

Agenda

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Licensing and Registration Sub Committee

Date: **Monday 24 September 2012**

Time: **5.00 pm**

Place: **Town Hall**

For any further information please contact:
Lois Stock, Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: 01865 252275
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Licensing and Registration Sub Committee

Membership

Chair **Councillor Colin Cook** Jericho and Osney;

Vice-Chair

Councillor Van Coulter Barton and Sandhills;

Councillor Michael Gotch Wolvercote;

Councillor Gwynneth Royce St. Margaret's;

HOW TO OBTAIN AGENDA

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AGENDA

Pages

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in any of the following agenda items. Guidance on this is set out at the end of these agenda pages.

3 PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED

1 - 6

Guidance is attached.

4 SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENCE RENEWAL

7 - 90

To determine an application to renew a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence for the premises known as The Lodge, Oxpens Road.

Report of the Head of Environmental Development attached

5 MINUTES

91 - 94

Minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2012 attached.

6 MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

If the Sub Committee wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any aspects of the preceding agenda items it will be necessary for the Sub Committee to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 specifying the grounds on which their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

DECLARING INTERESTS

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licences for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest.

If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". What this means is that the matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

¹ Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those of the member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

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OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

LICENSING and REGISTRATION SUB-COMMITTEE

HEARING PROCEDURES:

Housekeeping Matters

- Mobiles must be switched off
- No smoking throughout the building
- Consumption of food is not permitted

The Meeting

1. The Licensing Casework Sub-Committee will usually consist of three members of the Council (councillors) who are also members of the Council's General Purposes Licensing Committee. In some circumstances it may sit with a quorum of 2 councillors. At the start of each Sub-Committee meeting a Chair shall be elected from among the members. The Sub-Committee is responsible for reaching a decision upon the application having heard representations and considering all relevant material presented.

The Paperwork

2. Officers of the licensing authority (the City Council) will prepare the paperwork for the application that is to be heard by the Sub-Committee. The paperwork will include:-
 - A summary of the application, the representations received and of any other relevant material
 - The application and any other supporting material supplied by the applicant
 - Any observations on the application made by the Police or other technical advisor to the Sub Committee
 - Any representations of objection to the application

Introductions

3. The Chairman will commence the hearing by introducing her or himself and the other Sub-Committee members. The Chair will then ask all of the other parties present to introduce themselves and explain in what capacity they are attending.

Conduct of Proceedings

4. The role of the Chair is to control the proceedings. All questions must be put through the Chair.
5. The Chair will indicate that the members of the Sub-Committee have read and familiarised themselves with the papers and issues. The Chair will stress that the Sub-Committee does not therefore require points to be made or repeated at length.
6. The hearing shall take the form of a discussion. Formal cross-examination shall not be permitted unless the Chairman considers that cross-examination in a particular circumstance would assist. In exercising this discretion to permit cross-examination, the Chairman must have regard to the rules of natural justice and the right to a fair hearing.
7. Members of the Sub-Committee may ask questions to any party to elicit further information. The representative of the licensing authority may also ask questions of any party in order to clarify the evidence and any issues in the case.
8. In considering the application or any representation made by a party the Sub-Committee may take into account documentary or other information relied on by a party in support of their application or representation - provided that copies of the information have been supplied to the Licensing Authority at least seven working days before the hearing or, with the consent of all the other parties, after that time.
9. Where a person attending the hearing is acting in a manner that the Sub-Committee consider is disruptive, the Sub-Committee may require that the person leave the hearing and may:
 - (a) refuse to permit that person to return; or
 - (b) permit him / her to return only on such conditions as the authority may specify.

10. Before the end of the hearing any person who was required to leave the hearing under paragraph 11 may submit in writing any information which they would have been entitled to give orally had they not been required to leave.

Order of Proceedings

11. Any party may be assisted or represented by any person whether or not that person is legally qualified.

The Licensing Authority

12. The representative of the licensing authority shall present the paperwork relating to the application to be heard by the Sub-Committee. The representative shall say who the applicant is, what the application is for and explain the paperwork before the Sub-Committee.

