

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Licensing Department  
Halton Borough Council  
Municipal Building  
Kingsway  
Widnes WA8 7QF

## **Re: Objection to Application for Extended Opening Hours – *The Royal, High Street, Runcorn***

Dear Licensing Officer,

I am writing in my capacity as a Councillor for Mersey and Weston Ward to formally object to the application submitted by The Royal, High Street, Runcorn, seeking to extend its opening hours to 4:00 am on Fridays and Saturdays.

My objection is made under the Licensing Objective of the Prevention of Public Nuisance as outlined in the Licensing Act 2003.

### **Grounds for Objection**

The premises are located in a predominantly residential area, with several homes situated directly opposite and in close proximity to The Royal. Extending the opening hours until 4:00 am would likely:

- Generate significant noise disturbances from patrons leaving the premises in the early hours of the morning, including raised voices, vehicle noise, and general anti-social behaviour.
- Cause sleep disruption and distress to residents living nearby, particularly families and elderly individuals.
- Increase the potential for public nuisance and disorder in an area that has already raised concerns about late-night activity.

Given these factors, I believe that approving this extension would be contrary to the Licensing Objective of preventing public nuisance and would have a negative impact on local residents' quality of life.

### **Conclusion**

I respectfully urge the Licensing Committee to refuse this application for extended opening hours. Maintaining the current licensed hours would strike a fair balance between supporting local business and protecting residents' right to the peaceful enjoyment of their homes.

Thank you for considering my representation.

Yours sincerely,  
Councillor Victoria Begg. Mersey and Weston Ward. Runcorn.

Hi Kim

I would completely concur with my ward colleague Cllr Begg, and would add my signature to her letter as per this email.

We need to be moving away from an all-night economy to one that is ultimately safer, family friendly, and truly considers the peaceful lives the majority want to lead.

Best Wishes, Norman

Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh MA(WBIS) PPol Mgmt, MLoL

Labour Councillor for Mersey and Weston Ward, Runcorn

Tel: Call/Text/Answerphone [REDACTED]

Facebook: Mersey and Weston Ward Labour Councillors / Runcorn Town Labour  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** mandy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 March 2026 14:07  
**To:** Legal Licensing  
**Subject:** License to the royal

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hello

I object to this, already complain to the council, the sound system disturbs the peace at our address. Recent weeks there have been fighting and gangs around the swimming baths on fri/sat night. It encourages local drug runs too, people urinate and use drugs around the area. Not to be extended and in fact be less than now to 12am / 1am at a weekend only if no trouble. Too close to residential areas.

Mandy [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Graham [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 March 2026 19:46  
**To:** Legal Licensing  
**Subject:** Opening hours extension for The Royal Pub Runcorn Old Town opposition.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hello there I recently learned about a proposal to keep The Royal Pub at 1 High Street in the old town to keep it open until 0430, I live on [REDACTED] and would like to oppose this proposal since the pubs in the area already attract unsavoury characters until the early hours of the morning. The alleyways that lead to the back of Bridge Street regularly have people sniffing cocaine and smoking cannabis in them just this last weekend I had to walk past a pair to go to the shop who were doing exactly that, I then noticed them on my return journey outside of the Royal pub so that's where they came from. A couple of weekends ago, and I'm sure you can find the police report for this, there were armed police in the area when an event at one of the pubs brought in a large crowd and something to do with the pubs had brought in armed police that was a scary situation. Drunk people heading from pub to pub like to vandalise and litter the houses on Bridge Street regularly of a weekend throwing beer bottles and cans into the gardens and last month of a weekend somebody came into my garden and stole my Recycling bin in the early hours.

The area is peaceful otherwise through the week with absolutely no incidents happening and me and other local residents, mainly pensioners, believe that extending the hours of the pub would only introduce more unsavoury behaviour and make the area untidy. We do not want to have more stuff to clean up after a weekend. What we need is a supermarket and a community hub not more drunk people making the area less inviting.

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

Sirs,

I have seen the application for an increase in opening hours at the Royal public house, High Street Runcorn, and in my capacity as Chairman of Runcorn Pubwatch and local licensee, feel I must object to this application for the following reasons.

The owners, Amber Taverns, and management of the Royal are falling short of the standards laid out in the Four Licensing objectives, which are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder.
- Public safety.
- The prevention of public nuisance.
- The protection of children from harm.

Prevention of crime and disorder is a primary function of any public house and the Royal fails in this area because despite numerous attempts to share information with them over the years we have been neighbours, it still allows prolific, high profile drug dealers to operate with impunity on its premises, dealers who are barred from many of Runcorn's other licenced premises, this can lead to an increase in ASB and can have a detrimental effect on the community. Also most weekends the Police are in attendance after failure to control violent altercation which invariably spills out into the street and recorded by the Town CCTV system

Public safety is an area neglected by the Royals owners, management and door staff, despite several door company changes, Identity checks are still not being carried out to a satisfactory standard to ensure local known trouble causers, some of whom have been on or are serving pub watch bans also drug dealers and under age persons, are kept out.

The prevention of public nuisance. The Royal already opens from 14 to 16 hours per day, from 10am six days per week and is advertising draught pints at 40% below the national average (see photo).



Irresponsible retailing not only has a detrimental effect on the community, but also contributes to risk of increased ASB.

- Because of the proximity to the close by Housing if the hours are increased in the way the company wants, this could lead to an increase in ASB, and complaints are being discussed by residents who do not wish to make it formal for fear of their identity being made public and possible repercussions.
- Longer poorly supervised hours and irresponsible pricing does encourage people to consume more which can lead to ASB evidence of this is already being seen.

Protection of children from harm.

Poor identity checks carried out on the door and the inside the bar has led to an increase in numbers of minors under the legal age to drink alcohol, becoming inebriated and being exposed to situations where drug usage is prolific, risk of assault increases and trying to gain access into other bars in the area with fake or borrowed identities, these are confiscated and passed to the licensing department and police for further attention when applicable

The licensing department and police are aware of issues raised in this document and are constantly made aware of serious issues arising in our community.

Gary 