
To: Licensing Shared Email

Subject: objection to 'Wiggle' strip clubs application for a license

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to lodge my objection to licence that 'Wiggle' strip club at 1-3 Surrey Street, Portsmouth have applied for.

This business is a blight on what otherwise could be a pleasant area of the city. It is completely inappropriate that a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) should be situated in such close proximity to the university, and the cultural heart of town, and close to several housing estates, children's nurseries, churches, residential homes and, and it's existence is having a proven adverse effect on the area in terms of crime, public order, and verbal sexual harassment.

I also wish to object to the fact that there is a strip club in such a densely populated area on the grounds of the culture and clientele such a place attracts. Strip clubs have a proven link to human trafficking, prostitution (several of the 'dancers' at strip clubs in Portsmouth are also registered with escort agencies), and a rise in crime (particularly public order, sexual crime and domestic violence). Such businesses also feed into the idea of making it 'normal' to pay for sexual services.

These are the reasons of why I wish to object to the license application.

Kind regards,

Humphreys, Nickii

From:
Sent: 15 May 2012 21:17
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: RE: Wiggle application for Sex establishment license

I would like to object to 'Wiggle's application for a sex establishment license. I have experienced sexual harassment, threats and verbal abuse outside this club in view of both the security and the owner who both did nothing to stop or prevent this. On the 30/9/11 myself and a group of people I was with experienced two men shouting abuse, making threats and propositioning us for a dance. One man exposed himself to us all in very clear view of security and Mr OJ. Instead of taking any steps to stop the harassment, the security guards on the door and Mr OJ laughed along with the men, then continued to allow the perpetrators into the club. A report of this behavior was given to the police. This isn't the only time I have experienced harassment outside one of Mr OJ's lap dancing club in Portsmouth. I don't believe my experiences are unique and I am positive similar incidences will continue to occur outside Wiggle and the other lap dancing clubs in the city. I believe the nature of these clubs encourage the objectification of women which clearly spills outside the clubs and affects women living in this city. Mr OJ's attitude towards the incidents outside his club on the 30/9 clearly shows he has no interest in preventing harassment outside his club and no regard for the safety of the women working inside the club as he continued to welcome these perpetrators inside. For this reason I don't believe Mr OJ should be supported by Portsmouth City Council to run a sexual entertainment establishment.

Another reason I feel the license shouldn't be granted is because of the location of the establishment. It is very near public transport links so commuters using either the train station, very near by bus stops or taxi rank are unable to avoid the area if they wish to. Students living in the near by halls of residence use the deserted car park next door to 'wiggle' as a thoroughfare which I feel poses a risk to them of potential rape or assault from drunken sexually charged punters leaving the club. Lap dancing clubs are statistically linked to increased sexual harassment, sexual assaults, street violence, domestic violence and street prostitution. Portsmouth already has a problem with these things. Guildhall walk in particular has a high rate of sexual assaults, street violence and rape so I feel allowing another lap dancing club to operate so close to this area is dangerous. It will exacerbate an already existing problem within our city.

There is also a housing project for vulnerable young people on the corner of Edinburgh Road. I feel this is at best very insensitive and at worse a great risk to the young people living there to allow the sex trade to run a licensed establishment on their doorstep. Many of the young people housed there are care leavers and many have experienced childhood abuse. Stats have shown that both victims of childhood abuse and young people leaving the care system commonly fall prey to the sex industry. I think it would also be fair to assume that a percentage of these vulnerable young people may find any harassment outside the clubs a very traumatic reminder of past abuse.

I would hope that Portsmouth City Council would make the safety and well being of its residents a priority when making a decision on granting a license to a sex establishment like this and consider the impact this club could potentially have on women and young people living or visiting the city.

Humphreys, Nickii

From:
Sent: 17 May 2012 19:13
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Wiggle - application for Sex Establishment license

I wish to object to the above application.

The premises are situated in the main shopping centre of Portsmouth city close to family food outlets, banks, shops and the main waiting area for public transport connections. There is also a housing project for vulnerable young people nearby, many of whom have experienced sexual abuse. I, personally, have been sexually harassed outside this club by customers, while the owner of the premises stood by and laughed, before letting the customers enter the club. There is video footage of part of this harassment which the licensing department are aware of. I do not believe that women in particular, including young students, waiting for public transport, exiting the nightlife nearby or using the food outlets should have to encounter sexually charged males exiting this club in the late hours.

I understand that the residents of Avalon House, situated opposite this club, have objected to it, and many of them signed a petition against it. They have made complaints in writing to the council regarding breaking class, vomiting and other rowdy behaviour as a result of this club operating.