Applicant's case

13. The Applicant will outline their application and present their case and may call witnesses if desired.
14. The Sub Committee may ask questions of the Applicant.
15. Other parties may ask factual questions of the Applicant. Cross-examination will only be permitted with the consent of the Chair.

Observations of Police and/or Technical advisors

16. Where appropriate the police or technical advisers to the Sub Committee may make their observations.
17. The Sub Committee may ask questions of the Police and/or technical advisors.
18. Other parties may ask factual questions of the Police and/or technical advisors. Cross-examination will only be permitted with the consent of the Chair.

Objector's case

19. Where written representations of objection have been received the Sub Committee will have regard to those representations. Any

Objectors attending the hearing may make oral representations in support of their objection and call witnesses if they wish. However, the Sub Committee will not require repetition of points already made in written representations.

20. Where a number of objectors have made representations which are similar in nature the Sub Committee will expect a spokesperson to be appointed to represent the group.
21. The Sub Committee may ask questions of any objector.
22. Other parties may ask factual questions of any objector. Cross-examination will only be permitted with the consent of the Chair.

Closing submissions

23. All parties will then be given the opportunity briefly to summarise their key points. The order shall be:-
 - Objectors
 - Police and/or technical advisors
 - Applicant

Determinations

24. At the end of the submissions, the Chair will announce that the hearing is adjourned while the Sub-Committee deliberate in private. The Sub Committee will be accompanied by the Committee Clerk and Legal Advisor during their deliberations.
25. If it is necessary to recall any party for clarification of any point, then all parties should be recalled.
26. The Chair will either:
 - Announce the decision of the Sub Committee and confirm that a written determination with reasons will be sent to the parties by a given date.

or

 - Close the hearing and confirm that once a decision has been made a written determination with reasons will be sent to the parties by a given date.

27. In any event a written determination setting out the reasons for the decision will be sent to the parties within five working days of the hearing.

Closed hearing

28. The hearing shall normally take place in public. However, the Sub-Committee may exclude the press and the public from all or part of a hearing where exempt information (*section 100A(4) Local Government Act 1972*) is concerned and the Sub Committee considers that the public interest in so doing outweighs the public interest in the hearing, or that part of the hearing, taking place in public.

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To: Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee
Date: 24 September 2012
Report of: Head of Environmental Development
Title of Report: Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence Renewal

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To inform determination of an application to renew a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence.

Approved by:

Legal: Daniel Smith

Policy Framework: A vibrant and sustainable economy.

Recommendation:

Committee is recommended, taking into account the details in this report and any representations made at this Sub-Committee meeting, to determine an application to renew a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for the premises known as The Lodge, Oxpens Road, Oxford.

Application

1. An application has been submitted for the renewal of a licence to use the premises known as The Lodge, Oxpens Road, Oxford, as a Sexual Entertainment Venue. The applicant is Mr Alistair Lockwood Thompson.
2. The premises are currently operating as a Lap Dancing Club licensed under the Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.
3. In order to continue to provide 'relevant entertainment' the Operators of the premises require the renewal of their Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence. A copy of the application to renew the licence can be found as **Appendix A**.
4. The proposed hours for "relevant" entertainment are:
 - 23.00 hours to 05.00 hours the following day Monday to Saturday

Legislative Background: Adoption of Provisions

5. On 19th April 2010 the Council made a Resolution to adopt Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 so that the provisions for the control of sexual entertainment venues may be applied in Oxford.
6. These new powers took effect from 10th June 2010, and the Resolution states that Sexual Entertainment Venues are not generally appropriate near or in locations or areas containing any of the following:
 - (i) Historic buildings or tourist attractions;
 - (ii) Schools, play areas, nurseries, children's centres or similar premises;
 - (iii) Shopping complexes;
 - (iv) Residential areas;
 - (v) Places of Worship.
7. The resolution should be taken into account when considering the application. However, the Sub-Committee must also take all other relevant factors and submissions into account and determine the application in its merits.

