

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 08:21
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Objection to the granting of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence for 149 Albert Road

Sent: 12 February 2018 00:06
To: Robson, Debra; Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to the granting of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence for 149 Albert Road

Ref. Application to open a Sexual Entertainment Venue at 149 Albert Road

It seems a complete contradiction to allow a sexual entertainment licence to be granted when in paragraph 7.10 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy the conclusion is drawn that "Given the various factors set out above, the Licensing Authority has reached the preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the City of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment".

The proposal to situate a lap dancing bar in Albert Road blatantly contravenes the guidelines laid out in Portsmouth's Local Strategic Partnership vision for the city. This states, amongst other objectives, "we want to:

- Make Portsmouth a city where everyone feels and is safe;
- Make Portsmouth an attractive and sustainable city;
- Deliver affordable, quality housing where people want to live;
- Enhance Portsmouth's reputation as a city of culture, energy and passion, offering access for all to arts, sports and leisure."

Such an establishment is highly likely to make this part of the city incredibly unsafe – particularly for women. There is much research into the sex industry which demonstrates how these places not only demean the women working there but are also often linked to prostitution, drugs and people trafficking. In 2003, a report was released by Lilith Research and Development, a subsidiary project of Eaves Women's Aid, a London women's housing agency. The report examined the phenomenon of lapdancing clubs in the north London borough of Camden and its effects on crime rates from the late 1990s onward. One conclusion that received considerable attention was the statement that following the introduction of lap-dancing clubs, rape in Camden rose by 50%. (Eden 2003). In 2009, corrections to the statistics were reported in the Guardian stating that the change between 1999 and 2002 was a somewhat lower increase of 33% (Bell 2008). It still however implies evidence of a cause-and-effect relationship between lap dancing clubs and rape.

Albert Road is a busy and lively street with numerous thriving and well-established businesses. There are valid concerns as to the effect of having an SEV in the middle of this road. Without doubt these places are seen as somewhat sleazy and tawdry, which many traders fear will detract from the family friendly atmosphere. Not only is

it likely to deter potential new companies setting up here but could well spur current businesses on to take their trade elsewhere.

There are many homes situated in the roads running off Albert Road and numerous flats above the shops. Local residents don't deserve to have their neighbourhood spoiled. How many of these inhabitants are going to be happy to living in the vicinity of a lap dancing bar? It is not something that estate agents are likely to mention when advertising properties, as it is not a positive selling point – quite the opposite! Independent music venues all over the country are struggling to exist in the current economic climate. The Wedgewood Rooms is a successful business but it must be of concern that attendances may be affected by situating a lapdancing club next door. This venue offers a diverse programme in order to appeal to wide section of the city's community. The Wedgewood Rooms has a fantastic reputation nationally and internationally and does much to enhance the cultural life of the city. An SEV in the neighbouring building is, without doubt, going to cause concern to potential ticket buyers. Many people - particularly females - will be justifiably nervous about leaving the venue as customers are arriving next door. The Wedgewood Rooms has also worked hard over its 25 year existence to ensure that youngsters are able to enjoy nights out and allay parental fears regarding safety. This too will be jeopardised.

Paragraph 7.15 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy document also states "...applicants should also be aware that applications for sex establishment licences will normally be refused if they are proposed to be located in the vicinity of:

Places of worship;

Leisure centres;

Educational premises..."

There are three places of worship in the locality - St Swithun's Church, Trinity Methodist Church and The Salvation Army Church.

Havelock Community Centre runs regular clubs and activities for all ages just around the corner.

Less than a couple of minutes' walk away is The Life House which describes itself as "a practical resource and support centre for those in need living in Portsmouth and Southsea. We hope we are working to help make Southsea an even more pleasant, safe place to live". Many of the people using this facility are vulnerable, often struggling with mental health and/or addiction issues and need to know that this area is a safe space – particularly as meals are served on Thursday evenings until 8.30. In addition Albert Road has two schools – Craneswater Junior and Southsea First. This is all further evidence that this particular location is highly unsuited to the proposed type of establishment and permission must be refused if following the recommendations in your own policy document.

In the 'statement in support of applications for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence and Premises Licence' the following argument is made:


"They generally pose no risk to the environment in terms of nuisance or crime and disorder, not least because sexual entertainment venues tend to be attended by more mature adults and they are not alcohol-led venues".

If this is the case then why has the application been made to open between the hours of 21:00 and 04:00 Monday to Sunday? These establishments are precisely the places people go to drink once the pubs have closed. Often attendees will be groups of young men such as stag parties, which can lead to noise and disturbance on leaving the venue – especially after many hours of drinking alcohol. The police are

already understaffed and overstretched and do not need further pressure on the service.

In the days of #MeToo, and #Drawaline etc., the granting of a licence to a lapdancing club in Albert Road in 2018 would be a highly retrograde step and drag the area back to the 1970's. A busy, thriving and popular area needs a more forward-looking approach to business investment.





Licensing Service
Portsmouth City Council
Civic Offices, Guildhall Square
Portsmouth PO1 2AL

3 February 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to object to the Sex Establishment Venue Licence Application re 18/00467/SEXEST. I am a local resident, living about 150 yards from the proposed lap-dancing club at 149 Albert Road.

Such a grant would be inappropriate bearing in mind the policy of Portsmouth City Council whereby "the Licensing Authority has reached the preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the City of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment."

The character of the locality surrounding 149 Albert Road includes shops, Southsea Infants and Craneswater Junior Schools, Trinity Methodist Church and St Swithun's Church, Havelock Community Centre, the Kings Theatre, the Wedgwood Rooms music venue (which includes people of all ages) adjacent to 149 Albert Road, and residences both in Albert Road (mainly above the shops) and in all nearby side-streets where many families live. It is a densely populated area. To reiterate, Portsmouth City Council policy maintains such a locality is not appropriate to have a Sex Establishment, and therefore this Licence Application should be refused.

Gender equality is currently a major issue. In light of the Harvey Weinstein scandals, the MeToo campaign, the President's Club ban on 'hostesses' and the Formula One ending of 'grid girls', it could forcefully be argued that a Sex Establishment Venue in a residential part of a city should not be allowed. Its proposed use, especially at night, could deter women from walking in the area comfortably or at all.

Two Licensing Objectives are to prevent crime and disorder and to secure public safety. A retired police officer recently reported that cuts in police numbers in Portsmouth have resulted in policing in the area after 2am to be virtually zero. Also that crime figures for the area have increased considerably over the past two years, causing increasing concern about possible disorder and safety, especially near venues such as the proposed Sex Establishment that proposes to keep late hours.

For all the above reasons, I strongly oppose the granting of this Sex Establishment Venue Licence.

Yours sincerely,



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 08:22
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW:

Sent: 11 February 2018 22:59
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject:

To Whom it may Concern

I would like to raise an objection to the sex establishment licence application ref: 18/00467/SEXEST.

I have an interest in this application as I have been a local resident since 1988 and would like to preserve the nature of my local community. As a resident of Gains Road I live within the immediate vicinity of the proposed premises and regularly use the facilities offered by the Albert Rd .

I object to the application on the following grounds, cross-referring the section numbers from the Sex Establishment Venue Policy 2012:

Objection 1:

Grounds for objection – Discretionary ground – 7.1(c) The number of sex establishments

Reasons for objections:

1. In 2012 when the SEV policy was agreed by the Council, which adopted Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009), having considered all contributory factors, it was preliminary concluded that there is no place within the City of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment.

2. By the Council's own policy, a nil cap policy on SEV was agreed and granted this licence would be directly contrary to the policy agreed in 2012.

Objection 2:

Grounds for objection – Discretionary ground – 7.1(d) Character of the relevant locality

Reasons for objections:

1. The general character of the area within which the proposed SEV is situated is a largely family residential area together with family leisure and educational area. This is contrary to the Council's policy on where any such SEV should be situated. The premises are in proximity to school , shops, pharmacies and other local resources.

2. The impact of the premises on the local area is such that it would have an adverse effect on the local businesses such as the adjacent wedding dress shop and other venues along Albert Road that would not wish to be associated with an SEV.

Objection 3:

Grounds for objection – Discretionary ground – 7.11 Gender Equality Issues

Reasons for objections:

1. By the Council's own policy adopted in 2012, it must be taken into consideration that the proposed use of the SEV would have a direct impact on deterring myself and other women from using the area comfortably or at all.

Objection 4:

Grounds for objection – Discretionary ground – 7.11 Effects upon regeneration and tourism in the area

Reasons for objections:

1. By agreeing to licence the use of the SEV in the current location, this could have an effect on any investment in regeneration of Albert with businesses not willing to invest in an area within which an SEV operates.
2. Albert Road relies heavily on local tourism, such as the King's Theatre and other venues, such as the Wedgewood Rooms for live music. An SEV in this location would directly affect the benefits of tourism that are currently in place and could have an adverse effect on the income of these venues going forward.

Objection 5:

Grounds for objection – Discretionary ground – 7.15 Use of premises in the vicinity

Reasons for objections:

1. It is the Council's own policy to normally refuse the application for an SEV when it is situated within the vicinity of dwellings, places of worship, schools, youth clubs, community centres etc.
2. The proposed SEV location is within the direct vicinity of large numbers of residential dwellings in and around the Albert Road area; both St. Swithuns Church and Trinity Methodist Church are within the vicinity of the proposed SEV location; both Craneswater Junior School and Southsea Infants School are within the vicinity of the proposed SEV location; Havelock Community Centre which often holds meetings into the proposed opening hours of the SEV is within the vicinity of the proposed SEV location.
3. The Wedgewood Rooms only 2 doors away from the proposed SEV location acts as a youth centre when hosting events for local schools and colleges as well as a live music venue for young people which would overlap with the operating hours of the SEV.
4. Places of tourism within the immediate vicinity of the proposed SEV location include the King's Theatre, which is in itself a historic building, and the Wedgewood Rooms which hosts events that attract custom from across the city and beyond. Both these existing venues would be adversely affected by the SEV licence in the proposed location.



25/01/2018

Licensing Service
Portsmouth City Council
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
Hants
PO1 2AL

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the sex establishment licence application ref: 18/00467/SEXEST.

As a resident of Portsmouth, and someone who frequents the Albert road area regularly I have an interest in this application and I object to the application on the following grounds:

Objection 1:

Grounds for objection – The number of sex establishments, or sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality

Reasons for objections:

The number of sex establishments that Portsmouth City Council has deemed appropriate for our city is **NIL**. Granting an application in this case would exceed that number.

Objection 2:

Grounds for objection – The Grant would be inappropriate, having regard

- i. To the character of the relevant locality;
- ii. To the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put
- iii. To the layout, character or condition of the premises

Reasons for objections:

1. This establishment would be in the vicinity of places of worship including Trinity Methodist Church, St Swithuns Church,

2. This establishment would be in the vicinity of Southsea infant school, Craneswater junior school and the kings theatre which hosts a children's drama school as well as family events.

My contact details are:



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 08:23
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Objection to Sex Establishment License 18/00467/SEXEST

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 February 2018 21:00
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to Sex Establishment License 18/00467/SEXEST

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to object to the Sex Establishment licence application ref: 18/00467/SEXEST

I am a local resident who recently moved to the Albert road area. I object to the application on the following grounds:

- This conflicts with the Council's sex establishment policy of having no sexual entertainment venues in the city. I am so proud of the family-friendly community in Portsmouth and in my local area, Albert road. I agree with the Council that this sort of establishment is not suitable or welcome in Portsmouth and does not reflect the city's ethos. We currently do not have this sort of establishment in my local area and I strongly feel the Council should uphold their commitment to stopping this type of service opening in such a thriving and popular area of the city.
- This is not a suitable area for this type of establishment. Albert road is a wonderful community- with schools, churches, independent shops and cafés as well as charities and social groups. Whilst there are a number of pubs and bars in the area, Albert road has continued to be a fun, friendly but safe place to spend time and to live. A sex establishment completely goes against the wonderful spirit of Albert road, which made me so keen to live here. I have always felt safe and comfortable, and proud of the community that I live in. It is not right or fair that everyone- including families and children- should have this sort of establishment on their doorstep. I truly believe that this would negatively impact the reputation of Albert road and impact the safety, security and happiness of local residents, including myself. Portsmouth Council should be proud and celebrate a much-loved area of Portsmouth and not risk degrading the area with such an unnecessary and unwanted establishment.
- It could have a negative long-term impact on the local area. It could degrade the Albert road area, negatively impacting independent businesses and venues. It could make the area unsafe and attract unwelcome behaviour in the area. As a single woman I have not felt or experienced behaviour that has made me feel uncomfortable in this area before and feel very safe and happy as a resident of Albert road. I am worried and concerned at what message it would give out if this establishment was allowed by the Council to open in such a well-loved, busy and thriving area of this city that could have greater repercussions on the reputation of this area. I have recently purchased my first home in the area and am genuinely disturbed about the impact this would have on the very positive experience I have so far had living in this area.

I truly hope you will decide to reject this application for a sex establishment in the much-loved area of Albert road. It is not needed and does not add value to this wonderful area of Portsmouth. I hope you will act on behalf of the residents and keep Albert road a safe, friendly and secure area of Portsmouth. Please do not allow so many of us to feel unhappy and unsafe in our community.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 08:24
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Licence Application 18/00467/SEXEST

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 February 2018 20:29
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Licence Application 18/00467/SEXEST

To Whom It May Concern

RE application: 18/00467/SEXEST.

I would like to object to the granting of this licence and my reasons for this are as follows:

1. Portsmouth City Council's policy on Sex Entertainment Venue states that there is no place within the city that is suitable for an SEV to be situated. The policy further states that applications for SEV licences will normally be refused if they are proposed to be located in the vicinity of venues such as places of worship, tourist attractions and schools. Located in the immediate vicinity of 149 Albert Road is Trinity Methodist Church, St. Swithuns Church, Southsea Infant and Craneswater Junior Schools and the Kings Theatre.
2. Portsmouth is a family friendly waterfront city that encourages tourists to come and visit to explore the rich history of Portsmouth. Albert Road is a much loved area of this city hosting local business and restaurants. To have a SEV located in the area would make this a much less attractive area to visiting families and I fear an increase in groups of men visiting for events such as stag parties would have a negative impact on the character of Albert Road.
3. There is a fear of increased crime in the area due to groups/individuals arriving and dispersing at unsociable hours.
4. The neighbouring Wedgewood Rooms frequently hosts events for young people and I have concerns for the young women leaving the venue at a time when it is likely that drunk men will be entering and leaving a SEV in a sexually charged state.
5. I believe there are also a number Gender equality issues around this application. Not least of my concerns is that lap dancing feeds in to a culture that encourages men to see women as sexual objects which runs contrary to the aim of true gender equality. A more immediate concern I have is the likely increase in harassment of women on the street. I have witnessed women being harassed outside of Wiggle on Surry Street with men (individuals and groups) wolf whistling, shouting, offering money in exchange for 'sexual services'. Recent media coverage has recently highlighted how harassment of women is widespread and often unreported due to the lack of trust in the authorities responsible to addressing such inappropriate behavior. This is supported by the social media 'metoo' movement and I hope the Council considers this issue very carefully when debating the application. I do not want the behaviours I have witnessed outside other venues to become commonplace on Albert Road, particularly with the younger patrons of the Wedgewood Rooms.

As a lifelong resident of this city and a regular visitor to Albert Road I would ask that this licence application be rejected.

Regards

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 08:25
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Objection to License Application: 18/00467/SEXEST | Sex Establishment

Sent: 11 February 2018 19:55
To: Robson, Debra; Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to License Application: 18/00467/SEXEST | Sex Establishment

18/00467/SEXEST | Sex Establishment

I object to the granting of a license for this to be a Sexual Entertainment Venue.

7.1.d.i Character of the locality. This locality has a mix of commercial and residential but the majority of the surrounding buildings are residential. Flats above the shops on Albert Road but roads coming off it are entirely residential and densely populated.

7.1.d.ii The use of the premises in the vicinity. This will put sexual entertainment between an Infant and Junior school and within sight of a church. There is a community centre round the corner which has children's events and the Wedgewood Rooms next door has young people events. The prices for entrance and any compulsory purchases will be displayed outside the premises which children will view on their way home from school. Taxis will be coming at an unreasonable hour of night disturbing the residential neighbours and people who have driven will be returning to cars parked in the surrounding streets.

7.6 The time this establishment will close will be at a time when there are less police on duty to deal with any disturbance and when the number of local police is being reduced.

7.8.c There are already two sex establishments in Portsmouth, there is no need for a third to be placed in a highly residential area.

7.9 The use of these premises would affect the use of the neighbouring shop, a bridal wear shop and also the use of the Wedgewood Rooms for events for younger people.

7.9 The Promotion of gender equality, reducing fear of crime amongst women etc. As a woman living alone I am safety conscious when out alone at night. I fear that this type of sexual establishment will make all women feel much more vulnerable in walking along Albert Road, it certainly will for me. Doormen (if outside) they will only have sight of the immediate vicinity and as soon as I turn down a side road I will be vulnerable. I have in the past been approached by drunks but this establishment will have served alcohol and sexual entertainment which I fear will lead to cases of rape as it has in other areas of the country near this type of sexual entertainment venue. Also the danger of cruising cars in the area will be increased and will make me feel very uncomfortable. All this will severely curtail my use of the area in which I live. I will not use the car in the evening as I sometimes have to park several streets away and walk past this to get home. I attend evening events on Albert Road but will stop if it involves me having to pass this building.

