

ACCRINGTON STANLEY FOOTBALL CLUB NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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1 Location

The Venue at Accrington Stanley Football Club, Livingstone Rd, Accrington, BB5 5BX

2 Introduction

The purpose of this Noise Management Plan (NMP) is to determine noise criteria to be met during events at The Venue at Accrington Stanley FC (ASFC), including Coley's, a bar and The 1968 Lounge, a hospitality venue, both event venues at ASFC.

This NMP will also give practical mitigation measures to be undertaken as standard as part of all events held The Venue at ASFC.

3 Context

The wider site is home to Accrington Stanley FC and the Crown Ground, more recently known at the Wham Stadium, and has been the Club's home since its reformation in 1968. One of the oldest names in English Football, the Club has been a vital part of the heritage of Accrington for well over 100 years and in recent years has once again become a member of the English Football League structure. Associated crowd and event noise is typical and well associated with this area of north Accrington. In order to support the match-day revenue and provide a contribution to the funds required to support operations, the club has invested in upgrades to the South Stand to create a high-quality hospitality space for match-day and non-match-day events, of which Coley's and The 1968 Lounge are a key part. Coley's is a bar and function / event space, open throughout the year on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings and match-days. The 1968 Lounge is a hospitality type higher end event venue. Building works to redevelop the South Stand were completed during Season 2020-2021 period.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, events were held in a temporary marquee in the adjacent carparking areas. It is understood that no noise complaints due to those events were received.

4 Entertainment Noise Criteria

The established guidance on noise from music events is contained in the Noise Council's Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts (1995). Whilst this guidance is typically for outdoor live music events, it can be considered relevant considering the Urban Stadium environment in which the venue is set.

4.1 Noise Levels

Coley's 80dB (L_{Aeq.5min}) between daytime and evening hours of 07.00h to 23.00h
 75dB (L_{Aeq.5min}) during night-time hours of 23.00h to 07.00h

1968 Lounge 85dB (L_{Aeq.5min}) between daytime and evening hours of 07.00h to 23.00h
 80dB (L_{Aeq.5min}) during night-time hours of 23.00h to 07.00h

For pre and post-match events held in Association with Accrington Stanley FC football matches only and taking place within The Venue at ASFC during the hours of 12.00h to 23.00h the following noise limits will apply

85dB (L_{Aeq.5min}) between daytime and evening hours of 07.00h to 23.00h

90dB (L_{Aeq.5min}) during night-time hours of 23.00h to 07.00h

5 Receptors

The properties that share a boundary with ASFC and would be closest to any noise emissions from The Venue at ASFC are the following:

- No.1 – No.11 Livingstone Road
- No.286 – No.306 Whalley Road

6 Existing Structure

The Venue at ASFC is a purpose-built function space with views out onto the playing area. There are no windows in the roof or on the façade facing towards the receptors. Two doors in the façade of each event room do not lead directly into the event space, one is for public access whilst the others provide access to the kitchens and back of house areas.

7 Schedule and timings

Events will be scheduled and spaced throughout the year to minimise disruption to residents, with events typically occurring at the weekend, which includes a Friday evening. Whilst the bar area will be open until 00:30, all live music will end before 23:00. After 23:00 all music noise will be through the in-house PA system and controlled such that, it is not audible within noise sensitive premises.

MITIGATION MEASURES

8 Communication

All evening dates for the events should be communicated to the Local Planning Authority, Hyndburn Borough Council (HBC), and advertised to the local community via the Authority. A phone number on which the duty manager can be reached during events should be available to neighbours and the Local Authority, so that any concerns regarding noise can be communicated directly and any obvious improvements can be made. It should be clear that not every complaint will constitute a non-compliance with any planning or licence conditions. ASFC should seek to foster open communication with the local community, particularly the

residents living near the venue. Engage in dialogue through community meetings, newsletters, or online platforms to address concerns, provide information about upcoming events, and encourage feedback. Actively listen to residents' concerns and take appropriate measures to address them promptly. Where possible this should include representatives of HBC as the enforcement authority. ASFC will establish a system to receive and address noise complaints from residents and will provide a dedicated contact person or helpline to handle complaints promptly and professionally. ASFC will investigate each complaint, take appropriate action if a violation is identified, and communicate the resolution to the affected parties.

9 Training and Management

ASFC will provide comprehensive training to venue staff, including event organisers, 3rd Party hosts, and security personnel, regarding noise management protocols. Ensure they understand the importance of adhering to noise limits, proper use of sound equipment, and responding to noise complaints effectively. Management of access doors, which are the most likely noise emission points from Coley's during an event, is a vital component of noise mitigation. The two-door vestibule system should be regulated to ensure doors are automatically closed, are not propped open or held open for longer than is necessary to access or exit the building. Where possible, the doors should be staffed.

10 Sound System Management

ASFC will implement strict controls on the sound systems used in the venue. They will train staff to be aware of and adjust internal volume levels and regularly maintain and inspect sound equipment to prevent malfunctions that could lead to excessive noise. Tests should be undertaken to ensure the sound system levels can be set and controlled to not exceed the criteria set out in Section 4. Where a limiter is in place to prevent excessive noise emissions, removal or adjustment should be a cause for strict disciplinary action or withholding of deposits.

11 Monitoring and Reporting

At agreed times, ASFC should arrange for a suitably qualified person to undertake noise monitoring at the nearest receptor to track noise levels during an event. Record and document noise levels for the event. Maintain a log of all monitoring data for future reference. In addition to ASFC's monitoring programme, the Local Authority may wish to conduct unannounced checks during events to ensure compliance with music noise level criteria. In the event of a complaint received by ASFC or HBC, a record should be logged of the date and time, the activity being undertaken at the time and any actions implemented by the venue staff.

12 Compliance and Improvement

ASFC will regularly review and assess the venue's compliance with the established noise limits and regulations. They will conduct internal audits to ensure proper adherence to the noise management plan. They will implement consequences for non-compliance, such as warnings, or even event cancellations in severe cases. ASFC will periodically review and

update the noise management plan based on feedback, monitoring data, and regulatory changes. They will seek opportunities to implement additional noise reduction measures or technologies as they become available. ASFC will continuously strive to improve the venue's noise management practices.

13 External Noise

The road immediately outside Coley's is a Public Right of Way. Whilst the venue makes every effort to ensure people using the venue leave in an orderly and respectful way, they have limited control on their ultimate behaviour. When an event has a finishing time after 22:00, it is recommended that security staff are available at the exit to encourage appropriate behaviour and rapid departure to Whalley Road. Signage in exit areas should encourage respectful consideration toward neighbours.