Historical Information

8. The Operators of The Lodge previously occupied the premises known as Thirst Lodge located at Penny Farthing Place, Oxford and held adult entertainment under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.
9. When the Operators first applied for the grant of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence at Penny Farthing Place, the Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee determined that the relevant location was inappropriate when considering the Resolution.
10. The Operators then obtained their current premises at Oxpens Road, Oxford and applied for a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence that was granted on 12 July 2011 following determination by the Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee.
11. Officers of the Licensing Authority carry out proactive compliance checks at all sex establishments including The Lodge. Records indicate that since the premises was granted a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence that the Operators have complied with all of the conditions attached to the licence, and that no complaints have been received regarding the operation of the premises.

Public Notice

12. The legislation sets out procedures regarding the form of application and requirements for public notices relating to the application. In addition, the Chief Officer of Police must be informed.

13. In considering the application, the Council should have regard to any objections submitted to it, in writing, by the Police or members of the public. Should the Council be minded to refuse an application it must give the applicant the opportunity of appearing before the appropriate committee to make representations.

Guidance from the Home Office issued by the Secretary of State

14. The following provisions of the Home Office Guidance issued by the Government to assist local authorities in carrying out their functions under Schedule 3 are relevant to this application. Local authorities are encouraged to have regard to the Guidance.

5. Policing and Crime Act 2009

5.1 Section 27 introduces a new category of sex establishment called 'sexual entertainment venue', which will allow local authorities to regulate lap dancing clubs and similar venues under Schedule 3.

5.2 Section 27 gives local authorities more powers to control the number and location of lap dancing clubs and similar venues in their area. These powers are not mandatory and will only apply where they are adopted by local authorities. Where adopted, these provisions will allow local authorities to refuse an application on potentially wider grounds than is permitted under the Licensing Act 2003 Act and will give local people a greater say over the regulation of lap dancing clubs and similar venues in their area.

6. Meaning of Sexual Entertainment Venue

6.1 Paragraph 2A of Schedule 3 as inserted by section 27 sets out the meaning of a 'sexual entertainment venue' and 'relevant entertainment' for the purposes of these provisions. A sexual entertainment venue is defined as "any premises at which relevant entertainment is provided before a live audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the entertainer."

6.2 The meaning of 'relevant entertainment' is "any live performance or live display of nudity which is of such a nature that, ignoring financial gain, it must reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of an audience (whether by verbal or other means)." An audience can consist of just one person (e.g. where the entertainment takes place in private booths).

6.3 While local authorities should judge each case on its merits, we would expect that the definition of relevant entertainment would apply to the following forms of entertainment as they are commonly understood:

- Lap dancing
- Pole dancing
- Table dancing
- Strip shows
- Peep shows
- Live sex shows

6.4 *The above list is not exhaustive and, as the understanding of the exact nature of these descriptions may vary, should only be treated as indicative. Ultimately, decisions to licence premises as sexual entertainment venues shall depend on the content of the entertainment provided and not the name it is given.*

6.5 *For the purposes of these provisions a premises includes any vessel, vehicle or stall but does not include a private dwelling to which the public are not admitted.*

Nudity

6.6 *It is important to note that although the definition of relevant entertainment makes reference to a 'live display of nudity', the mere fact that there is a display of nudity does not mean that a sex establishment licence will necessarily be required. For example, if the display forms part of a drama or dance performance in a theatre, in most cases it cannot reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the audience.*

6.7 *Paragraph 2A(14) of Schedule 3 sets out the definition of a 'display of nudity'. In the case of a woman, it means exposure of her nipples, pubic area, genitals or anus and, in the case of a man; it means exposure of his pubic area, genitals or anus.*

The Organiser

6.8 *The relevant entertainment must be provided for the financial gain of the 'organiser' or 'entertainer'. The 'organiser' means any person who is responsible for the organisation or management of the relevant entertainment or the premises at which the relevant entertainment is provided. In most circumstances, this will refer to the manager of the premises, but could also refer someone who is responsible for organising the relevant entertainment on behalf of the persons responsible for the management of the premises.*