7.10 The island is densely populated with residential property and as such I believe that this is no place in Portsmouth City which would be suitable for a sex establishment. Homes, schools, community centres and churches are throughout the city.

7.11.d Character of the relevant locality. This locality is predominantly residential with schools, church and community centre all within very close proximity. The use of this building for sexual entertainment will change the character of the area from family and local social interaction to making local people feel reluctant to use Albert Road. Women will certainly be deterred from walking along the road at night which will affect the use of the other local businesses, restaurants, bars, Wedgewood Rooms. The danger of cruising cars in the area will be increased and will make me feel vulnerable. As there is already two sexual entertainment venues in Portsmouth a third is unnecessary and unwelcome in a residential area.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 08:25
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: 18/00467/SEXEST

[REDACTED]

Sent: 11 February 2018 19:41
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Ref: 18/00467/SEXEST

To Whom It May Concern

With reference to application ref: 18/00467/SEXEST.

[REDACTED]

I would like to object to the granting of this licence and my reasons for this are as follows:

1. The policy for sex establishment venues adopted by Portsmouth City Council in 2012, following consultation, stipulates that - with the exception of those already licensed - there is no place within the City of Portsmouth which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment venue.
2. Having regard for the general character of the area and the use of premises in the vicinity. The area surrounding Albert Road is a family residential area, there is also a school and church in the vicinity for which it is not suitable to have a sex establishment venue situated nearby.
3. There is a fear of increased crime in the area due to groups/individuals arriving and dispersing at unsociable hours.
4. Other local businesses will be negatively impacted by the presence of a sex establishment venue. In particular the neighbouring Wedgewood Rooms which frequently hosts events for young persons. I have attended events at these premises and would not feel comfortable doing so should the licence be granted.
5. Gender equality issues – as a woman I would no longer feel safe travelling through the area. I have previously been subject to intimidation and harassment from customers of the sex entertainment venue Wiggle situated in Surrey Street and fear that the same would occur should the licence be granted for this venue. I have additional concerns that should the licence be granted numerous women would be subject to the same harassment. It is commonplace for this type of intimidation and harassment to go unreported, this claim is supported by numerous statistics and more recently the coverage in media and the use on social media of the hashtag 'metoo' pertaining to sexual abuse, intimidation and harassment.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 08:25
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Licensing application 18/00467/SEXEST Objection

[REDACTED]
Sent: 11 February 2018 19:58
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Licensing application 18/00467/SEXEST Objection

I am objecting to this application as a resident of Southsea that has lived, worked and spent leisure time in central Southsea for 30 years.

On 22 March 2011 Portsmouth City Council ("PCC") decided to adopt Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 ("the 1982 Act") (as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 ("the 2009 Act")) so that it can regulate sexual entertainment venues ("SEVs") in the City. The Sex Establishment Licensing Policy (<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/documents-external/lic-sex-establishment-policy.pdf>) was implemented in October 2012 and sets out the following discretionary grounds that are applicable for refusal of this application.

7.1 c) The number of sex establishments, or sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality;

And

d) The grant would be inappropriate, having regard –

- i. To the character of the relevant locality;
- ii. To the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put;
- iii. To the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

7.8 c) Number of sex establishments

states that PCC recognises that the Act allows discretion by the Licensing Authority to impose a numerical control on the number of sex establishments in a particular locality (including the provision that nil may be an appropriate number) and that this control can apply to both the overall number of sex establishments and also the number of each kind.

7.10 clearly states that the Licensing Authority has reached the preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the City of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment.

7.11 to 7.15 set out the factors that are relevant to the grounds for refusal in 7.1d for this application as follows;

- The general character of the area (e.g. family residential, family leisure or educational area); Albert Road and the surrounding area is a dense residential area with a good mix of family friendly businesses and recreational uses. There are two schools very near to the site, multiple family friendly restaurants, churches, a community centre, drop in centres, cafes, shops, music venue and other facilities
- The impact of the premises on the character of the area; Albert Road provides a unique, safe and welcoming community with a 'village' feel. The great mix of boutique shops, services, bars, cafes, restaurants, theatre and music venue make it a very attractive place to visit and a proud community of traders. Businesses would be impacted by this club, and many have already heard comments from existing clients regarding their vicinity to the proposed sex club. The feel of the street would change dramatically and would not be so welcoming and attractive.

- The current use for night-time leisure activities including existing sufficient representation of sex-orientated uses; There is already a club in the centre of town, Southsea does not want a sex club. The balance of night time economy offerings on Albert Road is already good and maintains a safe, welcoming, inclusive and family friendly environment.
- Gender equality issues, including whether the proposed use, particularly at night, would deter women from using the area comfortably or at all); I have been sexually harassed outside 'Wiggle', the club owned by the applicant. I reported it to the police and it was not taken seriously. If this club was to open, I and many other women would stay away from the area. I would no longer use the yoga school nearby, the restaurants, including my favourite restaurant, Bodrum, or the Wedgewood Rooms, and the area would become a no-go zone for me, just like Surry Street and the Strand already are. By licensing lap dancing clubs, the Council may be in breach of its duties under the Equalities Act 2010.

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Portsmouth City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of lap dancing clubs in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

- Raising the fear of crime in the locality should further sex-orientated uses be authorised; Residents are already concerned about the impact on crime in the area relating to this club, especially with the reduced levels of policing in the area. In 2006 there was a shooting outside the current 'Elegance', belonging to the applicant, relating to his doorman. There were also numerous complaints about illegal parking around this time to the police which were never followed up. There is also the actual and perceived threat of crime, including sexual violence and sexual harassment, inevitable when sexually charged males will be leaving this venue and venturing on into other areas in Southsea. This must be taken seriously. I spoke to a former dancer at 'Elegance' who informed me that at least four of the dancers were also working as prostitutes at the club, and that drug taking was rife amongst both dancers and punters.
- Effects upon regeneration and tourism in the area; If a sex club opens, the area will become a destination for stag parties, and other types of tourists such as OAPs, couples, families, will be put off. It is also widely accepted that house prices and values are negatively affected when a sex club opens, and residents are worried about this. The area will no longer be attractive for residential developments and businesses looking to open up shop. Existing businesses are already in fear of losing business.
- Use of premises in the vicinity; Some attractive and desirable premises exist in the vicinity that would be severely impacted by the operation of a sex club. The Wedgewood Rooms next door is a premier music and entertainment venue that also opens to minors for late night gigs. There is a lovely yoga school nearby. The award winning bridal shop next door is an example of the type of business that Albert Road needs and that will be impacted by this venue.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 08:26
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: SEV licence application Albert Road- OBJECTION

Sent: 11 February 2018 16:28
To: Robson, Debra; Licensing Shared Email
Subject: SEV licence application Albert Road- OBJECTION

I would like to object to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Licence at 149 Albert Road Southsea PO4 0JW

1. First objection- on the application for a licence it states *Sex Establishment- that says it clearly enough. We do not want a licenced Sex Establishment in Albert Road. Why would the council agree to a SEX ESTABLISHMENT ?- PLEASE ANSWER THIS.*

In a climate where women are still fighting equality on a daily basis is the council really going to open a SEX ESTABLISHMENT where there are 2 schools, churches, clubs, community centre, many residential roads and a Theatre ?

Its PCC proposing to teach the many children frequenting this road & going to school in this road, or live near or in Albert Road that it is OK for a SEX ESTABLISHMENT where women dance on men's laps late at night ? Surely not ?

2. On the Proposed Conditions for Elegance it states ; - 20. The prices for entrance and any compulsory purchases must be displayed on the exterior of the venue.
So whilst stating it should be discreet it then says fees have to be displayed. It will be obvious thus as to the nature of the SEX ESTABLISHMENT.

3. On The Proposed conditions for Elegance it states - 9. *No part of the premises shall be used by prostitutes for the purpose of solicitation or otherwise exercising their calling.*

The establishment is described as a SEX ESTABLISHMENT. Therefore it must sell sexual activity- the definition of prostitution. Please explain how women earning money by dancing in limited clothing for money in a SEX ESTABLISHMENT is not prostitution. The terminology used is too vague. It is unclear how "lap dancing" is not defined as prostitution- Who made that decision ?

Lap Dancing is defined as *"an erotic dance or striptease performed close to, or sitting on the lap of, a paying customer."*

Prostitution is defined as *"a person, in particular a woman, who engages in sexual activity for payment."*

This equates as the same thing surely.

4. Location- Albert Road is a road of culture. It has cafes, pubs, independent shops, eateries, schools, churches, charity shops and other family orientated establishments. I have lived here for over 10 years and am horrified that this SEX ESTABLISHMENT is even being considered by Portsmouth City Councils. Why ? It is incomprehensible as to why it would be approved.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 08:27
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Reference: 18/00467/SEXEST

[REDACTED]
Sent: 11 February 2018 16:22
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Reference: 18/00467/SEXEST

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing in reference to application ref: 18/00467/SEXEST.

I would like to object to the granting of this licence as it would not be consistent with the policy for sex establishment venues adopted by Portsmouth City Council in 2012, following consultation, which deemed that - with the exception of those already licensed - there is no place within the City of Portsmouth which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment venue.

The venue would not be in keeping with the general character of the area. The area surrounding Albert Road is largely residential and individuals/families residing in these properties, including myself, would be negatively impacted by the increase in noise and disorder occurring at unsociable hours by large groups and individuals arriving and dispersing. There is a fear of increased crime in the surrounding area to the proposed venue for the same reason.

Albert Road has a reputation for being a popular location frequented by all age demographics. 'Albert Road Day' – a family friendly event – has been hosted in previous years to celebrate the friendly environment. The Wedgewood Rooms regularly hosts events in which young persons are in attendance. I feel that a sex establishment venue would not be appropriate or in keeping for this environment.

I have further concerns that my partner who visits me on a regular basis, often arriving after the proposed opening time of this venue due to my shift pattern, has stated she will no longer feel safe travelling through the area and may be subject to harassment from persons leaving the proposed venue having been party to sexually charged 'entertainment'.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 08:20
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Objection to sex entertainment venue licence - 18/00467/SEXEST

Sent: 11 February 2018 10:17
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to sex entertainment venue licence - 18/00467/SEXEST

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the Sex Establishment licence application ref: 18/00467/SEXEST

I have an interest in this application because I am local resident.

I object to the application on the following grounds:

Objection 1: Grounds for objection – This conflicts with Council's sex establishment policy of having no sexual entertainment venues in the city. Reasons for objections: this is at odds with policy, I feel it will adversely affect development of the city.

Objection 2: Grounds for objection – This is not a suitable area for this type of establishment. Reasons for objections: there are schools, places of worship and other tourist attractions in the local area which this venue will adversely affect.

Objection 3: Grounds for objection – Wider concerns about impact on local area and its future development, gender equality impact.



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 08:30
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Comments for Licensing Application 18/00467/SEXEST

From: noreply@portsmouthcc.gov.uk [mailto:noreply@portsmouthcc.gov.uk]
Sent: 10 February 2018 19:58
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Comments for Licensing Application 18/00467/SEXEST

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Application Summary

Address: 149 Albert Road Southsea PO4 0JW

Proposal: Sex Establishment

Case Officer: Mrs NICKII HUMPHREYS

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address:

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Contributor (Other)

Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 7:57 PM on 10 Feb 2018 The location of the premises in this application is completely unsuitable for a sexual entertainment licence. A SEV premises at this location will cause harm to children - 3 schools are situated within less than half a mile of the school. Also, the premises backs onto a residential and is close to other residential areas, where children live, and the proposed late-night hours will encourage public nuisance, which will be capable of disturbing children's sleep. Finally, this kind of establishment in this location will damage the other traditional businesses surrounding it at a time when retail premises are under continuous and escalating strain.

Robson, Debra

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 February 2018 08:30
To: Robson, Debra
Subject: 18/00467/SEXEST

Dear Ms Robson

[REDACTED]

PCC's Sex Establishment Licencing Policy at 7.10 reached the preliminary conclusion that "there is no place within the city of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment". I understand that in part the conclusion was based on the Local Strategic partnership vision which refers to the location of places of worship. There are at least three places of worship in close proximity to the proposed club (Trinity Methodist, Salvation Army Citadel - both on Albert Road and St Swithun's RC Church at the top of Waverley Road. Thus part of the character of the locality (7.11 d) is a church presence which contributes to the community feel of the area. A lap dancing club would be at odds with this character. Church goers (many of whom are elderly) would be less willing to attend evening events if there was a lap dancing club as it would heighten their fear of crime at night. This clearly is in line with paragraph 7.15 of the licencing policy which states that "licences will normally be refused if they are to be located in the vicinity of - places of worship. It may be added that various groups that could be categorised as nurseries and children's centres also meet on the premises of the three churches.

[REDACTED]

15

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 08:31
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Licence application 18/00467/SEXEST (149 Albert Road, Southsea)

-----Original Message-----

Sent: 10 February 2018 13:50
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Licence application 18/00467/SEXEST (149 Albert Road, Southsea)

Dear Sir/Madam

Re Licence application 18/00467/SEXEST (149 Albert Road, Southsea)

I am writing to register my objections to the granting of the Sexual Entertainment Venue License for the above property. I am led to believe that the club owner proposes to host events at the address until 04.00 hours, up to seven night per week. I think that the granting of this license would have a detrimental effect on the locality and that it will not be possible for the proprietor to uphold the objectives in the licensing policy of Portsmouth City Council. I have set out my objections below, I do hope that they are considered fully;

- The premises (147 Albert Road) is in the close vicinity of two schools and a community centre (often used as a place for children to meet) which, although not open during the proposed opening of the club, will still necessitate dozens (if not hundreds) of children of all ages walking past the premises at least twice per day during term time. Parents will be forced to explain the establishment's nature of business to curious children. The same is true for the teachers who spend their days with pupils who ask questions. When this is added to the regular events held at the neighbouring music venue for younger people – when the proposed club is OPEN - we will be experiencing a real risk of children being affected by what they see.

This club, if given the go-ahead, will clearly make it impossible for the proprietor to support the Council's policy requirement for them to 'protect children from harm'.

- The proposed club will attract large numbers of – almost exclusively - male revelers, 'stag' parties and the like who will spend time on Albert Road where they wouldn't have if the club wasn't there. There are already numerous clubs and bars in the area, as well as a large music venue next door, where patrons have to congregate outside to await entering their choice of venue, gather to smoke and/or to await taxis/transportation home at the end of their evening out.

The additional revelers in this already busy environment will inevitably lead to more (perhaps unintended) alcohol-fueled intimidation. I am a 52-year old, partially-sighted man who already finds Albert Road a challenging place to negotiate on my way home late in the evening or at the weekend. It can often be a frightening experience for me (despite the presence of security staff along the street) and it will become a no-go area for me if there are even more young men present. I would imagine it will be even more intimidating for women needing to negotiate the street late at night and I certainly would not want my wife or daughter to have to encounter such an experience.

Moreover, those frequenting the club will add to the numbers of noisy revellers already walking around the area on their way home in the small hours. None of the other premises in the area open as late as the proposed club will, thereby the noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour already being experienced by many local residents, will be made significantly worse as it will potentially last an additional few hours.

Therefore it will be impossible for the licensee, as per the Council's licensing guidelines, to support the objectives of 'preventing crime and disorder', 'guarantee public safety' and 'prevent public nuisance'.

- The character of Albert Road really needs to be protected too. For most of the week it is a quirky, friendly and unique area in our city. Whereas many areas of too many towns and cities are almost an 'identi-kit' version of each other, with the same shops, bars, restaurant and pub chains visible. Albert Road is a shining example of a place where one can visit independent traders with young family and friends and all feel safe and welcome. A club of this nature will have a significant and detrimental effect on this environment. Local pride in the "Independent Republic of Albert Road" has been slowly eroding with the granting of planning consent for large chains such as Costa Coffee and Subway (also affecting local traders' ability to earn a living by allowing unfair competition) and this trend needs to be reversed by allowing local residents to have their concerns listened to and the unique character of Albert Road protected.

My opinion is that the granting of this license will adversely affect public health as the club proprietor will not be able to promote this as the Council's guidelines demand.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns, I hope that they can be used to assist you in making your decision in this application.

I am also opposed to the granting of an alcohol license for the above premises. A number of my objections are similar to those above so I will set them out in a separate document to assist you in ensuring my feedback on BOTH applications is fully noted.



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 10:59
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Sex Entertainment Venue licence ref 18/00467/SEXEST

[REDACTED]

Sent: 12 February 2018 10:49
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Sex Entertainment Venue licence ref 18/00467/SEXEST

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to lodge an objection to the Sex Establishment licence application ref: 18/00467/SEXEST

I have an interest in this application because although resident in Milton I visit Albert Road frequently to shop and meet with friends in that area often in the evenings. When visited by friends who live outside of Portsmouth, Albert Road is a place I take them to 'show off' with pride the range of restaurants and unique shops in that special area of Portsmouth.

