

St Mirren Lighting issue – Renfrewshire Council and Ralston Community Council

11/5/23

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1.

Marie Mangan (MM) - did any of the report's recommendations get carried out e.g., mention of a redesign?

Colin Hunter (CH) - The council thought that redesign would be the best solution; however, St Mirren said that they couldn't afford that. We then served an abatement notice but, could not insist on a redesign we could specify a certain standard though.

2.

Aileen - The glare is still an issue in my house.

CH - The UK standard/nuisance provision stipulates that it depends on what rooms are used for e.g., bedrooms.

3.

Resident - which house was it that was classed as having the issue?

Rod McClelland – It was my house, apparently.

MM – I think it was No. 26 which has sold twice but has no one living in it. Levels on Allanton (Numbers, 15 and 17) look to be affected more than Duchray Drive

CH – we cannot measure glare; we can measure the amount of light hitting the window.

A – I haven't had any tests taken in my house.

4.

Dr Howie – Q trees and bushes have been taken down at the Bowling Club, has this been considered? I've had to build an extension to the back of my house now so that my children can sleep in their bedrooms at night; the glare was too much.

CH – specialists determine what is tolerable, and then the council is responsible for making decisions on that information.

5.

Resident - I had a specialist visit my home who immediately told me that one of my rooms could not possibly be considered. No further reason or explanation was given.

6.

MM - you said that you could not hold them to redesign but St Mirren got the funding. The council paid for the assessment and gave a recommendation and St Mirren didn't have to do it, they just got the cherry picker in for a couple of hours and changed the lights on two columns. The fencing is still an issue. The people attending St Mirren, to watch or spectate are using the Bowling Club ground for this and in a rather disrespectful manner - in terms of noise, mess and general nuisance (they are trespassing).

7.

Resident - has any property met the statutory nuisance criteria?

CH – Yes, one has.

Resident – Has it been resolved?

CH – we are in an interim position.

MM – How do you model it? St Mirren doesn't provide you with any information/refuses to provide anything. E.g., It stipulates that lights should be at zero. If they were at zero, we wouldn't need to be her about lighting because there wouldn't be an issue.

8.

MM – The issue with the columns' height is also unresolved.

CH – we are still to get the height of the columns from St Mirren (it's in hand)

MM – why can't they be held to account? They have continuously failed to comply with anything.

9.

Resident – What measures were taken at the end for the nuisance property?

Response - they weren't remeasured.

Residents x 2 - Cannot use their driveways safely because of the glare

10.

David D (DD) - read an e-mail from 2019 – the response from St Mirren reads that residents have the problem, when in fact, the problem is St Mirren and their lights, noise nuisance and complete lack of respect. E.g., last week they dumped stuff in the car park and told the council that everything had been taped off, it hadn't, and that was another lie. They take use of the car park for approximately 1/3 of the year and nothing has ever happened about that. They built a building without planning permission which was very smoothly sorted retrospectively. St Mirren has everything that they want, and the community get no support at all.

11.

Resident - they clearly need to be told.

12.

Resident – Ralston Community Sports Centre lights are fine - no issue at all; why don't St Mirren just replicate that? Why does it need to be such a huge issue, the model is already there?

13.

A - the music is constantly blaring.

CH – is this an ongoing issue?

A – Yes

DD – The language has been awful from day one.

14.

Resident – what about the fence?

CH – they said that they would sort it.

Alasdair Morrison (AM) - we'll speak to them about it.

MM – as the landlord – you should be getting it sorted.

15.

A – Cars come on after they have been playing away, the shutters go up and they (St Mirren) empty all their kit into the containers. Wakes me up every time. This shouldn't be allowed.

16.

Resident – lights should be off at 9.30. Never are/Don't comply.

MM – in 2019 they changed from 2 lights to 5 lights. Nothing happened. YOUR REPORT says that the well-being of residents is important; we have no well-being! (The same report that states residents need specialist blinds AND then states that it is unreasonable to expect us to get these!)

17.

Resident – Have any adjustments been carried out – ever?

(other) Resident – None – no difference to the issues has ever been made.

Resident – Can't the Council stipulate what must happen with the footballs?

MM - Recommendations need to be enforced. The column heights should be fixed/ It can't be that difficult to find out the height.

CH - If the glare works need to be done, then they must comply, or they will fail to meet the requirements of the lease.

18.

Resident - What's your stance on the lights issue?

CH – We're waiting for the most recent outcome.

19.

MM- How will the modelling exercise be completed without knowing each angle of tilt of each lamp on each column (that's a lot of information)?

CH – St Mirren was providing all this information.

MM - the modelling exercise was not independent; St Mirren could tell them anything to make the results be in their favour. The lack of independence in this modelling exercise is a huge concern and would make any exercise farcical.

20. A few addresses were passed to CH so these residents can be included in any further tests/communications