6.9 *The 'organiser' must be someone who is in a position of responsibility over the provision of the relevant entertainment and should not be interpreted to mean a member of staff who is merely employed to work during the provision of relevant entertainment. It is only necessary for one person to hold a sexual entertainment venue licence for premises, even if there is more than one person who is responsible for the organisation or management of the relevant entertainment or the premises.*

Spontaneous Entertainment

6.10 *Where activities that would otherwise be considered to involve the provision of relevant entertainment take place, but are not provided for the financial gain of the organiser or entertainer, such as a spontaneous display of nudity or a lap dance by a customer or guest, the premises will not be considered a sexual entertainment venue by virtue of those circumstances alone. This is because the relevant entertainment must be*

provided for the financial gain of the organiser or entertainer. However, it should be noted that an organiser may be considered to have provided the entertainment where he has permitted the activity to take place, whether expressly or impliedly.

7. Requirement for a Sex Establishment Licence

7.1 Any person wishing to operate a sex establishment as defined by Schedule 3 requires a sex establishment licence, unless the requirement for a licence has been waived by the appropriate authority.

7.2 An applicant can apply for a waiver either as part of the application for a licence or separately. The local authority can grant a waiver if they consider that to require a licence would be unreasonable or inappropriate. Where a waiver is granted the appropriate authority should inform the applicant that a waiver has been granted. The waiver may last for such a period that the appropriate authority think fit, but can be terminated by the appropriate authority at any time with 28 days notice.

8. Premises that are deemed to be Sexual Entertainment Venues

8.1 Paragraph 27A of Schedule 3 deems premises with licences to operate as sexual entertainment venues to be sexual entertainment venues whilst their licence remains in force, irrespective of how frequently they are or have been providing relevant entertainment. This remains the case even if premises operate within the exemption for infrequent events.

8.2 If an operator with a sexual entertainment venue licence is operating within the exemption for infrequent events and no longer wants their premises to be treated as a sexual entertainment venue (e.g. because they are no longer operating as a lap dancing club) they may write to the relevant local authority to request that their licence be cancelled. Upon receiving such a request from a licence-holder a local authority must cancel the licence in question.

9. Objections

9.1 When considering an application for the grant, renewal or transfer of a licence the appropriate authority should have regard to any observations submitted to it by the chief officer of police and any objections that they have received from anyone else within 28 of the application. Any person can object to an application but the objection should be relevant to the grounds set out in paragraph 12 for refusing a licence. Objections should not be based on moral grounds/values and local authorities should not consider objections that are not relevant to the grounds set out in paragraph 12. Objectors must give notice of their objection in writing, stating the general terms of the objection.

9.2 Where the appropriate authority receives notice of any objection the authority shall, before considering the application, give notice in writing of the general terms of the objection to the applicant. However, the appropriate authority shall not without the consent of the person making the objection reveal their name or address to the applicant.

10. Refusal of a Licence

10.1 Paragraph 12 of Schedule 3 sets out the grounds for refusing an application for the grant, renewal or transfer of a licence. A licence must not be granted:

- (a) to a person under the age of 18;*
- (b) to a person who is for the time being disqualified due to the person having had a previous licence revoked in the area of the appropriate authority within the last 12 months;*
- (c) to a person, other than a body corporate, who is not resident in an EEA State or was not so resident throughout the period of six months immediately preceding the date when the application was made; or*
- (d) to a body corporate which is not incorporated in an EEA State; or*
- (e) to a person who has, within a period of 12 months immediately preceding the date when the application was made, been refused the grant or renewal of a licence for the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made, unless the refusal has been reversed on appeal.*

10.2 A licence may be refused where:

- (a) the applicant is unsuitable to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reason;*

- (b) if the licence were to be granted, renewed or transferred the business to which it relates would be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person, other than the applicant, who would be refused the grant, renewal or transfer of such a licence if he made the application himself;*