I object to this application on the following grounds:

- 1: Granting such a licence conflicts with the Council's sex establishment policy of having no sexual entertainment venues in our City. By not granting this licence PCC will be adhering to it's own policy, and as a consequence it will also be reducing the number os these establishments to its stated goal of zero.
- 2: This is not a suitable area for a sex establishment. Parking across the whole City is major issue to all residents and such an establishment will inevitably cause even greater strain on what is already an area where parking is at a premium. Albert road and environs have no large car parking facilities such as Gunwharf Quays or the City Centre.
- 3: There are schools, places or worship and other tourist attractions in the local area which this venue will adversely affect by it's very nature. It is out pf place in this area and is also out of tune with PCCs stated policy of zero sex establishments in the City.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 12:06
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Licensing application 18/00467/SEXEST

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]
Sent: 12 February 2018 12:00
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Licensing application 18/00467/SEXEST

To whom it may concern,

I am a lifelong resident of Portsmouth and currently live on one of the roads directly off Albert Road. I would like to object to this license application on the following grounds:

- Albert Road (and adjacent Elm Grove) is a unique, vibrant, family friendly area with a quirky, bohemian feel to it. It A lap dancing club is completely out of keeping with this and would not fit with the character of the area.

- The SEV policy adopted by Portsmouth City Council in 2012 states that a lap dancing club would be inappropriate anywhere that is in close proximity to schools, places of worship or community buildings. Albert Road currently contains multiple buildings of this kind.

- Lap dancing clubs promote gender inequality and the objectification of women and create a hostile environment for women both inside and outside of the club. I believe that PCC has a duty to promote gender equality and to consider this when making licensing decisions. I have personally witnessed women being harassed, cat called and offered money for sexual services by intoxicated and sexually charged groups of men leaving other lap dancing clubs in the city. As a woman I would no longer feel safe walking down Albert Road or visiting other venues in the area if this license is granted.

- I also have concerns about an increase in late night noise and public nuisance caused by the 4am opening hours.

Please reject this license application for these reasons.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 12:54
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Lap dancing club, Albert Road

-----Original Message-----

Sent: 12 February 2018 12:52
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Lap dancing club, Albert Road

My apologies if I have contacted the wrong recipient by mistake, but I would be grateful if you could pass on this email to the Chairman of the Licensing Committee.

I'm fairly sure that I am just one among many people who object most strongly to the opening at some date in the future, of a lap dancing club on Albert Road, Southsea. I am aware that PCC rejected the application and that the decision was overturned by the Planning Inspectorate on appeal, but local opposition against this sleazy, outdated and undesirable incursion is still very strong.

Fortunately for me I live far enough away from the site not to be directly affected but that isn't really the point. How is it that in 2018, with the revelations of the antics at the Dorchester Hotel Presidents Club event still fresh in the mind, that this form of activity in a mixed residential and commercial area is deemed acceptable?

If there is anything that can be done to prevent the establishment of this "club" even at this late stage, please would the Licensing Committee do it.

[REDACTED]

Sent: 12 February 2018 13:18
To: Robson, Debra
Cc: City Help Desk
Subject: Application 18/00467/SEXEST OBJECTION

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir,

I am writing to object to the licensing application 18/00467/SEXEST for a lap dancing club at 149 Albert Road.

My objections under the SEV policy are as follows:

1. Character of the relevant locality
 - Albert Road is already a lively evening venue, but it is also a vibrant shopping area with many local businesses situated along it and a historic theatre within the vicinity. It is important for the viability of the local businesses that Albert Road is seen as an up and coming area of the city, and that restaurants and bars are of a good standard and quality to attract locals and visitors to the city. The presence of a lap dancing club can only be to the detriment of the local character, with many visitors seeing this as a downward step and a dangerous precedent in reducing the attractiveness of Albert Road as a visitor venue. This would be true both during the day and in the evening, as merely the presence of such a club would make the area less attractive to visitors and give the area a disreputable and 'sleazy' reputation.
2. Use to which premises in the vicinity are put
 - I am aware that the venue next door (Wedgewood Rooms) runs events for children and young people ; it would be very undesirable for customers of the club to be arriving as these young people to be leaving the Wedgewood Rooms.

I hope you will take these factor into account in considering the SEV License application. You will appreciate these is a great strength of feeling locally that such a club should not be permitted in the area (nor indeed in Portsmouth as a whole). There are many existing bars and clubs in the city without introducing a further (and to most people undesirable and unpleasant) element.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 12 February 2018 17:12
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek
Subject: FW: 18/00467/SEXEST | Sex Establishment | 149 Albert Road Southsea PO4 OJW

-----Original Message-----

Sent: 12 February 2018 16:51
To: Licensing Shared Email
Cc: Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: 18/00467/SEXEST | Sex Establishment | 149 Albert Road Southsea PO4 OJW

18/00467/SEXEST | Sex Establishment | 149 Albert Road Southsea PO4 OJW

Dear Licensing Officers

I am objecting to the granting of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence application in respect of 149 Albert Road, Southsea and I request that the Council refuses this application on the discretionary grounds set out in Portsmouth City Council's SEV Policy and the statutory responsibilities required under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Portsmouth City Council has statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a woman who regularly enjoys the Albert Road nightlife, and particularly the live music and club nights at The Wedgewood Rooms, the presence of a Lap Dancing Club on Albert Road will severely curtail and most likely prevent me from continuing to visit the area because it will feel unsafe and threatening for me and other women to be walking by or waiting for buses/taxis. I also regularly walk to evening meetings at the nearby Havelock Community Centre and attend evening yoga/dance classes nearby. I will need to change my route and mode of transport in order to continue doing this safely and find exercise classes elsewhere.

In this respect, the presence of an SEV directly discriminates against women through their objectification. It sends a message to the wider community that this sexual objectification is condoned, or even encouraged. I ask the Council to consider how they will be able to demonstrate their legal duty to tackle gender inequality if an SEV in this location is permitted? I also ask if the Council has carried out an Equality Impact Assessment in respect of this licence application and proved how it will not conflict with its Equality Duty.

The Council's Nil Cap SEV policy has not deterred the Applicant from applying for an SEV license. One has to ask why? Aside from this, the location of Albert Road is valued by everyone all over the city as an area of special local character and individuality. Consideration should be given to the economic dis-benefits of introducing a Sexual Entertainment Venue to this neighbourhood. The success that local independent businesses have built up and are now beginning to enjoy will be completely wasted because this activity is likely to drive customers away from the area and discourage other businesses from investing. It will not only impact negatively on the current commercial activities in Albert Road, it will potentially change the nature of future commercial activities, and therefore the unique character that surrounding residents and people across the city enjoy.

The character of this area is defined by schools, nurseries, churches, youth and community centres, a theatre, gig and live music venues, cafes, and playgrounds – many of which are used by or for children under 16 years of age. In addition, the volume of families and children who pass by daily to and from the nearby schools makes this location completely unsuitable for this type of commercial use. The Albert Road area has been particularly successful at meeting the interests and needs of young people, including teens and students. The applicant will argue that young children are not passing by during the SEV opening hours and that there will not be any visible signage, however I

frequently see families at the theatre, gigs, dining out much later than when the Sexual Entertainment begins. My family and another recently attended an early evening music performance at the Guildhall. We came out at 10pm and as we walked through Guildhall Walk, near to the New Theatre Royal, a scantily clad woman approached us with leaflets promoting Wiggle (which is owned by this applicant), telling us it was “only £35 entry charge”.

Additional consideration should also be given to the potential costs to the tax payer in terms of extra police resources and community safety support. We are frequently told by the local police teams that resources are stretched. A constant police presence on Albert Road in order to protect the public and help women feel safe would change the ambience of the area entirely. Without a police presence, the area will be regarded by many as somewhere to avoid because of the threat – perceived or otherwise – of harassment and crime.

 this application 

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 09 February 2018 14:06
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Comments for Licensing Application 12/03425/SEXEST

From: noreply@portsmouthcc.gov.uk [mailto:noreply@portsmouthcc.gov.uk]
Sent: 09 February 2018 14:02
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Comments for Licensing Application 12/03425/SEXEST

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted by [REDACTED]

Application Summary

Address: Public House 1 Granada Road Southsea PO4 0RD
Proposal: Sex Establishment
Case Officer: Mrs NICKII HUMPHREYS
[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour
Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application
Reasons for comment:

Comments: 2:01 PM on 09 Feb 2018 I object to a lap dancing club in Granda Road for the following reasons: It's very close to a couple of schools and therefore children and in a residential area - not fun explaining to them that women take off their clothes in this club for men to lear at... We should be protecting our young people from harm.. The club will cause anti social behaviour - with the drugs and drink problems around here you'd be better giving a licence for a re-hab clinic rather than supporting such a disgusting business venture...



9 February 2018

Licensing Service
Portsmouth City Council
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AL

Dear Sir or Madam

Ref: Sex Establishment Application number 18/00467/SEXEST

I am writing to express my concern with regard to the above. As you previously refused permission for this establishment and the Government's Planning Inspector chose to ignore this and grant permission, I feel they have not fully taken into consideration the detrimental effect on the area. The inspector visited on a Monday when the full force of nightlife in Albert Road was not under way, so did not see what the added impact of this venue could have.

This establishment is totally unsuitable for a residential area, and does not fit in with the character of Albert Road, it has always been suitable for all ages and families, this establishment could deter families and women from using the area. I have concerns about safety around this venue with regard to myself, daughter and granddaughter.

The council have a duty to protect children from harm and although schools will be closed when this establishment is open, we still have young teenagers passing through or attending other venues at this time. This establishment is totally inappropriate for this area

We have two churches nearby that have events that finish at 9.00 pm or later, which means those women or men could be walking past while clients exit or enter this establishment. Families will have to pass this venue after attending the theatre, restaurants and music venues.

Creatiques Bridal Boutique is next door to these premises and has brought grace and style into Albert Road. They have late night fittings, host events and have won awards, which means their customers after having a wonderful evening talking about their big day have to come out and are faced with this club next door, possibly with a group of men smoking or queuing to go in.

Even though we have a lot of students in the area, this is still a place used by residents of all ages and at all times of the evening, women do not always have a man or friends with them and meeting people coming out of this club could make them feel very uncomfortable or unsafe.

We want Albert Road to be looked upon as family friendly, not a road to be thought of as adults only and worried or afraid of passing this venue at night.

I respectfully ask you to refuse this application.

Yours faithfully



25/01/2018

Licensing Service
Portsmouth City Council
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
Hants
PO1 2AL

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the sex establishment licence application ref: 18/00467/SEXEST.

As a resident of Portsmouth, and someone who frequents the Albert road area regularly I have an interest in this application and I object to the application on the following grounds:

Objection 1:

Grounds for objection – The number of sex establishments, or sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality

Reasons for objections:

The number of sex establishments that Portsmouth City Council has deemed appropriate for our city is **NIL**. Granting an application in this case would exceed that number.

Objection 2:

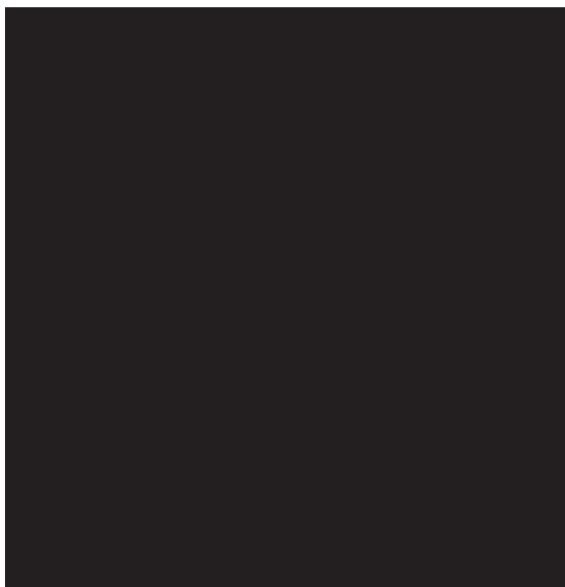
Grounds for objection – The Grant would be inappropriate, having regard

- i. To the character of the relevant locality;
- ii. To the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put
- iii. To the layout, character or condition of the premises

Reasons for objections:

1. This establishment would be in the vicinity of places of worship including Trinity Methodist Church, St Swithuns Church,

2. This establishment would be in the vicinity of Southsea infant school, Craneswater junior school, the Salvation Army and the kings theatre which hosts a children's drama school as well as family events.





Dear sir/madam

I am writing to object to the above application for Elegance in Albert Road, Southsea. I have no issue with the suitability of the applicant, nor his ability to run this business well, but I feel it would be inappropriate and urge you to use your discretionary grounds for refusal.

The grant is inappropriate to the character of Albert Road. Slotted between a wedding dress business and a music venue catering for all ages, it is out of place. Albert Road is full of family-friendly businesses, is busy at night with walkers heading to theatres, bars, restaurants and who don't wish to mingle with lapdancing customers.

Your paperwork states you wish to be satisfied that 'the needs and rights of persons/businesses living or working in the area, and indeed the area itself, are recognised and respected'. I live in the road opposite and feel it will completely alter the road from one I love to one I would feel uncomfortable walking along unaccompanied. Allowing a 4am license will definitely add to the noise and nuisance of a largely residential area. There are flats all along the road, as well as the houses in the roads around it, who do not wish to be disturbed by departing punters up to 4am seven days a week. Once the main pubs are closed, Albert Road is actually very quiet and this will definitely create a nuisance.

The council's commitment to gender equality is challenged here as you are failing to protect my right to feel safe near my home, therefore prioritising the needs of male customers over female residents. The Lilith Project 2007 report into London lap dancing clubs shows a rise in sexual offences in the areas directly around such establishments, and that women feel unsafe on public transport. When waiting for lifts or getting dropped off, I often do so at the end of the road to stop cars using our no-through road – I shall certainly feel more unsafe now.

It should be pointed out that your own policies don't feel anywhere in the city is suitable for such an establishment, and that this is a new application, not a transfer from elsewhere.

As I have previously stated, I don't doubt his abilities as a businessman, but do feel Albert Road is no place for a lap dancing club with any sort of opening hours and I urge you to reject it.

Yours faithfully



Robson, Debra

Sent: 12 February 2018 12:42
To: Robson, Debra
Cc: City Help Desk
Subject: RE Licensing Application 18/00292/LAPREM OBJECTION

PLEASE PASS ON TO THE RELEVANT CONTACT, MANY THANKS



Dear Sir,

I am writing to object to the licensing application 18/00292/LAPREM for a lap dancing club at 149 Albert Road.

My objections under the Licensing Objectives (2003 Licensing Act) are as follows:

1. Prevention of crime and disorder
 - It is likely that as this club is proposed to be open until 4am, customers from other bars both locally (as Albert Road is already an evening venue) and from a wider area will use the club at a time when they may very well have been drinking elsewhere. This increases the likelihood of drunken and loutish behaviour both in the club and in the local area as the patrons return home. I emphasise, as Albert Road has already plenty of bars, such a club would in effect create a market (and possibly a dangerous precedent) for late opening bars and clubs of this undesirable nature.
 - As venues in Albert road are already frequented by young people, whilst not wishing to demonise young men it is likely that the venue will attract large groups of young men on a night out and also stag parties with the attendant risk of rowdy behaviour around the vicinity.
2. Public safety
 - It is likely that the venue will attract more men than women; whilst this in itself is not an issue, I and many of the women friends I have spoken with would feel very uneasy in being in the vicinity after a night out, and perhaps threatened by such a venue and the type of customers it is likely to attract.
3. Prevention of public nuisance
 - Albert Road is not only an evening venue but also has residents living close by. The opening of a club until 4am will only exacerbate the nuisance from slamming car doors and cars accelerating away. Large groups of people leaving at 4am can only increase noise and nuisance in this area.
4. Protection of children from harm
 - I am aware that the venue next door (Wedgewood Rooms) runs events for children and young people ; it would be very undesirable for customers of the club to be arriving as these young people are leaving the Wedgewood Rooms.

I hope you will take these factor into account in considering the Licensing application. You will appreciate these is a great strength of feeling locally that such a club should not be permitted in the area (nor indeed in Portsmouth as a whole). There are many existing bars and clubs in the city without introducing a further (and to most people undesirable and unnecessary) element.

9th February 2018

Licensing Service
Portsmouth City Council
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
Hants
PO1 2AL



Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the sex establishment licence application ref: 18/00467/SEXEST.

I have an interest in this application because we are local residents and value Albert Road being a place of positive business and community activity for all ages.

I object to the application on the following grounds:

1. Protection of minors and your people or vulnerable adults. As a Street Pastor, we only patrol Albert Road twice a month and leave Albert Road shortly after midnight. We frequently find young and vulnerable people who have been separated from their friends and need help to get home. It is a serious concern that this venue will attract customers looking to 'prey' on such vulnerable people. We are also aware that there is limited or no police presence after 2am, unless someone raises an alarm. We are aware that the Wedgewood rooms, next to this venue can have under 18s attending their events that they can leave after 9pm when this sex establishment next door would be open. Also there is a venue for the homeless and vulnerable in Harold Road, that provided food and warm welcome on a regular basis, these are very vulnerable people and need to avoid any exploitation. We are objecting to our community having this establishment.
2. Breach of the peace, we believe this venue, if licenced, will encourage disorderly behaviour in our community and the residential area. Providing a licence into the early hours will likely create noise in Albert Road and disturb local residents. Also people walking home afterwards, or groups going back to local hotels, will walk through local residential areas. We have been long standing residents in Southsea and have seen and heard damage being done to homes and cars. The door supervisors and security guards at the venue as within their rights to expel unruly clients, however, they end up on our streets.
3. We would like our City Council to give permission for this venue to be used as a venue that adds value to ALL our community. Albert Road has many establishments that have been started small and growing and these businesses and we do not believe that this venue will add any value to these current businesses or venues.



