



**Chair: Ian Yates**  
**Vice Chair: Bryan Pready**  
**Secretary: Irene Slack**  
**Treasurer: John Lloyd**

Thursday, 18 July 2013

## **CONSIDERATION OF AN EMRO FOR ORMSKIRK**

I am writing on behalf of Ormskirk Community Partnership to give you our initial opinion that the introduction of an EMRO would be most suitable in the Ormskirk area.

### **Reports of Complaints**

We have been receiving an increasing number of reports from our members and also from local residents about anti-social behaviour resulting from late night drinking, especially in the early hours of the morning. Almost all of the observations concern students who seem largely to populate the late night scene.

### **Ormskirk – A Special Case**

We believe Ormskirk to be a special case deserving special measures. There appears to be no other city or town in the country which has such an adverse ratio of students to permanent resident population. Whilst the problems elsewhere are somewhat diluted and dissipated, they are more concentrated and hard-hitting in Ormskirk.

### **Examples of Anti-Social Behaviour**

Other residents' groups will express views about students living within their community. However, OCP represents views of residents living in close proximity to the University campus, particularly in Ruff Lane, St. Helens Road and adjacent roads. Such comments relate to the student element moving to and from the campus in the early hours without care or consideration for the neighbours. Here is a list of typical examples of poor behaviour encountered:

- Incessant chanting and shouting.
- Urinating in gardens and on gateposts.
- Overturning bins.
- Vandalising of walls and gates.
- Throwing of cans, fast food debris and other litter on gardens, hedges and pavements.
- Jumping on parked cars in driveways.
- Exposing themselves by young females which creates additional disturbance from those in the group and encourages the approving tooting of horns by passing motorists.
- Noise created by drunken students as they climb back into the campus in the early hours, over the Ruff Lane gates which are locked at 8.30pm.

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**Late Night Drinking**

The link between late night drinking and the above examples of excess is plain to see. The timings of these types of poor behaviour are pertinent to the problem. As licensed premises in the town are open till the early hours, there is a pattern of some students making their way from the campus to town after 11.00 pm, perhaps with a wee dram already inside, causing noise when all is quiet and folk are settling down for the night.

**Early Hours Return**

It is the return journey by the majority, between 2.00 and 3.00 am, when the anti-social behaviour and damage previously listed occurs. The problems reported to us appear to mainly applicable during the working week and in term time as some students go home at weekends and in the holidays.

We must state that some allowances can be made but the above examples are in excess of high jinks occasionally expected from students having a bit of fun. They are causing aggravation and sleep disturbance to children and especially adults who may have to be up early for work. Noise at midnight allows some sleep – disturbance at 2 and 3 am means a sleepless night.

**SSHH Campaign**

We understand that there is a student volunteer, late night monitoring scheme which has some effect in alleviating problems and noise. Due to a shortage of volunteers and its part time operation, it is not having a major impact and is not solving matters as one would wish. Also, the police do not have the manpower nor time to become involved in general disturbance.

**A Balance Needed**

There needs to be a better balance between the livelihoods of licensed premises' owners; the need for people, including students, to be able to enjoy themselves responsibly; and the right of residents to a quiet life in the early hours.

We have had limited time to draw up our summary opinion. Those who have contacted OCP will be able to provide further information, more specific details, logs, CCTV images, etc. Would you like us to act further on this in due course? Please let me know.

We believe the best way forward for all sides is the introduction of an EMRO with specified times, days and dates. It will surely support the community, reduce the incidence of negative behaviour in our town and lift the blight on some residents' lives.

Irene Slack  
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Ormskirk Community Partnership

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