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

- (d) that the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard—*
 - (i) to the character of the relevant locality; or*
 - (ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or*
 - (iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.*

10.3 A decision to refuse a licence must be relevant to one or more of the above grounds.

10.4 When determining a licence application, the local authority must have regard to any rights the applicant may have under Article 10 (right to freedom of expression) and Article 1, Protocol 1 (protection of property) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

10.5 The Provision of Services Regulations 2009 amended Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act to state that, if having considered an application for the grant, renewal or transfer of a licence, the appropriate authority decides to refuse it on one or more of the above grounds, it must provide the applicant with reasons for the decision in writing.

11. Relevant Locality

11.1 Paragraph 12(3)(c) and 12(3)(d) of Schedule 3 allow appropriate authorities to refuse applications on grounds related to an assessment of the “relevant locality”. A licence can be refused if either, at the time the application is determined the number of sex establishments, or sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality is equal to or exceeds the number that the authority considers appropriate for that locality; or that a sex establishment would be inappropriate having regard to the character of the relevant locality, the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put or the layout, character or condition of the premises. Nil may be the appropriate number.

11.2 Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act does not define “relevant locality” further than to say that:

(a) in relation to premises, it is the locality where they are situated; and
(b) in relation to a vehicle, vessel or stall, any locality where it is desired to use it as a sex establishment.

11.3 Clearly, the decision regarding what constitutes the ‘relevant locality’ is a matter for the appropriate authority. However, such questions must be decided on the facts of the individual application.

11.4 Therefore, it is reasonable and potentially useful to future applicants, for a local authority to decide in advance of receiving any applications that certain areas are, or are not, appropriate locations for a sex establishment or a particular number of sex establishments. Nevertheless, all applications must be considered on their individual merits.

11.5 When considering a particular application case law has indicated that the relevant locality does not have to be a clearly pre-defined area nor are local authorities required to be able to define its precise boundaries. Therefore, while a local authority is not prevented from defining the exact area of the relevant locality, it is equally free to conclude that it simply refers to the area which surrounds the premises specified in the application and does not require further definition. Nevertheless a local authority’s view of what constitutes a locality could be open to challenge if they took a completely unreasonable view of the area covered, for example, by concluding that two sex establishments 200 miles away from one another were in the same locality. Case law also indicates that a relevant locality cannot be an entire local authority area or an entire town or city.

11.6 Once the appropriate authority has determined the relevant locality, it should seek to make an assessment of the ‘character’ of the relevant locality and how many, if any, sex establishments, or sex establishments of a particular kind, it considers appropriate for that relevant locality.

11.7 Section 27 amends paragraph 12(3) (c) of Schedule 3 to allow local authorities to determine an appropriate number of sex establishments of a particular kind. In practice, this means that the appropriate authority may, for example, decide that a particular locality is suitable for a sex shop but is not suitable for a sexual entertainment venue or vice versa.

12. Conditions

12.1 Once the appropriate authority has decided to grant a licence they are able to impose terms, conditions and restrictions on that licence, either in the form of conditions specific to the individual licence under paragraph 8 of Schedule 3 or standard conditions applicable to all sex establishments, or particular types of sex establishments, prescribed by regulations made by the appropriate authority under paragraph 13 of Schedule 3.

12.2 Paragraph 13 provides examples of the matters that standard conditions may address which include but are not restricted to:

- The hours of opening and closing*
- Displays and advertisements on or in sex establishments*
- The visibility of the interior of a sex establishment to passers-by*
- Any change of use from one kind of sex establishment to another*

12.3 Where the appropriate authority decides to produce standard conditions under paragraph 13 they will apply to every licence granted, renewed or transferred by the authority unless they have been expressly excluded or varied.

12.4 Most sexual entertainment venues will require a 2003 Act licence as well as a sex establishment licence. Where this is the case, local authorities should avoid duplicating licence conditions and should ensure that conditions imposed on the each licence are relevant to the activities authorised by that licence. For example, conditions relating to the sale of alcohol should only appear on a premises licences or clubs premises certificate and should not be imposed on sexual entertainment venue licence. Likewise, conditions relating the provisions of relevant entertainment should appear on the sexual entertainment venue licence and not a premises licence or club premises certificate. Local authorities should also avoid imposing conditions on either licence that are contradictory.