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 08 February 2018 08:31
To: Humphreys, Nickii; Stone, Derek; Robson, Debra
Subject: FW: Proposed Lap dancing club Albert road

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]

To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Proposed Lap dancing club Albert road

I would like to object to the license for a lap dancing club in Albert road Southsea.

I have no problem with an alcohol selling venue as there are already many of these in the street and they are managed well with bouncers on the doors at weekends.

Lap dancing doesn't have a place I believe in our quirky interesting family friendly street. I am concerned about the number of men who will come to watch female dancers and their motives. I would imagine there may be for example large groups of men having a stag night out and if they are drunk possibly and sexually aroused after what they have been watching. I Would not feel safe walking home at night as I do now knowing these sort of people will be hanging around the street at the end of my road, which is Leopold Street. As a woman at e moment I do feel safe walking home late at night but I Would no longer if this premise is allowed to go ahead. I work at The Cat Clinic, a veterinary premises on Albert Road and often come home late or go out again late if I have to visit a sick cat on the premises, Regards

Robson, Debra

Sent: 06 February 2018 12:00
To: Robson, Debra
Cc: office@portsmouthlibdems.org.uk
Subject: Proposed license Albert Road Lapdancing Club

Dear Ms. Robson,

With respect to the proposed license to the Albert Road Lapdancing Club, I would like to register my objection to such a proposal.

1. I own a property in the vicinity of the building concerned and have grave reservations regarding the behaviour that may emanate from the proposed license that may be granted with respect to very late drinking. This could well enhance the possibility of general disturbance and crime, such as wilful damage in the road and surrounding areas. We already have many late opening establishments in Albert Road which appear to stretch the policing control capabilities. The proposed license would see activity in the road well into the early morning.

2. I have always felt safe returning to my property at any hour, even with the current level of nightlife; however we have not had to deal with an intoxicated and sexually orientated venue which I feel would bring an undesirable element associated with such a club to the area and I would no longer feel safe.

3. I would like to understand what level of safeguarding would put in place to restrict/control the distinct possibility of abusive behaviour regarding alcohol and general public nuisance to the area with such limited public resources available?

4. With infant and junior schools within very close proximity to the proposed licensed venue, can you please explain how the children would not be exposed to the type of advertising i.e. Scantily clothed women..... that a venue would put up in Albert Road and surrounding area and in my opinion increasing the probability of putting children at risk.

In my opinion granting licences to such a venue is detrimental to the general public's needs, education and safety.



Sent: 07 February 2018 08:31
To: Robson, Debra; Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Re: sex establishment licence application ref: 18/00467/SEXEST

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the sex establishment licence application ref: 18/00467/SEXEST.

I have an interest in this application because I am a local resident and am concerned about the effect granting this licence will have on my local area and the friends and residents who live and currently enjoy the area.

I object to the application on the following grounds:

Objection 1:

Grounds for objection – the SEV policy states that: *The number of sex establishments, or sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality.* The number of sex establishments that Portsmouth City Council has deemed appropriate for our city are nil

Reasons for objections:

1. Since the Council has deemed that no sex establishments are permitted, this application should be refused. If not the council will be seen to be going against the very policy they have agreed which also goes against the local residents who elected Councillors, and is not serving the best interests of local people.

Objection 2:

Grounds for objection – The SEV also states that: *The grant would be inappropriate, having regard –*
i. To the character of the relevant locality;
ii. To the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put

Reasons for objections:

1. I understand that applications for sex establishment licences will normally be refused if they are proposed to be located in the **vicinity of venues such as places of worship, tourist attractions and schools**, all of which can be located in the immediate vicinity of 149 Albert Road. Trinity Methodist Church, St. Swithuns Church, Southsea Infant and Craneswater Junior Schools and the Kings Theatre are all in the immediate vicinity of 149 Albert Road. As such, I fail to understand on what grounds the Council would approve this application

2. I understood that the Council were wanting to regenerate and improve Albert Road to encourage tourism and improve the standing of this area. Granting such a licence would NOT be in line with this and would demote the area and certainly not encourage tourists and residents outside of Southsea to visit. This area is surrounded by a large number of residential houses and granting such a licence would encourage more people leaving the area in the early hours of the morning further disturbing residents sleep - I have first hand experience of my sleep being disturbed by people leaving pubs and clubs that are already in the area - granting this licence would only add to this problem.

Objection 3:

Grounds for objection – Granting such a licence would make the area unsafe for women and would not enhance the general character of the area

Reasons for objections:

1. As a woman who does visit pubs along Albert Road I currently feel safe walking home at various times. However I would not feel safe walking past this establishment if this application was granted due to the nature of activity that would take place. This would be because there would be a number of (mostly) males leaving the establishment who may be in an aroused state and could take advantage of vulnerable females. In addition I have family members who would also feel unsafe due to this fact.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 05 February 2018 10:47
To: Robson, Debra; Humphreys, Nickii; Stone, Derek
Subject: FW: Lap dancing club

[REDACTED]
Sent: 03 February 2018 15:00
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Lap dancing club

I strongly oppose this sort of sleazy business in Albert Road as it will lower the tone of this area . There are alot of families in nice quirky area and it is totally inappropriate area as a location for a lap dancing club. There are also schools very nearby , children will be walking past this sort of venue.

What are their parents supposed to tell them this is , some where women sell their bodies to men . This sort of venue will just bring more rowdy, drunk men to this area - stag nights and sleazy men where there are families and young children nearby. Young boys are very impressionable and little girls might think lap dancing is something to aspire to with this club in their family neighbourhood.

Robson, Debra

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 February 2018 13:34
To: Robson, Debra; Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to new lap dancing club in Southsea

Dear officers,

I write with disgust that the proposal for a new lap dancing club on Albert Road, Southsea, is even still in discussion!

Situated between two junior schools (Southsea Infants and Craneswater Junior), children will pass this building 5 days a week twice a day, asking questions and confusion as to what is politically correct these days.

The Albert Road area has become a safe shopping area over the last few years with very little in terms of problem behavior taking place during daytime and evenings.

How on anyone can believe a lap dancing club is appropriate in this area along with the trouble this will bring to Albert Road, I find astonishing.

Surely it must be an embarrassment for the council, not to be able to find a better use for the old Conservative Club building. It does sound like no one cares, maybe you live away from the Southsea area or even enjoy the type of activity proposed?

Extremely disappointing and I hope you will listen to others and make the correct decision, not to allow this proposal to go ahead.

Having lived 25 years in Southsea, I have never heard anything quite ridiculous, selfish, money making and worst of all harmful to our children.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 02 February 2018 12:27
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: 18/00292/LAPREM..

[REDACTED]
Sent: 02 February 2018 12:23
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: 18/00292/LAPREM..

31/01/2018 Licensing Service Portsmouth City Council Civic Offices Guildhall Square Portsmouth Hants PO1 2AL

Dear Sir/Madam We wish to object to the premises licence application ref: 18/00292/LAPREM..

My husband and I object to the application on the following grounds:

According to the PCC's own sex establishment licensing policy 2012, which adopted Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009), one of the discretionary grounds for refusal of an application is that: The number of sex establishments in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality;

It was agreed by PCC in 2012 that the appropriate cap on such establishments would be 'nil'. As we currently have 2 similar establishments in the city, a third would exceed this agreed cap by 300%.

The same Act adopted by PCC also suggests that consideration be given to whether an application should be refused if they are within three miles of any place of worship, swimming pool, leisure centre, park, youth centre, historic building, tourist attraction, educational premises, school, play area, nursery, children's centre or similar premises. ***149 Albert Road has all such premises well within 3 miles, including schools, nurseries and places of worship just yards away.***

We have an interest in this application because my husband and I have been residents of the area for 46 years. We believe that in addition to the above, our property will be of a lower value if this application for a lap dancing club is upheld.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 02 February 2018 08:22
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Lap dancing club proposal

[REDACTED]

To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Lap dancing club proposal

Hello

I am writing to state my objection to the proposed lap dancing club on Albert Road Southsea.

I object as a mother, woman and as an employee on Albert Road.

Its a really important place to me.

This establishment has no place within such a strong family oriented community such as ours.

Debra Robson
[REDACTED]

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 01 February 2018 10:02
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: 149 albert road

Importance: High

Sent: 01 February 2018 09:40
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: 149 albert road
Importance: High

Having lived very near (Welch Road) for 24 years, I fully appreciate that Albert Road is an area that people of all ages visit for food and entertainment.

However, I DO NOT feel that a sex establishment with very late night opening hours is appropriate for this area.

1. It is far too close to hundreds of residential premises .
2. The current profile of customer base is family/young people/students and is all about lighthearted fun, and a late night sex establishment is out of keeping with this profile.
3. Residents knew what they were letting themselves in for when moving to this area, and it didn't include this type of club.
4. As this is an unusual type of club, it will attract people from all around and there is absolutely no extra capacity for more cars in this area finding parking.
5. Kings theatre visitors already struggle to park and I don't see sex club visitors parking in waitrose and walking down!
6. I know there was previously a similar club at The Strand roundabout but-why did that one fail?
7. This will be a massively unpopular decision with residents and this must be taken into account with upcoming council elections.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 30 January 2018 08:12
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Comments for Licensing Application 18/00467/SEXEST

From: noreply@portsmouthcc.gov.uk [<mailto:noreply@portsmouthcc.gov.uk>]
Sent: 29 January 2018 17:01
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Comments for Licensing Application 18/00467/SEXEST

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Application Summary

Address: 149 Albert Road Southsea PO4 0JW
Proposal: Sex Establishment
Case Officer: Mrs NICKII HUMPHREYS
[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name:
Email:
Address:

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour
Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 5:01 PM on 29 Jan 2018 I object very strongly indeed to this application to open a lap dancing club at 149 Albert road Southsea. This is a residential area where many families live. There are 2 schools on Albert Road near to this property. The activities in such a club are demeaning to women and can encourage alcohol-fueled, inappropriate and misogynistic attitudes and behaviours towards women. Surely in 2018 the city council should not permit such a venue in the heart of residential Southsea.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 29 January 2018 11:32
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Lap Dancing 149 Albert Road

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

Sent: 29 January 2018 11:22
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Lap Dancing 149 Albert Road

I write to object in the strongest terms to a an alcohol licence being granted to a sex establishment at 149 Albert Road. This is an up and coming residential area where families with young children live and attend classes, including in the evening. There are at least two primary schools nearby, which point to the residential aspect of this area. Young people and college students attend evening events nearby and would likely encounter sex shop clientele. There is a risk of harm to children and young people.

In addition granting an alcohol licence to such an establishment in this particular area, where eg a new family coffee shop has opened, would constitute a public nuisance. A licence until 4.00am would be doubly so. Male clientele leaving other establishments in the city late at night would be encouraged to congregate in Albert Road, including after midnight.

There is also an appreciable risk of crime and disorder. This is unacceptable.

Thank you

where young there are at least two primary schools in Albert Road.it would be grossly damaging to the health and welfare of the neighbourhood for a drinks licence to be granted. A licence until 4.00am would be significantly more damaging

Sent from my iPad

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 29 January 2018 08:11
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek
Subject: FW: Lap dancing club on Albert Road

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

Sent: 28 January 2018 21:43
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Lap dancing club on Albert Road

To whom it may concern,

I would like to formally object to the licensing application for 149 Albert Road (alcohol licence 18/00292/LAPREM and Sex Establishment Application Number 18/00467/SEXEST).

I am deeply concerned about the impact this establishment will have on this residential area for the following reasons.

1)

Instances of sexual assaults are far more frequent in the areas around establishments of this kind.

Academic research has linked lap-dancing to trafficking, prostitution and an increase in male sexual violence against both the women who work in the clubs and those who live and work in their vicinity. A report by the Lilith Project, run by the charity Eaves Housing, which looked at lap-dancing in Camden Town, north London, found that in the three years after the opening of four large lap-dancing clubs in the area, incidents of rape in Camden rose by 50%, while sexual assault rose by 57%.

In 2012, Cornish police Chief Ian Drummond-Smith objected to the opening of a lap dancing club in Newquay. Police figures quoted by Insp Drummond-Smith show there were 69 reported sex crimes within a mile radius of the club between January 2010 and February 2012, which also included 15 cases of indecent exposure and six "other" sexual offences.

Five of the rapes and 16 sexual assaults were committed within half a mile. He said "It is of concern that sexual entertainment would take place in such proximity to dwellings and vulnerable persons, and those leaving the premises, having been subject to highly sexualised performances, may be at greater risk of committing sexual offences. The combination of factors above, in particular the vulnerable groups identified, have contributed to the sex crimes."

According to Amnesty, 2006, "There is an unbroken spectrum of violence that women face at the hands of people who exert control over them. States have the obligation to prevent, protect against, and punish violence against women whether perpetrated by private or public actors. States have a responsibility to uphold standards of due diligence and take steps to fulfil their responsibility to protect individuals from human rights abuses." I would, therefore, urge the council to protect its residents from this harm.

As a woman living within a two minute walk of this venue I feel deeply concerned that this could compromise my safety and the safety of other women living in this residential area. The problem is not an issue of affronted morality but an issue of women's human rights to live and work without fear or degradation.

I have always felt safe on Albert Road but if this establishment opens up then my safety will be compromised:

"...the area around the University Street and Tottenham Court [Road] has now denigrated into a 'no go' area for female shoppers and male passers-by who are often accosted by pimps and other strip clubs offering sexual services and favours...." - Police report on Spearmint Rhino, (Director's Report, 2002) Please consider this. Albert Road is one of the best things about Southsea. It is fun, diverse and safe. If this establishment opens all of this will be compromised.

2)

My second objection is that the proposal includes opening hours until 4am. This is totally unacceptable and without precedent in this residential area. Have you consulted the residents who will be affected by this?

As someone with two young children I strongly object to the impact that this will have on our standard of life. Many people live in flats above shops on Albert Road. Even more live in flats and houses in the surrounding streets. Allowing drunk, sexually charged people to use this service until 4am will affect the safety and noise levels for local residents. It is also likely to increase the crime rates in the surrounding areas even beyond sexual violence.

3)

In 2012, Portsmouth City Council adopted a policy stating that it would not allow any sex establishment licences to be granted in this city. This was based in the council's view that such establishments did not fit in with the council's vision for the city (see section 7.10 of the council sex establishment licensing policy). Has the council's vision for the city changed? Have the local residents been consulted? Why is a new licence being granted when it clearly contradicts this policy?



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 29 January 2018 08:11
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek
Subject: FW: Formal objection to Albert Road lap dancing club

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent: 28 January 2018 21:45
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Formal objection to Albert Road lap dancing club

To whom it may concern,

I would like to formally object to the licensing application for 149 Albert Road (alcohol licence 18/00292/LAPREM and Sex Establishment Application Number 18/00467/SEXEST).

I am deeply concerned about the impact this establishment will have on this residential area for the following reasons.

1)

Instances of sexual assaults are far more frequent in the areas around establishments of this kind.

Academic research has linked lap-dancing to trafficking, prostitution and an increase in male sexual violence against both the women who work in the clubs and those who live and work in their vicinity. A report by the Lilith Project, run by the charity Eaves Housing, which looked at lap-dancing in Camden Town, north London, found that in the three years after the opening of four large lap-dancing clubs in the area, incidents of rape in Camden rose by 50%, while sexual assault rose by 57%.

In 2012, Cornish police Chief Ian Drummond-Smith objected to the opening of a lap dancing club in Newquay. Police figures quoted by Insp Drummond-Smith show there were 69 reported sex crimes within a mile radius of the club between January 2010 and February 2012, which also included 15 cases of indecent exposure and six "other" sexual offences.

Five of the rapes and 16 sexual assaults were committed within half a mile. He said "It is of concern that sexual entertainment would take place in such proximity to dwellings and vulnerable persons, and those leaving the premises, having been subject to highly sexualised performances, may be at greater risk of committing sexual offences. The combination of factors above, in particular the vulnerable groups identified, have contributed to the sex crimes."

According to Amnesty, 2006, "There is an unbroken spectrum of violence that women face at the hands of people who exert control over them. States have the obligation to prevent, protect against, and punish violence against women whether perpetrated by private or public actors. States have a responsibility to uphold standards of due diligence and take steps to fulfil their responsibility to protect individuals from human rights abuses." I would, therefore, urge the council to protect its residents from this harm.

As a woman living within a five minute walk of this venue I feel deeply concerned that this could compromise my safety and the safety of other women living in this residential area. The problem is not an issue of affronted morality but an issue of women's human rights to live and work without fear or degradation.

I have always felt safe on Albert Road but if this establishment opens up then my safety will be compromised: "...the area around the University Street and Tottenham Court [Road] has now denigrated into a 'no go' area for female shoppers and male passers-by who are often accosted by pimps and other strip clubs offering sexual services and favours..." - Police report on Spearmint Rhino, (Director's Report, 2002)

Please consider this. Albert Road is one of the best things about Southsea. It is fun, diverse and safe. If this establishment opens all of this will be compromised.

2)

My second objection is that the proposal includes opening hours until 4am. This is totally unacceptable and without precedent in this residential area. Have you consulted the residents who will be affected by this?

As someone with one young child I strongly object to the impact that this will have on our standard of life. Many people live in flats above shops on Albert Road. Even more live in flats and houses in the surrounding streets. Allowing drunk, sexually charged people to use this service until 4am will affect the safety and noise levels for local residents. It is also likely to increase the crime rates in the surrounding areas even beyond sexual violence.