This club continues to operate without planning permission to do so, as the Council refused planning permission for change of use to a lap dancing venue. While this planning application was made, it was not until a few days before the deadline that the proprietor of 'Wiggle' decided it might be a good idea to be honest about the change of use, and changed the application to change of use to lap dancing club, as opposed to change of use to nightclub as it was previously advertised. I believe this applicant continues to try to deceive the public when making applications. At the very least, this licensing application should not be considered until such a time that the result of the appeal being made against the planning decision is announced.

The Council is obliged to promote equality between men and women under the general gender equality duties. By licensing establishments where men go to buy young women to perform sex acts for them, and while numerous women are harassed by punters of these clubs, and young female students are harassed by operators of these clubs to work in them, while at the same time young male students are harassed to attend these clubs to buy women, the Council is in breach of its gender equality duty.

Humphreys, Nickii

Sent: 20 May 2012 09:23
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: sex establishments

I would like to object to the applications for licences of Wiggle and Elegance. What would it say about gender equality in Portsmouth if they were allowed? How would they enhance our communities? What about the levels of violence and abuse against women if they can be objectified in this way?

Humphreys, Nickii

From:
Sent: 22 May 2012 15:08
To: Licensing Shared Email; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: 12/03428/SEXEST - WIGGLE OBJECTION

APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE (SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE) -
12/03428/SEXEST - WIGGLE

Wiggle, 1-7 Surrey Street

Dear Ms Humphreys
Wiggle, 1-7 Surrey Street

I wish to object to the above application.

I fully support the City Council draft sex establishment policy which has a 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 draft policy specifically mentions the following factors:

a) *The general character of the area (eg family residential, family leisure or educational area)*

It is unacceptable for such premises to be sited in an area where families will want to go late night Christmas shopping in nearby shops and department stores or want to use nearby food outlets in the evening throughout the year.

b) *The impact of the premises on the character of the area*

Residents living close to these premises state that they are suffering from people vomiting, urinating (and therefore presumably exposing themselves) and smashing glass and that "since the club has opened there is an increase in violence".

c) *Gender equality issues, including whether the proposed use, particularly at night, would deter women from using the area comfortably or at all*

In response to the draft policy and relating to this establishment in particular, women have stated that they avoid the area and the University of Portsmouth Student Union Women's Officer has said that many young women find these premises intimidating and prevent them from enjoying the other facilities that this area has to offer.

I note that the club's Staff Welfare policy states that "Dancers are escorted to their vehicles at the end of their shifts" which would indicate a clear awareness by the owners that unaccompanied women in the vicinity of the premises are in danger of attack or abuse.

d) *Effects upon regeneration and tourism in the area*

The existence of this venue in an important shopping area and so close to the main Train station and proposed new hotels is detrimental to the city's regeneration and tourism aspirations.

e) *Applications for sex establishment licences will normally be refused if they are proposed to be located in the vicinity of places of worship, parks, tourist attractions, educational premises, schools, libraries, historic buildings*

This location is within a few hundred yards of one of the city's most popular parks, the University, one of our 2 cathedrals, the central library, the Guildhall, a theatre and close to several schools and educational premises.

A News journalist wrote in her column on March 5th 2012 that "there's no place for these clubs in an enlightened society – there can be little doubt that they are damaging to society". I wholeheartedly agree. Please note that I wish to make a deputation at the meeting when the matter is considered.

Yours sincerely

Humphreys, Nickii

From:
Sent: 23 May 2012 14:08
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Wiggle - 7 Surrey Street

Hello

I can't find on the PCC web site any reporting on whether the draft proposal for sex establishment licencing has been adopted, although the public consultation on the subject was presumably concluded last month. Have I missed something or is the subject still under discussion?

I have been advised that Wiggle of Surrey Street have applied for a sex establishment licence and the deadline for public objections is today. Assuming this is the case I would object to the granting of such a licence for the following reasons:

1. The premises have had their planning application refused (but they continue to trade) so I don't believe your department should even consider the matter until their planning appeal is resolved
2. I understand the draft proposal is for no such establishments in the city centre, assuming the draft proposal is ratified then the licence application can only fail.
3. We trade in close proximity to Wiggle and I don't believe it is reasonable to expect our customers – and others of the shopping centre - to have to pass such an establishment (en route from Debenhams Car Park) with the obvious imagery on the signage to the premises.

Humphreys, Nickii

From:
Sent: 23 May 2012 11:12
To: Licensing Shared Email; Humphreys, Nickii
Subject: Aurora - Obejction to Licensing Application - Wiggle
Attachments: SEV license objection - Wiggle.doc

Please find attached our objection to the SEV Wiggle Licensing application.

