls simultaneously. Whilst this results in higher resultant music noise levels at the surrounding NSRs, noise levels are still significantly (at least 17 dB) below the existing late evening/night-time background noise levels at the NSRs.

Please see Table 4.2 of the updated noise impact assessment (version 3).

3. *Section 1.2 states there is a wedding venue at 79–79A Long Street, The Old School Rooms to the north. However the assessment does not state if there was a wedding during the monitoring period.*

No events were taking place at The Old School Rooms during the monitoring period. However, to reiterate, music noise associated with the nearby New Inn public house was audible across the site until 0130 hours (later than the operating hours sought for the proposed venue).

Music noise from the venue would not therefore significantly affect the acoustic character of the area.

4. *There are residents in close proximity and there is the potential for noise complaints from vehicles entering and leaving the venue especially from an entourage of sports vehicles. There is also the potential noise from fireworks alongside percussion instruments outside of the venue.*

Section 4.4 of the NIA contains a detailed assessment of noise associated with the car park and robustly assumes that every single parking bay is departed from within a single 30-minute period.

Appendix 6 of the NIA contains a noise management plan which includes a requirement for parking attendants to supervise the car park at the beginning and end of events and for signs to be displayed advising that excessive revving, engine noise and car stereo noise is prohibited within the car park.

With respect to noise associated with percussion (Dhol Drummers), in ENS's experience these events are very transient (lasting circa 15 minutes) and occur at the start of the event (i.e. during less noise-sensitive hours).

The Planning Practice Guide on Noise states that: *'The subjective nature of noise means that there is not a simple relationship between noise levels and the impact on those affected. This will depend on how various factors combine in any particular situation'*.

These factors include:

- The source and absolute level of the noise together with the time of day it occurs
- For non-continuous sources of noise, the number of noise events, and the frequency and pattern of occurrence of the noise

As noise from percussion is infrequent, transient and occurs during daytime hours, it is considered that the nature, frequency and pattern of occurrence of the events represents a negligible noise impact.

If the LPA considers that the use of fireworks will result in an unacceptable loss of residential amenity then the use of fireworks can be prohibited by planning condition and/or added to the noise management plan in Appendix 6 of the NIA.

5. *The proposed venue operating hours have the potential to host two weddings, which has not been considered in the noise assessment. The Environmental Protection Team would recommend refusal due to the potential noise from the proposal and the impact on residents in close proximity.*

To reiterate, the updated noise assessment allows for simultaneous music noise breakout from both wedding halls and the assessment robustly assumes every single parking bay is departed from within a single 30-minute period.

It is evident that all extreme worst-case scenarios have been considered and assessed and there are therefore no technical reasons for refusing the application on noise grounds.

I trust the foregoing is sufficient for your needs. Should you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Thomas Crabb
Environmental Noise Solutions Ltd.