3)

In 2012, Portsmouth City Council adopted a policy stating that it would not allow any sex establishment licences to be granted in this city. This was based in the council's view that such establishments did not fit in with the council's vision for the city (see section 7.10 of the council sex establishment licensing policy). Has the council's vision for the city changed? Have the local residents been consulted? Why is a new licence being granted when it clearly contradicts this policy?

[REDACTED]

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 29 January 2018 08:11
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek
Subject: FW: Objection to 149 Albert Road (alcohol licence 18/00292/LAPREM and Sex Establishment Application Number 18/00467/SEXEST)



Sent: 29 January 2018 00:46
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to 149 Albert Road (alcohol licence 18/00292/LAPREM and Sex Establishment Application Number 18/00467/SEXEST)

To whom it may concern,

I would like to formally object to the licensing application for 149 Albert Road (alcohol licence 18/00292/LAPREM and Sex Establishment Application Number 18/00467/SEXEST).

I am deeply concerned about the impact this establishment will have on this residential area for the following reasons.

1)

Instances of sexual assaults are far more frequent in the areas around establishments of this kind.

Academic research has linked lap-dancing to trafficking, prostitution and an increase in male sexual violence against both the women who work in the clubs and those who live and work in their vicinity. A report by the Lilith Project, run by the charity Eaves Housing, which looked at lap-dancing in Camden Town, north London, found that in the three years after the opening of four large lap-dancing clubs in the area, incidents of rape in Camden rose by 50%, while sexual assault rose by 57%.

In 2012, Cornish police Chief Ian Drummond-Smith objected to the opening of a lap dancing club in Newquay. Police figures quoted by Insp Drummond-Smith show there were 69 reported sex crimes within a mile radius of the club between January 2010 and February 2012, which also included 15 cases of indecent exposure and six "other" sexual offences.

Five of the rapes and 16 sexual assaults were committed within half a mile. He said "It is of concern that sexual entertainment would take place in such proximity to dwellings and vulnerable persons, and those leaving the premises, having been subject to highly sexualised performances, may be at greater risk of committing sexual offences. The combination of factors above, in particular the vulnerable groups identified, have contributed to the sex crimes."

According to Amnesty, 2006, "There is an unbroken spectrum of violence that women face at the hands of people who exert control over them. States have the obligation to prevent, protect against, and punish violence against women whether perpetrated by private or public actors. States have a responsibility to uphold standards of due diligence and take steps to fulfil their responsibility to protect individuals from human rights abuses." I would, therefore, urge the council to protect its residents from this harm.

As a woman living within a two minute walk of this venue I feel deeply concerned that this could compromise my safety and the safety of other women living in this residential area. The problem is not an issue of affronted morality but an issue of women's human rights to live and work without fear or degradation.

I have always felt safe on Albert Road but if this establishment opens up then my safety will be compromised:

"...the area around the University Street and Tottenham Court [Road] has now denigrated into a 'no go' area for female shoppers and male passers-by who are often accosted by pimps and other strip clubs offering sexual services and favours...." - Police report on Spearmint Rhino, (Director's Report, 2002)

Please consider this. Albert Road is one of the best things about Southsea. It is fun, diverse and safe. If this establishment opens all of this will be compromised.

2)

My second objection is that the proposal includes opening hours until 4am. This is totally unacceptable and without precedent in this residential area. Have you consulted the residents who will be affected by this?

As someone with a young child I strongly object to the impact that this will have on our standard of life. Many people live in flats above shops on Albert Road. Even more live in flats and houses in the surrounding streets. Allowing drunk, sexually charged people to use this service until 4am will affect the safety and noise levels for local residents. It is also likely to increase the crime rates in the surrounding areas even beyond sexual violence.

3)

In 2012, Portsmouth City Council adopted a policy stating that it would not allow any sex establishment licences to be granted in this city. This was based in the council's view that such establishments did not fit in with the council's vision for the city (see section 7.10 of the council sex establishment licensing policy). Has the council's vision for the city changed? Have the local residents been consulted? Why is a new licence being granted when it clearly contradicts this policy?



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 29 January 2018 08:11
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek
Subject: FW: Alcohol and sex establishment licences, 149 Albert Road



Sent: 28 January 2018 19:59
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Alcohol and sex establishment licences, 149 Albert Road

To whom it may concern

I would formally like to lodge our objection to the granting of the above licences, to operate a lap dancing bar in our locality.

Albert road is known for its diverse selection of bars, restaraunts, shops, excellent coffee shops and also the iconic Kings theatre.

Southsea itself is a rapidly up and coming destination of choice for tourists with events such as the Victorious festival, America's cup and the kite festival to name but a few . Another lap dancing bar would be a blot on the landscape of our town and would we feel, be damaging to the reputation of southsea in general, but in particular, Albert road.

Regards



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 29 January 2018 08:11
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek
Subject: FW: Albert road sex crime

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[REDACTED]
Sent: 28 January 2018 21:07
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Albert road sex crime

Dear pcc,

I would like to formally object to the licensing application for 149 Albert Road (alcohol licence 18/00292/LAPREM and Sex Establishment Application Number 18/00467/SEXEST).

I am deeply concerned about the impact this establishment will have on this residential area for the following reasons.

1)

Instances of sexual assaults are far more frequent in the areas around establishments of this kind.

Academic research has linked lap-dancing to trafficking, prostitution and an increase in male sexual violence against both the women who work in the clubs and those who live and work in their vicinity. A report by the Lilith Project, run by the charity Eaves Housing, which looked at lap-dancing in Camden Town, north London, found that in the three years after the opening of four large lap-dancing clubs in the area, incidents of rape in Camden rose by 50%, while sexual assault rose by 57%.

In 2012, Cornish police Chief Ian Drummond-Smith objected to the opening of a lap dancing club in Newquay. Police figures quoted by Insp Drummond-Smith show there were 69 reported sex crimes within a mile radius of the club between January 2010 and February 2012, which also included 15 cases of indecent exposure and six "other" sexual offences.

Five of the rapes and 16 sexual assaults were committed within half a mile. He said "It is of concern that sexual entertainment would take place in such proximity to dwellings and vulnerable persons, and those leaving the premises, having been subject to highly sexualised performances, may be at greater risk of committing sexual offences. The combination of factors above, in particular the vulnerable groups identified, have contributed to the sex crimes."

According to Amnesty, 2006, "There is an unbroken spectrum of violence that women face at the hands of people who exert control over them. States have the obligation to prevent, protect against, and punish violence against women whether perpetrated by private or public actors. States have a responsibility to uphold standards of due diligence and take steps to fulfil their responsibility to protect individuals from human rights abuses." I would, therefore, urge the council to protect its residents from this harm.

I feel deeply concerned that this could compromise my safety and the safety of other women living in this residential area. The problem is not an issue of affronted morality but an issue of women's human rights to live and work without fear or degradation.

I have always felt safe on Albert Road but if this establishment opens up then my safety will be compromised:

"...the area around the University Street and Tottenham Court [Road] has now denigrated into a 'no go' area for female shoppers and male passers-by who are often accosted by pimps and other strip clubs offering sexual services and favours...." - Police report on Spearminth Rhino, (Director's Report, 2002)

Please consider this. Albert Road is one of the best things about Southsea. It is fun, diverse and safe. If this establishment opens all of this will be compromised.

As someone with two young children I strongly object to the impact that this will have on our standard of life. Many people live in flats above shops on Albert Road. Even more live in flats and houses in the surrounding streets. Allowing drunk, sexually charged people to use this service until 4am will affect the safety and noise levels for local residents. It is also likely to increase the crime rates in the surrounding areas even beyond sexual violence.

2

In 2012, Portsmouth City Council adopted a policy stating that it would not allow any sex establishment licences to be granted in this city. This was based in the council's view that such establishments did not fit in with the council's vision for the city (see section 7.10 of the council sex establishment licensing policy). Has the council's vision for the city changed? Have the local residents been consulted? Why is a new licence being granted when it clearly contradicts this policy?

As a resident, woman and mother I urge you to reject this licence

Y

E



Robson, Debra

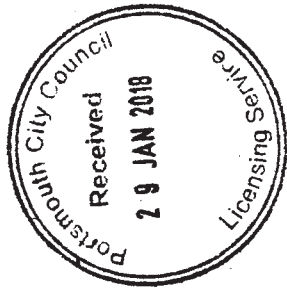
From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 29 January 2018 08:10
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek
Subject: FW: Objection of the opening of Laprem

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[REDACTED]
Sent: 28 January 2018 17:49
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection of the opening of Laprem

Dear Sir/Madam

I am opposed to the Licence in regards to the opening of this Lap Dancing Club at 149 Albert Road we have many entertainment venues here in Albert road and being from London Originally I know 1st hand what Problems these Kinds of Establishments can bring Drunkenness Drugs and other Issues I was born in the City Of London and bred there too we had Police and problems all the time it is not good for a small area we live in to have this kind of Venue here or anywhere around Portsmouth



TO whom it may concern.
Hello, please sit up listen + take notice
of local Residents from Harold Road.
We do not want his Sexual Entertainment
in Albert Road. No. 149.
A residential environment is NOT also
called place for this so called Entertainment.
This man "Jaspal Singh 051a" has
already ~~been~~ refused twice, so I suppose
he must think 3RD time lucky.
We all sincerely "HOPE NOT!".
The Property has been left to rot for
5 1/2 years it is an utter disgrace.
So come on P.C.C. get your act in
order.

SEV
There is no car parking space now,
so where do they think they can park -
we already ~~have~~ ^{have} Bands from the
wedgroom rooms with Big Cars + vans
How he has the gall to want to
Name it "Elegance" I do not know
Elegance, is known as "Grace,
Tastefulness, Sophistication,
Refinement, + Dignity"
Sexual Entertainment is a long
way from any of the above.



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 29 January 2018 08:09
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek
Subject: FW: Application re Sex Establishment app-18/00467/sexest

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Karen Stevens [mailto:karen.stevens@hants.gov.uk]
Sent: 28 January 2018 15:00
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Application re Sex Establishment app-18/00467/sexest

I object strongly to this club which will turn Southsea into an undesirable and sleazy area in which I will feel very unsafe. There is enough rape and sexual abuse already without having these men on the streets seeking sexual satisfaction. And with less and less policing it is making women very vulnerable.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 29 January 2018 08:09
To: Stone, Derek; Robson, Debra
Subject: FW: Re Application number - 18/00467/SEXEST

[REDACTED]

Sent: 28 January 2018 15:27
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Re Application number - 18/00467/SEXEST

Dear Portsmouth County Council,

*At a time when sexual abuse and rape is at an increased level in our society, I find it totally unacceptable that men's appetite for sex is being pandered to and encouraged by these such establishments, all in the name of profit or financial gain!
This area already has a large number of pubs and clubs promoted for decent business! It is also undesirable for there to be people coming out of such an establishment at those anticipated times on the local streets, causing extra unpleasant, time wasting and costly need for more police presence, not to mention the noise and disturbance to the respectable family neighbourhood in close proximity.*

[REDACTED]

Please – please! Don't allow Southsea to be degraded in this way!

Many Regards

 Virus-free. www.avast.com

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 29 January 2018 08:09
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek
Subject: FW: alcohol license 18/00292/LAPREM and Sex Establishment Application Number 18/00467/SEXEST

Sent: 29 January 2018 19:51

To: Licensing Shared Email

Subject: RE: alcohol license 18/00292/LAPREM and Sex Establishment Application Number 18/00467/SEXEST

To whom it may concern,

I would like to formally object to the licensing application for 149 Albert Road (alcohol license 18/00292/LAPREM and Sex Establishment Application Number 18/00467/SEXEST).

Both myself and my 12 year old son are deeply concerned about the impact this establishment will have on this residential area. Please consider the following points:

1)

Instances of sexual assaults are far more frequent in the areas around establishments of this kind.

Academic research has linked lap-dancing to trafficking, prostitution and an increase in male sexual violence against both the women who work in the clubs and those who live and work in their vicinity. A report by the Lilith Project, run by the charity Eaves Housing, which looked at lap-dancing in Camden Town, north London, found that in the three years after the opening of four large lap-dancing clubs in the area, incidents of rape in Camden rose by 50%, while sexual assault rose by 57%.

In 2012, Cornish police Chief Ian Drummond-Smith objected to the opening of a lap dancing club in Newquay. Police figures quoted by Insp Drummond-Smith show there were 69 reported sex crimes within a mile radius of the club between January 2010 and February 2012, which also included 15 cases of indecent exposure and six "other" sexual offences.

Five of the rapes and 16 sexual assaults were committed within half a mile. He said "It is of concern that sexual entertainment would take place in such proximity to dwellings and vulnerable persons, and those leaving the premises, having been subject to highly sexualised performances, may be at greater risk of committing sexual offences. The combination of factors above, in particular the vulnerable groups identified, have contributed to the sex crimes."

I would, therefore, urge the council to protect its residents from this potential harm.

As a woman living within a two minute walk of this venue I feel deeply concerned that this could compromise my safety and the safety of other women living in this residential area. The problem is not an issue of affronted morality but an issue of women's human rights to live and work without fear or degradation.

It is worth noting the effect of a similar establishment opening in central London:

"...the area around the University Street and Tottenham Court [Road] has now denigrated into a 'no go' area for female shoppers and male passers-by who are often accosted by pimps and other strip clubs offering sexual services and favours...." - Police report on Spearmint Rhino, (Director's Report, 2002) 2)

2. Opening hours until 4am.

This is totally unacceptable and without precedent in this residential area. Have you consulted the residents who will be affected by this?

As someone with two young children I strongly object to the impact that this will have on our standard of life. Many people live in flats above shops on Albert Road. Even more live in flats and houses in the surrounding streets. Allowing drunk, sexually charged people to use this service until 4am will affect the safety and noise levels for local residents. It is also likely to increase the crime rates in the surrounding areas even beyond sexual violence.

3. Against council policy.

In 2012, Portsmouth City Council adopted a policy stating that it would not allow any sex establishment licenses to be granted in this city. This was based in the council's view that such establishments did not fit in with the council's vision for the city (see section 7.10 of the council sex establishment licensing policy). Has the council's vision for the city changed? Have the local residents been consulted? Why is a new license being granted when it clearly contradicts this policy?



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 29 January 2018 08:10
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek
Subject: FW: Objection to licensing application for lap dancing club on Albert Rd



Sent: 28 January 2018 17:01
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to licensing application for lap dancing club on Albert Rd

To whom it may concern,

I would like to formally object to the licensing application for 149 Albert Road (alcohol licence 18/00292/LAPREM and Sex Establishment Application Number 18/00467/SEXEST).

I am deeply concerned about the impact this establishment will have on this residential area for the following reasons.

1)

Instances of sexual assaults are far more frequent in the areas around establishments of this kind.

Academic research has linked lap-dancing to trafficking, prostitution and an increase in male sexual violence against both the women who work in the clubs and those who live and work in their vicinity. A report by the Lilith Project, run by the charity Eaves Housing, which looked at lap-dancing in Camden Town, north London, found that in the three years after the opening of four large lap-dancing clubs in the area, incidents of rape in Camden rose by 50%, while sexual assault rose by 57%.

In 2012, Cornish police Chief Ian Drummond-Smith objected to the opening of a lap dancing club in Newquay. Police figures quoted by Insp Drummond-Smith show there were 69 reported sex crimes within a mile radius of the club between January 2010 and February 2012, which also included 15 cases of indecent exposure and six "other" sexual offences.

Five of the rapes and 16 sexual assaults were committed within half a mile. He said "It is of concern that sexual entertainment would take place in such proximity to dwellings and vulnerable persons, and those leaving the premises, having been subject to highly sexualised performances, may be at greater risk of committing sexual offences. The combination of factors above, in particular the vulnerable groups identified, have contributed to the sex crimes."

According to Amnesty, 2006, "There is an unbroken spectrum of violence that women face at the hands of people who exert control over them. States have the obligation to prevent, protect against, and punish violence against women whether perpetrated by private or public actors. States have a responsibility to uphold standards of due diligence and take steps to fulfil their responsibility to protect individuals from human rights abuses." I would, therefore, urge the council to protect its residents from this harm.

As a woman living within a five minute walk of this venue I feel deeply concerned that this could compromise my safety and the safety of other women living in this residential area. The problem is not an

issue of affronted morality but an issue of women's human rights to live and work without fear or degradation.

I have always felt safe on Albert Road but if this establishment opens up then my safety will be compromised:

"...the area around the University Street and Tottenham Court [Road] has now denigrated into a 'no go' area for female shoppers and male passers-by who are often accosted by pimps and other strip clubs offering sexual services and favours...." - Police report on Spearmint Rhino, (Director's Report, 2002)

Please consider this. Albert Road is one of the best things about Southsea. It is fun, diverse and safe. If this establishment opens all of this will be compromised.

2)

My second objection is that the proposal includes opening hours until 4am. This is totally unacceptable and without precedent in this residential area. Have you consulted the residents who will be affected by this?


As someone with two young children I strongly object to the impact that this will have on our standard of life. Many people live in flats above shops on Albert Road. Even more live in flats and houses in the surrounding streets. Allowing drunk, sexually charged people to use this service until 4am will affect the safety and noise levels for local residents. It is also likely to increase the crime rates in the surrounding areas even beyond sexual violence.

3)

In 2012, Portsmouth City Council adopted a policy stating that it would not allow any sex establishment licences to be granted in this city. This was based in the council's view that such establishments did not fit in with the council's vision for the city (see section 7.10 of the council sex establishment licensing policy). Has the council's vision for the city changed? Have the local residents been consulted? Why is a new licence being granted when it clearly contradicts this policy?