Please inform us of the time and venue of the meeting as we would like to attend.

23/05/12

RE: Wiggle, 1-7 Surrey Street – SEV Licence Application.

Aurora New Dawn wishes to object to the above application.

We fully support the City Council draft sex establishment policy which has a 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 draft policy specifically mentions the following factors:

a) *The general character of the area (eg family residential, family leisure or educational area)*

It is unacceptable for such premises to be sited in an area where families will want to go late night Christmas shopping in nearby shops and department stores or want to use nearby food outlets in the evening throughout the year. It is also in direct contradiction to the council's regeneration attempts for "the Great Waterfront City".

b) *The impact of the premises on the character of the area*

Residents living close to these premises state that they are suffering from people vomiting, urinating and smashing glass and that "since the club has opened there is an increase in violence".

c) *Gender equality issues, including whether the proposed use, particularly at night, would deter women from using the area comfortably or at all*

In response to the draft policy and relating to this establishment in particular, women have stated that they avoid the area and the University of Portsmouth Student Union Women's Officer has said that many young women find these premises intimidating and prevent them from enjoying the other facilities that this area has to offer.

I note that the club's Staff Welfare policy states that "Dancers are escorted to their vehicles at the end of their shifts" which would indicate a clear awareness by the owners that unaccompanied women in the vicinity of the premises are in danger of attack or abuse.

"Research into **male motivations for visiting strip clubs** found that men went to strip clubs to meet women who were willing to act in more 'traditional' ways, and that they wanted a place to 'let frustration out' at the ways in which they had been forced to monitor their behaviour towards women in the workplace because of equal opportunities and sexual harassment legislation. 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." 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 - statement from the leading violence against women, women's and human rights organisations in the UK.

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Additionally Aurora New Dawn also note there is direct evidence that SEV's heighten violence against women - "The links between objectification and 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 women." statement from the leading violence against women, women's and human rights organisations in the UK

d) *Effects upon regeneration and tourism in the area*

The existence of this venue in an important shopping area and so close to the main Train station and proposed new hotels is detrimental to the city's regeneration and tourism aspirations. As already stated, it is also in direct contradiction to the council's regeneration attempts for "the Great Waterfront City".

e) *Applications for sex establishment licences will normally be refused if they are proposed to be located in the vicinity of places of worship, parks, tourist attractions, educational premises, schools, libraries, historic buildings*

This location is within a few hundred yards of one of the city's most popular parks, the University, one of our 2 cathedrals, the central library, the Guildhall, a theatre and close to several schools and educational premises.

Aurora New Dawn also wish to note that women's bodies are not a commodity to be bought and sold and the granting of this license would provide evidence that the council do not adhere to the Gender Equality Duty which came into force in April 2007.

Humphreys, Nickii

From:
Sent:
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to 'wiggle' sex establishment license

I would like to object to the sex establishment license application of 'wiggle' lapdancing club. Lapdancing clubs are degrading and exploitative to the women that work in them. However they don't just effect the women that work in there. They impact women everywhere, including those that don't even set foot inside a lapdancing club by encouraging the objectification of women. They promote the idea that women are something that can be purchased for sexual gratification. Several of the women in my life have experienced sexual harassment outside this club and clubs like it, including being solicited for a dance by men leaving 'wiggle' and having a couple of men expose themselves while standing outside the club.

By not granting a license the council would be showing its dedication to gender equality and making Portsmouth a safe place for women

Humphreys, Nickii

From:
Sent: 24 May 2012 22:55
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: 12/03428/SEXEST - Wiggle, 1-7 Surrey Street

Dear Mrs Humphreys,

Solent Feminist Network (SFN) is a group consisting of approximately 200 men and women from the Solent area who are passionate about building a culture where gender equality is the norm and we wish to object to the above application.

SFN fully support PCC's draft policy which has a 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.

Wiggle club is located right in the heart of Portsmouth City Centre. Surrounding the club there is a residential block, many shops and food outlets, schools, Portsmouth University halls of residence, a library, a church, a park and a housing project for vulnerable young people. The locality of this sex establishment is wholly inappropriate.

PCC also needs to adhere to the Gender Equality Duty. To licence a sex establishment such as Wiggle would be in direct contravention of these duties. The buying of sexual services from women does nothing to promote gender equality between men and women, it only serves to widen the gap and encourage a culture where harassment and abuse of women become more widespread:

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

Several SFN members have been harassed outside these types of establishment. There have been incidents outside Wiggle club specifically (which have been logged with the Police) where punters have exposed themselves to women and solicited several women for a lap dance. This behaviour is intimidating and unacceptable. We would also like it noted that Wiggle door staff and the owner were witness to these incidents and their only response was to laugh.