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 29 January 2018 08:08
To: Stone, Derek; Robson, Debra
Subject: FW: Objection to sex establishment licence



Sent: 27 January 2018 20:56
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to sex establishment licence

Dear sir/madam

I wish to lodge an objection to the sex establishment licence application ref: 18/00467/SEXEST.

I live less than a mile from the proposed location of this lap dancing club, and am a regular visitor and shopper in Albert Road.

I object to the application on the following grounds:

Objection 1 – this will affect the character of the locality

My concerns are

- that Albert Road includes residential areas, particularly in side roads, where many families live and regularly use the shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants.
- there are infant and primary schools close by, and the proximity of a sex establishment will impact on the confidence of parents in those particular schools.
- with or without children, women are more likely to avoid that area

Objection 2 – there will be a negative impact on nearby businesses

My concerns are:

- even though the sex establishment won't be open during the day, businesses close by will be affected by the seedy association and very likely to lose business
- there's likely to be a similar impact on the night-time use of that part of Albert Road, for example the Wedgewood Rooms which puts on events for young people, and restaurants.

Objection 3 – it will increase risks to public safety

My concerns are:

- police resources are already reduced and they are already unable to deal with some crimes, particularly related to anti-social behaviour.
- a sex establishment with perceived associations with drug dealing and prostitution (whether or not this actually occurs) is likely to increase anti-social behaviour, particularly in the early hours of the morning

Objection 4 – to agree the licence would impact negatively on gender equality

My concerns are:

- as a woman I would be much less likely to shop, eat, drink or go to events around that area of Albert Road
- sex establishments such as this lap dancing club objectify women, are known to exploit women and increase the likelihood of verbal, physical and sexual abuse of women
- I am interested to know the outcomes of the Equalities Impact Assessment related to this licence application, as I feel certain this would highlight the gender equality concerns it raises.

I look forward to your response to my objections,



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 26 January 2018 08:30
To: Stone, Derek; Robson, Debra
Subject: FW: Objection to a license for 149 Albert road



Sent: 26 January 2018 08:24
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to a license for 149 Albert road

Hi
I want to express my objection for the license for "sexual entertainment" above address.

Firstly I am extremely concerned that this will attract a certain type of people who can cause issues to the residential area around Albert road. There are children and young families in this area and having this shop operating until early hours in the morning is just not acceptable.

Secondly I worry about the treatment of the employee which is always known to be unethical. And strongly against that would happen in this community and anywhere.

Thanks.



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 26 January 2018 08:16
To: Stone, Derek; Robson, Debra
Subject: FW:



Sent: 25 January 2018 22:39
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject:

Lap dancing club
No way should be any like this in southsea l object strongly about this matter.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 01 February 2018 12:12
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Lap Dancing Establishment in Albert Road

[REDACTED]

Sent: 01 February 2018 12:04
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Lap Dancing Establishment in Albert Road

I am writing to express my extreme objection to opening this sort of establishment in Albert Road, a residential area with lots of independent traders, coffee shops, cafes, shops and restaurants. This is completely unsuitable for a sex establishment with many young families in the area and schools. I have a 23 year old daughter who doesn't want to be walking past this sex establishment at night if she is out with friends. It is completely unacceptable, put it in Guildhall Walk!



The information in this e-mail and any attachments is confidential and may be subject to legal professional privilege. Unless you are the intended recipient or his/her representative you are not authorised to, and must not, read, copy, distribute, use or retain this message or any part of it. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately.

HM Revenue & Customs computer systems will be monitored and communications carried on them recorded, to secure the effective operation of the system and for lawful purposes.

The Commissioners for HM Revenue and Customs are not liable for any personal views of the sender.

This e-mail may have been intercepted and its information altered.

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 24 January 2018 08:18
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Elegance



Sent: 23 January 2018 21:48
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Elegance

I am writing to strongly object to the proposal to grant s licence for a sexual entertainment licence for 149 Albert Rd. This is a totally inappropriate location for this activity. I would strongly urge the council to turn down this application which will not be welcomed by either residents, local businesses or schools. This part of Southsea is enjoyed by families, young people and a licence would irrevocably alter the diverse and eclectic mix of shops and businesses currently enjoyed by all ages.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 23 January 2018 11:35
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Objection to SEV at 149 Albert Road



Sent: 23 January 2018 11:30
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to SEV at 149 Albert Road

I object to the above being approved for the following reasons:

There are already sufficient licensed premises in the area and there is a significant amount of crime and ASB linked to these locations. Any additional premises will only serve to increase crime and ASB.

All of the night clubs in the City are now located in the City Centre/GWQ which are not predominantly residential areas. By allowing this application to be approved would pave the way for other late night licences to be attracted back to Albert Rd; a move that would contradict policy already in place to prevent and reduce crime and ASB.

The area is residential and children residing in the immediate are at a risk of being further exposed to harm by allowing this application.



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 23 January 2018 09:00
To: Humphreys, Nickii; Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek
Subject: FW: Lap dancing club in Albert Road, Southsea



Sent: 23 January 2018 08:41
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Lap dancing club in Albert Road, Southsea

Dear Sir / Madam

I wish to make my views clear regarding the above proposal. This is NOT the right place for such a venue (I don't actually believe any site is!) This site would be far better utilised for the social good – a hostel for the homeless, something to benefit the public good. Keep Albert Road and Portsmouth in general a clean place for people to live!! If the proposal is accepted, it will be purely for monetary gain, and is morally indefensible.



***** Disclaimer *****

The information in this email is confidential, and is intended solely for the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient of this email please let us know by reply and then delete it from your system; you should not copy this message or disclose its contents to anyone. Due to the integrity risk of sending emails over the Internet, SUMIKA POLYMER COMPOUNDS (UK) LTD. will accept no liability for any comments and / or attachments contained within this email. Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the company.

In order to safeguard our environment, please only print this e-mail if really necessary ! Thank you.

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 09 February 2018 14:02
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Comments for Licensing Application 18/00467/SEXEST

From: noreply@portsmouthcc.gov.uk [mailto:noreply@portsmouthcc.gov.uk]
Sent: 09 February 2018 13:59
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Comments for Licensing Application 18/00467/SEXEST

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Application Summary

Address: 149 Albert Road Southsea PO4 0JW

Proposal: Sex Establishment

Case Officer: Mrs NICKII HUMPHREYS

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address:

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 1:58 PM on 09 Feb 2018 I strongly object to a lap dancing club in Albert Road for the following reasons: It's very close to a couple of schools and therefore children - not fun explaining to them that women take off their clothes in this club for men to lear at... We should be protecting our young people from harm.. WE have enough pubs and clubs in Albert Road - parking is a always a problem for residents... and we have a good deal of drug dealing and drunken behaviour on the streets round here.. so we don't need any more disorder. Albert Road is an eclectic mix of shops and cafes and pubs and it's starting to attract some really great shops a sex club will will send it back down hill.

Robson, Debra

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 February 2018 16:28
To: Robson, Debra; Licensing Shared Email
Subject: SEV licence application Albert Road- OBJECTION

I would like to object to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Licence at 149 Albert Road Southsea PO4 0JW

1. First objection- on the application for a licence it states *Sex Establishment- that says it clearly enough. We do not want a licenced Sex Establishment in Albert Road. Why would the council agree to a SEX ESTABLISHMENT ?- PLEASE ANSWER THIS.*

In a climate where women are still fighting equality on a daily basis is the council really going to open a SEX ESTABLISHMENT where there are 2 schools, churches, clubs, community centre, many residential roads and a Theatre ?

Its PCC proposing to teach the many children frequenting this road & going to school in this road, or live near or in Albert Road that it is OK for a SEX ESTABLISHMENT where women dance on men's laps late at night ? Surely not ?

2. On the Proposed Conditions for Elegance it states ;- 20. The prices for entrance and any compulsory purchases must be displayed on the exterior of the venue.
So whilst stating it should be discreet it then says fees have to be displayed. It will be obvious thus as to the nature of the SEX ESTABLISHMENT.

3. On The Proposed conditions for Elegance it states - 9. *No part of the premises shall be used by prostitutes for the purpose of solicitation or otherwise exercising their calling.*

The establishment is described as a SEX ESTABLISHMENT. Therefore it must sell sexual activity- the definition of prostitution. Please explain how women earning money by dancing in limited clothing for money in a SEX ESTABLISHMENT is not prostitution. The terminology used is too vague. It is unclear how "lap dancing" is not defined as prostitution- Who made that decision ?

Lap Dancing is defined as *"an erotic dance or striptease performed close to, or sitting on the lap of, a paying customer."*

Prostitution is defined as *"a person, in particular a woman, who engages in sexual activity for payment."*

This equates as the same thing surely.

4. Location- Albert Road is a road of culture. It has cafes, pubs, independent shops, eateries, schools, churches, charity shops and other family orientated establishments. I have lived here for over 10 years and am horrified that this SEX ESTABLISHMENT is even being considered by Portsmouth City Councils. Why ? It is incomprehensible as to why it would be approved.



Robson, Debra

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 February 2018 12:46
To: Robson, Debra
Subject: Objection to change of use for 149, Albert Road

Dear Ms Robson

I am writing to you to set out my objections to the change of use from Conservative Club to a Lap Dancing Venue at number 149, Albert Road.

The planning application reference is 18/00467/SEXEST

Due to the impact on the character of the locality there will be an impact on local businesses, for instance the bridal wear shop at 151 Albert Road, 'Creatiques' - customers have approached the owner to say that if the sex establishment is approved, they will no longer visit the shop. In addition to this, young teenagers queue outside the nearby Wedgewood Rooms and would be subjected to the possible lack of role model behaviour of customers of the lap dancing club.

There are many dwellings above the shops in Albert Road whose residents would be disturbed by men leaving the venue in the early hours of every night. The licence application is for trading until 4 a.m. I have heard from local councillors that there is no Police presence in the city after 2 a.m. This would reduce the perceived and actual safety of women who might be walking in the area.

There is a bad track record for this sort of establishment. For instance, a study by the Lilith Project, run by the Eaves Housing charity, which looked at lap-dancing in Camden, found that in the three years after the opening of four large clubs in the area, incidents of rape rose by 50% and sexual assault by 57%.

In 2012, Cornish Police Chief Ian Drummond-Smith objected to the opening of a lap-dancing club in Newquay. He quoted Police figures which show that there were 69 reported sex crimes within a mile radius of the club, between January 2010 and February 2012, which included 15 cases of indecent exposure and 6 'other' sexual offences.

The Police Chief also said 'It is of concern that sexual entertainment would take place in such proximity to dwellings and vulnerable persons; those leaving the premises, having been subject to highly sexualised performances, may be at greater risk of committing sexual offences'.....According to Amnesty International 2006, 'There is an unbroken spectrum of violence that women face at the hands of people who exert control over them. States have the obligation to prevent, protect against, and punish violence against women whether perpetrated by private or public actors. States have a responsibility to protect individuals from human rights abuses.'

The area around University Street and Tottenham Court Road has now been designated a 'no go' area for female shoppers and male passers by who are often accosted by pimps and strip club staff offering sexual services...' Police report on Spearmint Rhino (Director's report 2002).

At present Albert Road is one of the best tourist venues in Southsea with a historic theatre, Salvation Army Church, Schools and a myriad of independent shops and restaurants. It is diverse and safe. If this establishment is allowed to open all this would be compromised.

Robson, Debra

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 February 2018 00:06
To: Robson, Debra; Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to the granting of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence for 149 Albert Road

Ref. Application to open a Sexual Entertainment Venue at 149 Albert Road

It seems a complete contradiction to allow a sexual entertainment licence to be granted when in paragraph 7.10 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy the conclusion is drawn that "Given the various factors set out above, the Licensing Authority has reached the preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the City of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment".

The proposal to situate a lap dancing bar in Albert Road blatantly contravenes the guidelines laid out in Portsmouth's Local Strategic Partnership vision for the city. This states, amongst other objectives, "we want to:

- Make Portsmouth a city where everyone feels and is safe;
- Make Portsmouth an attractive and sustainable city;
- Deliver affordable, quality housing where people want to live;
- Enhance Portsmouth's reputation as a city of culture, energy and passion, offering access for all to arts, sports and leisure."

Such an establishment is highly likely to make this part of the city incredibly unsafe – particularly for women. There is much research into the sex industry which demonstrates how these places not only demean the women working there but are also often linked to prostitution, drugs and people trafficking. In 2003, a report was released by Lilith Research and Development, a subsidiary project of Eaves Women's Aid, a London women's housing agency. The report examined the phenomenon of lapdancing clubs in the north London borough of Camden and its effects on crime rates from the late 1990s onward. One conclusion that received considerable attention was the statement that following the introduction of lap-dancing clubs, rape in Camden rose by 50%. (Eden 2003). In 2009, corrections to the statistics were reported in the Guardian stating that the change between 1999 and 2002 was a somewhat lower increase of 33% (Bell 2008). It still however implies evidence of a cause-and-effect relationship between lap dancing clubs and rape.

Albert Road is a busy and lively street with numerous thriving and well-established businesses. There are valid concerns as to the effect of having an SEV in the middle of this road. Without doubt these places are seen as somewhat sleazy and tawdry, which many traders fear will detract from the family friendly atmosphere. Not only is it likely to deter potential new companies setting up here but could well spur current businesses on to take their trade elsewhere.

There are many homes situated in the roads running off Albert Road and numerous flats above the shops. Local residents don't deserve to have their neighbourhood spoiled. How many of these inhabitants are going to be happy to living in the vicinity

of a lap dancing bar? It is not something that estate agents are likely to mention when advertising properties, as it is not a positive selling point – quite the opposite! Independent music venues all over the country are struggling to exist in the current economic climate. The Wedgewood Rooms is a successful business but it must be of concern that attendances may be affected by situating a lapdancing club next door. This venue offers a diverse programme in order to appeal to wide section of the city's community. The Wedgewood Rooms has a fantastic reputation nationally and internationally and does much to enhance the cultural life of the city. An SEV in the neighbouring building is, without doubt, going to cause concern to potential ticket buyers. Many people - particularly females - will be justifiably nervous about leaving the venue as customers are arriving next door. The Wedgewood Rooms has also worked hard over its 25 year existence to ensure that youngsters are able to enjoy nights out and allay parental fears regarding safety. This too will be jeopardised.

Paragraph 7.15 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy document also states "...applicants should also be aware that applications for sex establishment licences will normally be refused if they are proposed to be located in the vicinity of:

Places of worship;

Leisure centres;

Educational premises..."

There are three places of worship in the locality - St Swithun's Church, Trinity Methodist Church and The Salvation Army Church.

Havelock Community Centre runs regular clubs and activities for all ages just around the corner.

Less than a couple of minutes' walk away is The Life House which describes itself as "a practical resource and support centre for those in need living in Portsmouth and Southsea. We hope we are working to help make Southsea an even more pleasant, safe place to live". Many of the people using this facility are vulnerable, often struggling with mental health and/or addiction issues and need to know that this area is a safe space – particularly as meals are served on Thursday evenings until 8.30. In addition Albert Road has two schools – Craneswater Junior and Southsea First. This is all further evidence that this particular location is highly unsuited to the proposed type of establishment and permission must be refused if following the recommendations in your own policy document.

In the 'statement in support of applications for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence and Premises Licence' the following argument is made:

"They generally pose no risk to the environment in terms of nuisance or crime and disorder, not least because sexual entertainment venues tend to be attended by more mature adults and they are not alcohol-led venues".

If this is the case then why has the application been made to open between the hours of 21:00 and 04:00 Monday to Sunday? These establishments are precisely the places people go to drink once the pubs have closed. Often attendees will be groups of young men such as stag parties, which can lead to noise and disturbance on leaving the venue – especially after many hours of drinking alcohol. The police are already understaffed and overstretched and do not need further pressure on the service.

In the days of #MeToo, and #Drawaline etc., the granting of a licence to a lapdancing club in Albert Road in 2018 would be a highly retrograde step and drag the area back

to the 1970's. A busy, thriving and popular area needs a more forward-looking approach to business investment.



Robson, Debra

To: Licensing Shared Email; Robson, Debra
Subject: License for Elegance lap dancing club
Attachments: Fact Sheet on Lap Dancing.pdf

I am writing to express my absolute and complete opposite to the licence application for a lap dancing club to be operated on Albert Road.

It has been found that there is an increase in the number of rapes and sexual assaults in areas where lap dancing clubs have been allowed to open. See, for example: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/9284609/Lapdancing-clubs-encourage-rape-and-sexual-assaults-claims-police-chief.html>

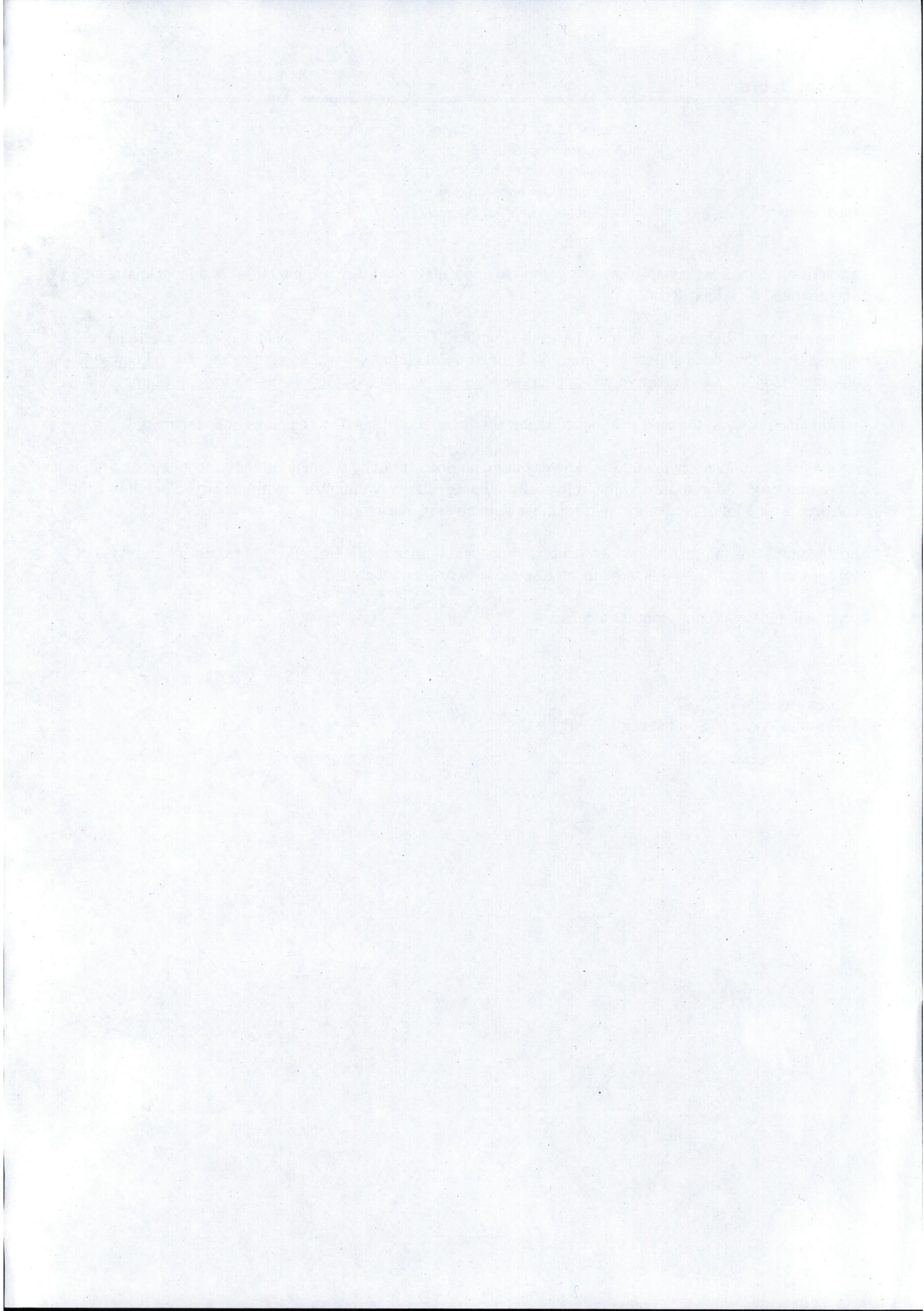
I would also urge you to read the attached report on the effects of lap dancing clubs on local areas.

Portsmouth is a university town. It has a very large number of young women, often living away from home for the first time and in quite a vulnerable position being relatively unfamiliar with the city. A club like this, in an area with a lot of students is putting those women at increased risk.

Lap dancing leads to prostitute which leads to drugs and human trafficking. It is not necessary and it is not appropriate for a club like this to be located so close to residential areas.

I urge you, please, do not grant it a license.

Thank you,



FACT SHEET ON LAP DANCING: Why strong regulation is needed

FACT ONE: Lap dancing clubs form part of the sex industry, not the leisure industry

Any industry that markets women as sexual objects and which promotes working practices that implicitly encourage men to expect and seek sexual services is part of the sex industry, not the leisure industry. These working practices include a requirement that women pay rent to work and a high performer to customer ratio which leads to intense competition between performers to gain the attention of male customers. It is within this context that women report feeling pressured to provide extra sexual services in private booths in order to earn a wage.

"The fact is that if you break the rules, you make more money. If one dancer starts breaking the rules then the pressure is on others to do the same. Otherwise a bloke would think, Well, that dancer charged me £20 and stayed three feet away, but that one charged me just the same and she put her breasts in my mouth and sat on my crotch. Once you've been there a while, you learn that certain things are profitable, and no contact is the first rule you learn to break. Eventually you start to wonder, what is the difference between me and a prostitute?"

'Elena' quoted in 'I was an Object, not a Person, The Guardian 19.03.08

The fact that lap dancing clubs form part of the sex industry is now also recognised in law. The **Policing and Crime Act 2009** allows local councils to license lap dancing clubs as Sexual Entertainment Venues – venues which provide visual entertainment for the purpose of sexual stimulation. This is crucial in order to regulate the expansion of the sex industry.

FACT TWO: Lap dancing clubs promote 'sex-object' culture – the mainstreaming of the sex and porn industries

The growth of lap dancing clubs has fed into what OBJECT terms 'sex-object' culture – the mainstreaming of the sex and porn industries and the ever increasing sexual objectification of women and girls. With lax licensing laws leading to the number of lap dancing clubs doubling over the last five years, and a PR makeover branding lap dancing as glamorous and 'harmless fun', we have found ourselves in a situation in which major retailers sell pole dancing kits along with pink frilly garters and paper money in their 'toys and games section'¹, and leisure centres offer pole dancing lessons to girls as young as twelve². This has led to 25% of teenage girls seeing being a lap dancer as their *ideal* profession³.

FACT THREE: Lap dancing clubs are linked to wider systems of prostitution

As well as the structural conditions in lap dancing clubs which pressure many performers into offering extra sexual services, research further shows that, even if clubs do enforce a no touching rule, and even if there is no sexual contact between dancers and customers, **the presence of strip clubs in a locality increases demand for nearby prostitution services**⁴.

This places lap dancing on a continuum of commercial sexual activity, irrespective of whether the sexual exchange occurs within the club itself.

FACT FOUR: Lap dancing clubs create 'no-go' zones for women in the local vicinity

Research undertaken in the London Borough of Camden found a fifty percent **increase in sexual assaults** in the borough after the rapid expansion of lap dancing clubs⁵. Personal testimony reinforces the idea of a link between the expansion of lap dancing clubs and increased levels of sexual harassment for women in the vicinity:

¹ Eden, I. (2007) *Inappropriate Behaviour: Adult Venues and Licensing in London*, London: The Lilith Project, Eaves Housing for Women.

² BBC News Online (2006), 'Children are Taught Pole Dancing' Tuesday, 12 December 2006, url: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/tyne/6173805.stm>

³http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/s/161/161338_naked_ambition_rubs_off_on_teen_girls.html

⁴ Coy, M, Horvath, M & Kelly, L (2007) *It's just like going to the supermarket: Men talk about buying sex in East London* London: Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit

⁵ Eden, I. (2003) *Lilith Report on Lap Dancing and Striptease in the Borough of Camden*, London: The Lilith Project, Eaves Housing for Women

"Once I walked past [a local strip club] at closing time, when a stripper tried to discreetly leave the premises and a group of punters stood outside. On recognising her, they erupted into loud whooping and jeering as she ran across the road to get away. I found this behaviour completely intimidating and totally in keeping with the behaviour of the street sexual harassment that makes women feel uncomfortable on a daily basis... Punters are encouraged to engage the very attitudes and behaviour which are seen as disrespectful and intimidating to women outside strip clubs... It is vital that councils take this into account when considering applications, so that they can take appropriate measures to limit the normalisation, exploitation and legitimisation of sexism, in order that women feel safe and entitled to walk their streets without fear of harassment or abuse".

Sonia, resident who objected to a lap dancing club in Hackney.

Furthermore, a recent six-month review⁶ into the licensing of strip clubs in the **London Borough of Tower Hamlets**, which received the highest number of contributions in recent years for a public consultation, stated:

Many people referred to the impact they felt the venues [strip clubs] were having on the character of the borough, with the following excerpts just a few examples: "my family feel uneasy in walking around streets where strip clubs are based, especially female members"; "I have been leered at and felt intimidated when walking past these clubs".

In addition, the **UK Royal Institute of Town Planning** issued a Good Practice Note in December 2007 on the issue of lap dancing clubs and women's sense of safety⁷:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable"

Links between the expansion of lap dancing clubs and increased levels of sexual harassment and assault led the **Women's National Commission** to include the need to regulate lap dancing clubs in their **submission to the UN Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 2005**:

⁶ London Borough of Tower Hamlets (2008) *Licensing of Strip Clubs*:

⁷ Royal Town Planning Institute (2007), *Gender and Spatial Planning, Good Practice Note 7*, 10 December 2007

"The use of women in degrading entertainment exacerbates violence against women...lap dancing and similar clubs must be regulated to ensure that local crimes against women do not increase"

FACT FIVE: Lap dancing clubs have a negative impact on women's safety in wider society

Lap dancing clubs normalise the representation of women as sexual objects who are always sexually available. They make sexual harassment seem normal, as what takes place within the four walls of a lap dancing club would be considered harassment in any other context.

The links between objectification, discrimination and violence against women are recognised at the international level by the legally binding **United Nations Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**, which has repeatedly called on states – including the British Government - to take action against the objectification of women⁸.

Similarly the UK-based **End Violence Against Women coalition** has called on the UK Government to tackle the sexualisation of women and girls because it provides a 'conducive context' for violence against women⁹.

The links between the expansion of lap dancing clubs and an increase in the levels of sexual violence in society was raised by **Glasgow City Council**¹⁰ in response to research it commissioned into the impact of lap dancing clubs on the city:

"Images of women and 'entertainment' which demean and degrade women portraying them as sexual objects plays a part in 'normalising' sexual violence and contributes to male abuse of women being acceptable, tolerated, condoned and excused. Such entertainment runs counter to explicit commitments by a range of private, public and voluntary agencies to promoting women's equality."

⁸ 1979 Convention on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Article 5

⁹ Realising Rights, Fulfilling Obligations: An Integrated Strategy to End Violence Against Women (EVAW) 2008

¹⁰ Glasgow City Council report on the need for review of licensing legislation in the light of concerns re table dancing
<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/0D19236F-808A-4467-96F7-6A9508C1F312/0/legtablic2.pdf>

FACT SIX: Lap dancing clubs run counter to efforts to promote equality between women and men

The **Gender Equality Duty 2007** requires local councils to assess the gendered impact that lap dancing clubs have on society as a whole.

The lap dancing industry is highly gendered, with men paying women to strip for them in the vast majority of lap dancing clubs - otherwise known as 'gentlemen's clubs'. The gendered nature of the industry makes the proliferation of lap dancing clubs relevant to the Gender Equality Duty making gender equality a factor which should be considered during licensing process.

The ever-increasing sexual objectification of women, facilitated by the expansion of lap dancing clubs, runs directly counter to efforts to achieve equality between women and men.

The more it becomes acceptable to view and treat women as sexual objects, the easier it becomes to disrespect women as a group. As stated by Chris Green, Director of the **White Ribbon Campaign**¹¹:

"Any expansion of lap dancing clubs feeds an increase in the lack of respect for women"

Research into male motivations for visiting strip clubs found that men went to strip clubs to meet women who were not 'feminist' and who were willing to act in more 'traditional' ways¹². This is reflected by **testimonies from former lap dancers**¹³:

"I learned that the best way to encourage a man to want you to dance for him is to act coy, submissive, innocent and a bit stupid"

Male customers also said that they wanted to 'let frustration out' at the ways in which they had been forced to monitor their behaviour towards women in the workplace¹⁴:

¹¹ The White Ribbon Campaign works with men to end violence against women

¹² Frank, K. (2005) 'Exploring the Motivations and Fantasies of Strip Club Customers in Relation to Legal Regulations', *Sexual Behavior*, Vol. 34 (5), pp. 487 – 504

¹³ See OBJECT website for more testimonies

¹⁴ Frank, K. (2005) 'Exploring the Motivations and Fantasies of Strip Club Customers in Relation to Legal Regulations', *Sexual Behavior*, Vol. 34 (5), pp. 487 – 504

"With all of this sexual harassment stuff going around these days, men need somewhere to go where they can act like they want"

In this way, lap dancing clubs represent one of the last bastions of male privilege - a place that time forgot in relation to society's efforts to achieve equality between women and men.

Recent sex discrimination law suits against corporate use of lap dancing clubs, and **top business women in *The Economist*¹⁵ blaming corporate strip club culture for the lack of female representation at high levels of business** demonstrate the negative impact that lap dancing clubs have on women's equality in wider society. According to a female business woman in the UK¹⁶:

"Often client after-work meetings became visits to strip clubs and I knew senior guys who had told HR they wanted a new junior team member and that she must be slim, blond and pretty...one guy refused to work with me because he said my breasts were off-putting and management responded by asking me if I had done anything to provoke this"

The *Sexism in the City* campaign spearheaded by the **Fawcett Society**, the UK's leading campaign for gender equality, further highlights the links between lap dancing and gender inequality as it calls on government and business to take steps to end commercial sexual exploitation, sexual objectification and sexual stereotypes as crucial measures to achieve equality between women and men in the work place¹⁷.

FACT SEVEN: Regulating the expansion of lap dancing clubs is an issue of equality, not morality

Objections to lap dancing clubs are based on issues of equality, not morality.

The need for policy to be scrutinised in relation to gender equality was recognised by the Government in 2007, with the passing of the **Gender Equality Duty**. The Gender Equality Duty places a legal obligation on public bodies to take out **Gender Equality Impact Assessments** on all policy decisions to ensure that decisions do not have a negative impact on women's equality. Furthermore, the Gender Equality Duty requires public bodies to **actively promote gender equality and work towards countering gender stereotypes**.

¹⁵ Jeffreys, S. (2008b) 'The Sex Industry and Business Practice', Seminar: School of Business, Ballara University, 21 May 2008

¹⁶ Kate, Former City of London worker, Sexism and the City Manifesto, Fawcett Society 2008

¹⁷ <http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/documents/SATC%20manifesto%20public.pdf>

Lap dancing clubs promote gender stereotypes and attitudes that say it is acceptable to treat women as sexual objects, rather than real people. They are linked to gender discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace (as demonstrated by recent successes of sexual harassment cases in which use of lap dancing clubs has been recognised as linked to discrimination) as well as the creation of no go areas in the surrounding areas which reduce women's sense of security and entitlement to public space.

Highlighting these issues is not about morality, or 'having an issue with sex', it is about ensuring that local councils abide by their legal requirements to promote equality between women and men.

FACT EIGHT: The Policing and Crime Act 2009 allows councils to set a limit of zero for Sexual Entertainment Venues. This means rejecting all licensing applications for lap dancing clubs.

The **Policing and Crime Act 2009** allows local authorities to regulate lap dancing clubs by setting a limit on how many Sexual Entertainment Venues can be licensed in each ward – and therefore in the borough as a whole. The limit may be set at nil.

It is specifically provided in the *Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act (LGMPA) 1982* that nil may be an appropriate limit for the number of sex establishments in a particular locality.

All current lap dancing clubs must apply for a Sexual Entertainment Venue license in order to operate. Licenses last for a duration of one year.

A local authority is under no obligation to renew a license for a currently operating club under the Sexual Entertainment Venue licensing regime. If a local authority sets a 'nil policy'/ a limit of zero, this will automatically allow the council to reject all licensing applications for Sexual Entertainment Venues. This is an important part of the new licensing regime in relation to lap dancing clubs considering the negative impact that lap dancing clubs have on local communities and in particular on women's equality and women's safety (see above).

Indeed, **the introduction of a nil policy is currently being proposed by the London Boroughs of Hackney and Haringey.** In the view of Hackney council¹⁸:

"...[Sexual Entertainment Venues] contradict and undermine [the Borough of Hackney's] stated aims and exacerbate the challenges it faces in bringing about positive, genuinely sustainable characterful and thriving neighbourhoods which support the need and principle of upskilling its population and closing the education gap across its communities."

¹⁸ Hackney Draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy, 2010

And in Harringey, Councillor Nilgun Canver states¹⁹:

"This new legislation allows us to stop lap dancing and pole dancing clubs from setting up in sensitive areas where they will cause concern. We consider this would apply to every ward and want this to be central to our policy. We are asking for comments from residents, to see if they support this stance."

FACT NINE: Introducing a 'nil' policy/zero limit for Sexual Entertainment Venues and therefore rejecting licensing applications for lap dancing clubs is fully compliant with the Human Rights Act

Some lap dancing club operators have threatened to appeal against the rejection of a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence on the grounds that it violates their human rights under the Human Rights Act 1998. The two rights they threaten to invoke are the *right to freedom of expression* and the *protection of property*.

It is extremely unlikely that such an appeal would be successful considering that it is within the law for councils to set nil policies (see FACT SEVEN)

Furthermore, the two rights specified above are qualified, they are not absolute.

Philip Kolvin QC, Chairman of the Institute of Licensing, states²⁰:

"Where a rational decision has been taken by the licensing authority in accordance with the principle of the statute, it is most unlikely that the decision will be held to have been a disproportionate interference with human rights."

Indeed, before the Policing and Crime Bill became law – enabling local authorities to licence lap dancing clubs as Sexual Entertainment Venues under the LGMPA - the **Minister of the Crown** in charge of the Bill made a **written statement that the new law, including the provision to set nil policies, was compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.**

Thus the power of local authorities to set a nil policy for Sexual Entertainment Venue licenses has been validated in human rights terms.