We are also aware that Wiggle has a policy that states dancers are to be escorted to their vehicle at the end of a shift. It is clear that the owner of this sex establishment is fully aware of the danger he is putting women in, but choosing to put his bank balance before the welfare of 50% of the city's population.

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Solent Feminist Network is a community group for feminists in the Solent area of the UK (Portsmouth, Southampton and the surrounding areas) to network, offer support and friendship and take part in feminist discussion and activism.

Humphreys, Nickii

From:
Sent: 25 May 2012 09:35
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to Sex Establishment License for Wiggle, address: 1-7 Surrey Street Portsmouth.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to object to the application for sex establishment license for 'Wiggle' lap dancing club on Surrey Street Portsmouth.

The club is located in the very centre of Portsmouth in a location that I feel is totally inappropriate for a sexual establishment. There is a residential block opposite, a bus stop right outside and banks, shops and food outlets on the door step. There is also a housing project for vulnerable young people and a halls of residence for Portsmouth University students in close proximity to the venue.

I personally don't feel safe walking past the club or in close proximity to the club, for example waiting at the bus stop. I have been subject to sexual harassment outside and asked for a 'dance' by a group of drunk rowdy men who have just left the club. The culture these clubs foster to me seems one that promotes the idea that men have the right to sexually harass women. That women exist for their own sexual pleasure. I feel that as Portsmouth City Council has a legal obligation to adhere to the Gender Equality Act they should be seriously considering the presence of clubs like Wiggle within Portsmouth. That the council has a legal obligation to try and promote gender equality and the existence of these clubs actually widens the gap and increases the harassment of women.

I hope you will take my points into consideration.

Yours faithfully.

Humphreys, Nickii

From:
Sent: 25 May 2012 12:37
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: 12/03428/SEXEST - Wiggle, 1-7 Surrey Street

Dear Mrs Humphreys,

I wish to object to the above sex establishment licence application.

I fully agree with the councils draft policy which states that there is no place within the city of Portsmouth where it is appropriate to have a sex establishment. I believe the location of this club is completely inappropriate. It is situated in the centre of town with a residential block directly opposite. I am aware that the residents of the block put in a petition to the planning committee which stated that the level of anti-social behaviour had increased since Wiggle opened with people vomiting and urinating outside of their home, as well as an increase in noise levels etc. There are busy public transport links right outside of the club which means that those wishing to avoid it at night time cannot. There is also a housing project for vulnerable young people around the corner, as well as schools, a park and Portsmouth University halls of residence.

Lap dancing clubs encourage the objectification and exploitation of women. I have personally experienced harassment outside of this venue, as have some other women I know, in full view of the door staff and management who did nothing to try and prevent this. This is a common place occurrence and I am sure does not only affect myself and people I know, but numerous women who work, live and visit the city.

Although I currently do not live in Portsmouth, it is where I grew up and I plan to return in the not too distant future. Portsmouth City Council has a responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare of all its residents and visitors.

Humphreys, Nickii

From:
Sent: 23 May 2014 10:41
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: 12/03428/SEXEST - Wiggle, 1-7 Surrey Street

Dear Mrs Humphreys,

I wish to object to the above application.

Although I currently live in Gosport, I am originally from Portsmouth and will return there in the not too distant future as I consider it my home.

Wiggle lap dancing club is in a completely unacceptable location. It is situated right in the middle of the city centre surrounded by residential blocks, shops, restaurants, schools, churches, parks, key public transport links, the main library, Portsmouth University halls of residence and two housing projects for vulnerable young people.

I am aware that the residents of Avalon House which is directly opposite the club have made the council aware that there has been an increase in anti-social behaviour since it opened including people vomiting and urinating outside of their home, as well as an increase in noise levels.

Lap dancing clubs also encourage a culture of objectification of women. It has been acknowledged on an international level that objectification is linked to violence against women. The licensing committee has heard previously from the Hidden Violence Team how these establishments affect the lives of women in the city, not only on streets outside these clubs, but in their homes. This is testimony from subject matter experts and I believe the council should take their previous objections very seriously.

I have myself witnessed women being harassed outside of Wiggle. My friend was solicited for a lap dance by one punter leaving the club. The door staff and club owner witnessed this incident but seemed to find this amusing more than anything else. I am also aware that Wiggle policy is to escort dancers to their vehicle after finishing work. All this leads me to believe that the owner is very much aware of the detrimental affect his establishment has on the lives of women in the city but simply doesn't care. I encourage the PCC to take a strong stance on this and make it clear that gender equality and the safety of female residents and visitors is it's first priority.

Yours sincerely

Humphreys, Nickii

From:
Sent: 25 May 2012 10.10
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to 'wiggle' sex establishment licensing application

Solent feminist parents is a group of parents living in and around Portsmouth who raise their children with a feminist ethos. We would like to object to the above licensing application for the following reasons:

1) The club has a negative impact on its surrounding area. Residents from the near by Avalon house have already submitted a petition objection to the club during its planning application because they had experienced anti social behavior, including vandalism, noise, urination in their communal passage way and their communal door being smashed all since the club started operating. Local business 'Benji sandwich shop' also objected because they felt the Lapdancing club would negatively impact their business and other business around them. These objections should not be forgotten. The anti social behaviour already being linked to this club will continue to impact local business and local residents if it is granted a license to continue operating as a sex establishment.

2) The position of the club and nature of its business poses a risk to visitors and local residents. Many of our members have experienced harassment outside a lapdancing club. Several members have experienced harassment outside 'wiggle' in particular. Guildhall walk is just around the corner and already as another lapdancing club. Its is already a notorious area for sexual assault and sexual abasement. By allowing another club to operate in the position of wiggle creates a flow of punters travelling between guildhall walk's clubs, pubs and other sex establishment to wiggle. Because the club is positioned right by multiple public transport links including rail, train and taxi rank, it is very hard to avoid the area when travelling around the city, so this harassment is very hard to avoid for any of us unable to avoid the area all together.

It is also position right by halls of residents so female students have to pass this club regularly, no doubt experiencing the same harassment so many of our group members have. Right next to the club is a car park which is deserted at night during the opening times of the club. This car park is also a common thoroughfare for both students heading to the halls and commuters heading to the railway station. Combining intoxicated men, commonly in groups such as stag does, who have just been sexually 'pumped up' from paying for women to dance on their laps and a deserted carpark with a lone student heading home late at night is undoubtedly a dangerous mix with potential for rape or sexual assault. At very least the obviously threat of potential rape/ass ult/harassment is going to intimidate women. Creating a 'no go' zone for more than half the population of Portsmouth!

3) The club is positioned very close to a local housing project for vulnerable young people. Allowing the sex industry to operate on their doorstep is insensitive at best and very detrimental to their well being at worse. A number of these young people have been the victims of abuse, both sexual and physical so being so close to the potential for further abuse, sexual harassment, and sexual assaults, being unable to avoid the area if they wish to travel outside their home at night is unfair and potentially very triggering for these victims who should be supported by Portsmouth city council to feel safe in their city.

4) The advertising and signage of the club makes it very clear what goes on inside the club even when the club is not open. The club is positioned very close to a number of schools and nurseries. It is also close to the children's libraries. As mentioned above, the area is unavoidable when using public transport links or visiting the town centre meaning it s nearly impossibly to avoid exposing children to this industry. The sexualisation of children from a young age is a real issue for most parents. Mumsnet and 'the sex education show' both launched campaigns recently to try to address the amount children come in contact with adult sexual content from magazine images to suggestive clothing. It highlighted a very big area for concern and walking past a lapdancing club every day on your way to and from school is adding to the problem, particularly when the image of a women hanging off a pole is plastered around the outside of the club. The industry is being glamorous to children by being supported by local councils.

5) Images from inside the club are easily available online. simply typing the clubs name into youtube brings up several videos with the names of the dancers. This club apparently has a 'no video' rule but has failed to police that. Clearly this shows the club owner is either unable to police safety policies put in place to protect the women working there or he has very little regard for the safety of his staff. This point also links to the above point. Children are increasingly computer savvy in our modern culture and it doesn't take much for a young child to find these videos and see exactly what goes on inside the club, further exposing them to the industry at a very impressionable age.

Lap dancing clubs are detrimental to a modern city. They are detrimental for women and this club in particular is detrimental to surrounding residents, businesses, students and visitors. For the reasons listed above the Solent feminist parents group would like to urge Portsmouth city council NOT to grant a sex establishment license

Many thanks

Humphreys, Nickii

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 May 2012 16:00
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: Objection to Wiggle licensing application

Dear Members of the Licensing Committee,

I am writing to place my objection to the proposed relicensing of Wiggle strip club, which I understand is up for renewal. I am strongly against this proposal for the following reasons.

These clubs attract prostitution, drug and other crime to the area.

These clubs are degrading for the girls who work in them and also for the customers. Both groups are being exploited by the pimps who run these clubs.

The male customers upon leaving the clubs are often drunk and sexually aroused. They tend to engage in yobbish and intimidating behaviour.

This objection extends to the putative relicensing of any similar establishments in the Portsmouth area.