Rejecting a lap dancing club licence application – and/or setting a nil policy for lap dancing clubs – is therefore fully compliant with the Human Right Act 1998.

¹⁹ http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/news_and_events/latest_news/lap_dancing_ban.htm

²⁰ Kolvin, P. (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing, p82

FACT TEN: The current coalition government supports moves to tackle businesses which promote the sexual objectification of women, including lap dancing clubs, as part of their work on violence against women

The current **Home Secretary, Theresa May**, sent a powerful message to councils to take a bold stance against businesses which promote the sexual objectification of women when, in July 2010 at the Women's Aid Conference, she stated:

"It is only when businesses appreciate their responsibility to end the sexualisation of women that some people will stop treating women like objects. And it's only when our communities stand up and say violence against women is unacceptable – that attitudes will really begin to change".

The **Conservative Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for London (2010 - 2013)** explicitly refers to the links between lap dancing clubs, prostitution, trafficking and other forms of violence against women²¹.

The Conservative Mayor for London, **Boris Johnson**, further states his support for councils to take tough measures against the proliferation of lap dancing clubs:

"The proliferation of lap dancing clubs and brothels may further legitimise violence against women and undermine efforts to prevent it... We will ensure that the safety issues presented by lap dancing clubs come under local authority and police scrutiny through JEM. The Mayor will work with local authorities to review the implementation of the new licensing regime under the Policing and Crime Act 2009 to ensure that London leads the way in regulating lap dancing clubs as sexual entertainment venues and giving local people the power to object to lap dancing clubs in their area. We will support boroughs in ensuring that the proliferation of lap dancing clubs is controlled. We will also champion any police operations that target lap dancing clubs to investigate any misconduct or criminal activity."

And the Leader of the opposition, **Ed Miliband**, states his support for OBJECT and urges councils to adopt strong measures to tackle the growth of lap dancing clubs as part of tackling the attitudes and behaviours that underpin violence against women²²:

²¹ <http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/The%20Way%20Forward%20Final%20Strategy.pdf>

²² Ed Miliband's response to the End Violence Against Women Coalition, September 2010, <http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/>

"We need to think about how our culture treats women more generally. The vital work of organisations such as OBJECT has exposed the ease with which lap dancing clubs have sprung up. In government we took some steps to enforce stricter controls on these establishments, but we were too slow to recognise this problem and act on it. I have already pledged that I want local people to have more power to challenge the licences of these establishments."

There is cross-party support for tackling the growth of lap dancing clubs.

Councils across the country are adopting the SEV licensing laws and considering setting the limit at zero.

You too can be part of stemming the sexualisation of women and girls by taking a stand against the 'sex-object' culture that lap dancing clubs promote.

Take action now and help end commercial sexual exploitation for generations to come.

To find out more email OBJECT at anna@object.org.uk or visit our website at:

object.org.uk

Stv

31/01/2018

Licensing Service
Portsmouth City Council
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
Hants
PO1 2AL

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the premises licence application ref: 18/00292/LAPREM..

I have an interest in this application because I am a resident of the area, am a mother raising her daughter to believe that women are not the property or play things of men, and am a qualified children and family Social Worker.

I object to the application on the following grounds:

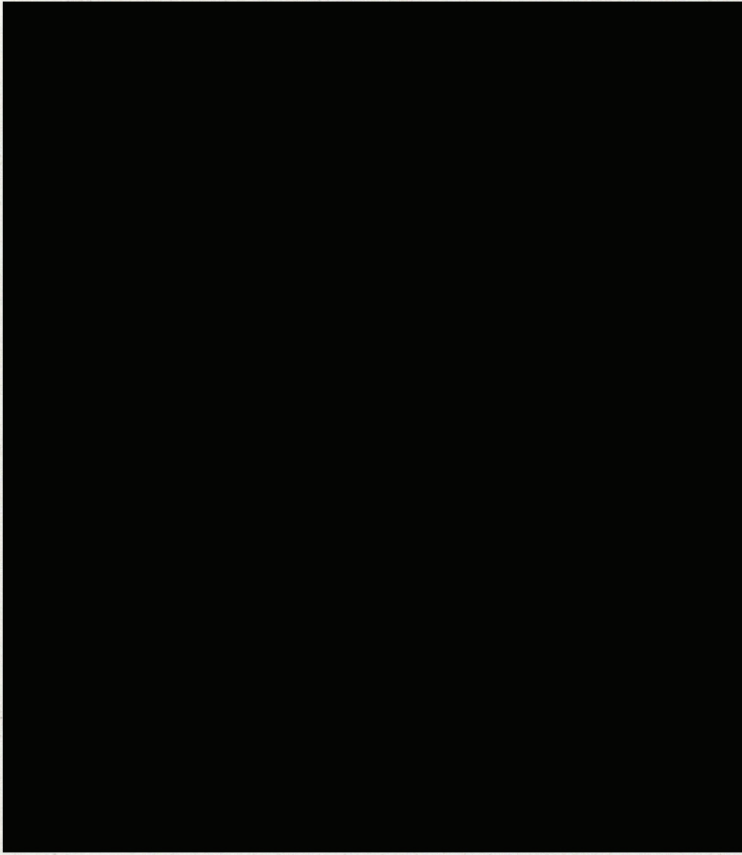
According to the PCC's own sex establishment licensing policy 2012, which adopted Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009), one of the discretionary grounds for refusal of an application is that:

The number of sex establishments in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality;

It was agreed by PCC in 2012 that the appropriate cap on such establishments would be 'nil'. As we currently have 2 similar establishments in the city, a third would exceed this agreed cap by 300%.

The same Act adopted by PCC also suggests that consideration be given to whether an application should be ***refused if they are within three miles of any place of worship, swimming pool, leisure centre, park, youth centre, historic building, tourist attraction, educational premises, school, play area, nursery, children's centre or similar premises.***

149 Albert Road has all such premises well within 3 miles, including schools, nurseries and places of worship just yards away.



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 08 February 2018 08:31
To: Humphreys, Nickii; Stone, Derek; Robson, Debra
Subject: FW: Comments for Licensing Application 18/00467/SEXEST

From: noreply@portsmouthcc.gov.uk [<mailto:noreply@portsmouthcc.gov.uk>]
Sent: 07 February 2018 14:55
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Comments for Licensing Application 18/00467/SEXEST

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Application Summary

Address: 149 Albert Road Southsea PO4 0JW

Proposal: Sex Establishment

Case Officer: Mrs NICKII HUMPHREYS

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name:

Email:

Address:

Comments Details


Commenter Type: Contributor (Other)

Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: 2:54 PM on 07 Feb 2018 I would like to object on the grounds of: 7.1 c) the fact that PCC reached a preliminary conclusion that there is no place in the city which could be an appropriate location for a sex establishment and 7.1 d) it is inappropriate for the character of the locality and the use of premises in the vicinity. Although the pubs and clubs are open on Albert Road, they are not open as late as this establishment is proposing. The neighbouring Wedgewood rooms is also a venue that caters for teenagers, and I do not feel that it is appropriate for them to be waiting for gigs to start or leaving the venue when clients of the lap dancing club may be leaving (some of whom may be disappointed by what they did not receive at the establishment and

impacting the perception and possible reality of public safety and harm to children). There is also the Havelock Community Centre, Scout Hut (St Swithun's Car Park) and Churches (Trinity Methodist, Salvation Army & St Swithuns) around the corner which are also venues catering for all ages, and all the streets off Albert Road are residential, down which many of the clients will need to walk to leave. I personally live near one end of Albert Road, but have friends at the other end, so frequently walk home late at night along Albert Road, and I generally feel quite safe doing so. However, from past experience near the Strand I now avoid that area due to the club at that location, and would now equally feel unsafe as a single, able woman walking Albert Road if this venue was granted it's licence, as I feel I would be less safe. I don't want to feel unsafe in my local community and I don't want me young children to grow into teenagers that I am then concerned for their safety and not allowing them to attend music gigs that they would enjoy.



To whom it may concern,

I am writing to register my objection to the proposed conversion of the former Conservative Club at 149 Albert Road, Southsea to a lap dancing club.

Albert Road is a great street in Southsea, full of restaurants, bars at night, many shops and two schools.

The addition of a lap dancing club with a license to operate until 4am is not suitable for the street. The street is situated with many residential roads leading off it. By allowing this type of establishment it will increase the noise and anti-social behaviour in the surrounding residential streets, as groups of clientele make their way home. If the premises has a licence until 4am it will encourage drunken behavior.

Also with the nature of the venue the crowds will likely be made up of men only, and the associated issues of anti-social behaviour will not be tempered by a mixed group of sexes and ages.

I believe strongly that this establishment is not suited to this location what should be a family friendly street, even at night.

Portsmouth City Council should be encouraging a vibrant and diverse night life on Albert Road, ideally a family friendly place to be in the evening - with a good mix of pubs, restaurants and bars. This venue should be resisted at all costs.

I also write on a more personal note. My great, great grandfather, Gen Sir George Willis, laid the foundation stone of the Conservative Club. My 6 year old daughter walks to Southsea Infant School, past this stone, and we talk about the history of our family and of the city of Portsmouth.

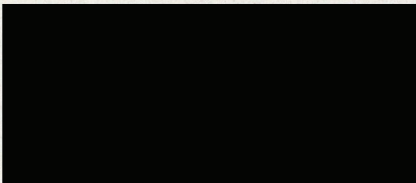
This establishment should not be close to two schools - an infant and junior school, where parents of young children will need to explain what the building is used for.

I, for one, do not want to explain to my young daughter that a building that was founded by one of her ancestors, is now used for young women to dance naked for the entertainment of

men. This sends the wrong messages to young girls that men value them based on looks and sexuality.

I hope that PCC are able to stop this.

Yours sincerely,



Robson, Debra

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

23 January 2018 17:09

Robson, Debra

Re: Objection to Lap Dancing Club in Albert Road

>> Debbie Robson
>> Senior Licensing Officer
>> Directorate of Culture and City Development Licensing Service
>> Portsmouth City Council Civic Offices Guildhall Square Portsmouth
>> PO1 2AL
>>
>> T: 023 9283 4607
>> F: 023 9283 4811
>> M: 07956 583072
>> E: debra.robson@portsmouthcc.gov.uk
>> www.portsmouth.gov.uk

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Licensing Shared Email
>> Sent: 23 January 2018 16:42
>> To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
>> Subject: FW: Objection to Lap Dancing Club in Albert Road

[REDACTED]

>> Sent: 23 January 2018 16:36
>> To: Licensing Shared Email
>> Subject: Objection to Lap Dancing Club in Albert Road

>> Hi

>> I want to add my name to the list of people who want to refuse the build of the lap dancing club in Albert Road, Portsmouth.

>> I am a 21 year old girl, and believe the world is already fuelled with problems regarding sex and the exploitation of women, and this is at the top of social issues. Do we really need anymore of that in Portsmouth? Any more impressionable boys being dragged there because it's "cool". A lap dancing club is nothing but the exploitation of women, surrounded by predatory men.

>> These should be stopped, there is absolutely no reason for one of these to open in Albert Road, other than for profit. It is bad for the community, it is giving young, impressionable girls and boys the completely wrong messages. It will become the 'norm' to go there after a night out, the boys will grow up to never respect women and thats why we have all these problems in the world!

>> Please think about this, and what we are bringing into our community.. a lifetime to come of problems.

[REDACTED]

>> Play the Portsmouth Lottery, 60p from every £1 ticket goes to good causes and there's a £25k prize jackpot. It's a win win.

>> Play today at www.portsmouthlottery.co.uk

>> _ This email is for the intended recipient(s) only.

BAW SFV

06/02/2018

Licensing Service
Portsmouth City Council
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
Hants
PO1 2AL

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the premises licence application ref: 18/00292/LAPREM..

I have an interest in this application because I am a local resident living within the immediate vicinity of the proposed premises and am a regular user of the facilities offered by the Albert Road shops and establishments as a whole. I am also the Chair of the local Labour Party and write in my capacity as such and as a Ward Organiser within the Central Southsea Ward under which the premises are located.

I object to the application on the following grounds:

Objection 1:

Grounds for objection – Failure to promote the prevention of crime and disorder

Reasons for objections:

1. There is the potential for increased crime and disorder with customers of this proposed venue arriving from elsewhere in the city, at a time when other venues on Albert Road are closed for the night. Indeed, it has been demonstrated in other cities with such sex establishments that there is a general rise in crime and disorder within the immediate vicinity of the venues.
2. In addition, there is a lack of police availability after the hours of 2am meaning that crime and disorder would go undeterred by the lack of a police presence on the street. Indeed, the on-going cuts to the police service mean that the capacity of the police to offer PCSOs and Police Officers on the streets late at night will be severely affected.

Objection 2:

Grounds for objection – Failure to promote the prevention of public nuisance

Reasons for objections:

1. The use of the premises up to 4am will have an added impact on the already compromised parking arrangements within the vicinity of the premises. Those attending the premises that have not parked will require collecting by taxi or other vehicles at a time early in the morning which will affect the nearby local residents on Harold Road, Trevor Road, Beatrice Road and Leopold Road, and other surrounding areas which are built up residential areas of young families.
2. Notwithstanding the vehicular impact on the local area, no other venues within Albert Road have licences to open beyond 2am and, in practice, none open beyond 1am. The impact of having customers arriving and up to 100 people leaving the premises beyond these hours up to 4am and congregating outside the premises to smoke and converse would cause additional public nuisance to the local residents.

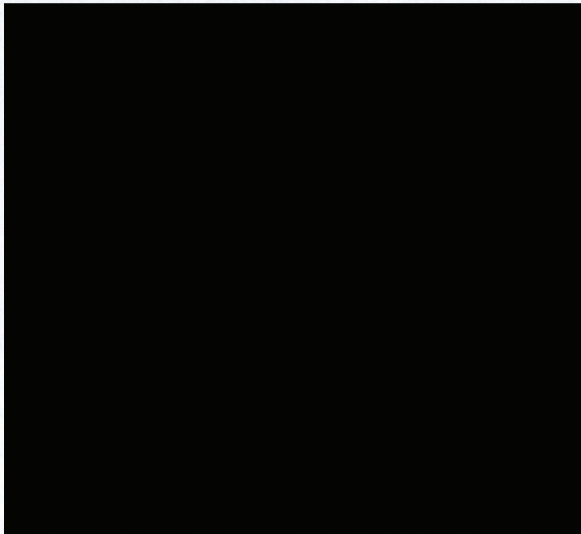
Objection 3:

Grounds for objection – Failure to promote the protection of children from harm

Reasons for objections:

1. Within the immediate vicinity of the proposed premises, you have both the Wedgewood Rooms and the Havelock Community Centre which host events with local colleges and for young people to attend. These events will often overlap in time with the arrival of customers to the lap dancing club and, as such, children will be coming into direct contact with people attending the sex establishment which is directly contrary to the licensing objectives of the Council.

2. In addition, local schools and churches such as St. Swithun's Church and Craneswater Junior School often have events and services which overlap with the proposed opening times of the venue which would again bring children into direct contact with the venue, such as being directly contrary to the licensing objectives of the Council.



Robson, Debra

From: Licensing Shared Email
Sent: 13 February 2018 08:23
To: Robson, Debra; Stone, Derek; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: FW: Comments for Licensing Application 18/00467/SEXEST

From: noreply@portsmouthcc.gov.uk [<mailto:noreply@portsmouthcc.gov.uk>]
Sent: 12 February 2018 23:29
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Comments for Licensing Application 18/00467/SEXEST

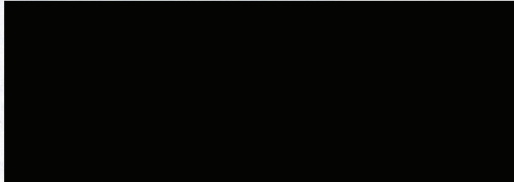
Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Application Summary

Address: 149 Albert Road Southsea PO4 0JW
Proposal: Sex Establishment
Case Officer: Mrs NICKII HUMPHREYS
[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name:
Email:
Address:



Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour
Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application
Reasons for comment:
Comments: 11:28 PM on 12 Feb 2018 It seems a complete contradiction to allow a sexual entertainment licence to be granted when in paragraph 7.10 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy the conclusion is drawn that "Given the various factors set out above, the Licensing Authority has reached the preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the City of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment". The proposal to situate a lap dancing bar in Albert Road blatantly contravenes the guidelines laid out in Portsmouth's Local Strategic Partnership vision for the city. This states, amongst other objectives, "we want to: - Make Portsmouth a city where everyone feels and is safe; - Make Portsmouth an attractive and

sustainable city; - Deliver affordable, quality housing where people want to live; - Enhance Portsmouth's reputation as a city of culture, energy and passion, offering access for all to arts, sports and leisure." Paragraph 7.15 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy document also states "...applicants should also be aware that applications for sex establishment licences will normally be refused if they are proposed to be located in the vicinity of: Places of worship; Leisure centres; Educational premises..." Albert Road is a busy and lively street with numerous thriving and well-established businesses. There are valid concerns as to the effect of having an SEV in the middle of this road. Without doubt these places are seen as somewhat sleazy and tawdry, which many traders fear will detract from the family friendly atmosphere. Not only is it likely to deter potential new companies setting up here but could well spur current businesses on to take their trade elsewhere.