Mandatory Grounds for Refusal

15. The legislation makes specific provisions as to whom a licence shall not be granted, for example to a person who is under the age of 18 or who has had a previous application refused within the last 12 months. Subject to any new information produced at the hearing, it does not appear that any of the mandatory grounds of refusal apply in this case.

Discretionary Grounds for Refusal

16. The Council may refuse the grant or renewal of a licence on one or more of the following grounds:
- That the applicant is unsuitable to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reason.

- b) That if the licence was to be granted the business to which it relates would be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person, other than the applicant, who would be refused the grant of such a licence if he/she made the application him/herself.
 - c) 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 considers is appropriate for that locality.
 - d) That the grant of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard to:
 - (i) the character of the relevant locality; or
 - (ii) the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or
 - (iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises in respect of which the application is made.
17. The legislation states that “nil” may be an appropriate number for the purposes of sub-paragraph (c) above.
18. Also in sub-paragraph (c) “the relevant locality” means, in relation to the premises, “the locality where they are situated.”
19. If none of the grounds for refusal are made out the Applicant is entitled to have his application granted.

Consultations

20. When considering the application the Council must have regard to any observations or objections submitted to them by the Chief Officer of Police and any objections submitted to them by others within the 28 day period permitted for representations to be made.
21. Where relevant objections have been received the Council may convene a hearing and should invite the applicant to make representations in response to the objections.
22. Eighteen objections have been received from members of the public living in the following areas; together with two representations from Ward Councillors; these are attached (with any supporting documents submitted) as **Appendix B**.

Area/Postcode	Number of objections
Oxford OX1	5
Oxford OX2	3
Oxford OX3	3
Oxford OX4	3
Not specified	6

23. A number of written comments from members of the public have also been received in support of the application; these are attached as **Appendix C**.

24. A map detailing the location of the premises is shown as **Appendix D**.
25. The Sub-Committee is reminded of their duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider the crime and disorder implications of their decisions and the Authority's responsibility to co-operate in the reduction of crime and disorder in Oxford.
26. The Sub-Committee is also reminded that the Human Rights Act 1998 and European Convention on Human Rights guarantees the right to a fair hearing (Article 6). The Act and Convention also provides for the protection of property (Article 1 Protocol 1), which may include licences in existence, the protection of private and family life (Article 8) and the protection of freedom of expression (Article 10).
27. In the case of a premises which is already operating under an existing licence the Sub Committee must carefully consider the applicant's protection of property and freedom of expression rights. And, if minded to refuse an application, balance those rights against the public interest and the qualifications set out in the Convention before reaching its final decision.

Recommendation

28. The Committee is recommended, taking into account the details in this report and any representations made at this Sub-Committee meeting, to determine an application to renew a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for the premises known as The Lodge, Oxpens Road, Oxford.

Name and contact details of author: **Allan Hibberd**
Licensing Officer
Environmental Development
Tel: 01865 252169
Email: ahibberd@oxford.gov.uk

Background papers:

- Appendix A: Application for the renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence**
- Appendix B: Representations opposed to the application**
- Appendix C: Representations in support of the application**
- Appendix D: Location map of the premises**

The Lodge
Oxpens Road

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Date rec'd: 02/07/12
Part II, Schedule 3

Application for ~~grant~~ / renewal / ~~variation~~ / ~~transfer~~ of a
Sex Establishment Licence

Applications may be made by individuals, corporate bodies or unincorporated bodies.

- 1. Application is hereby made and the necessary fee enclosed for a
~~New Licence~~ () * ~~Sex Shop~~ *
 - Renewal of Licence *
 - ~~Variation of Licence~~ () *
 - ~~Transfer of Licence~~ () *
- *Tick as appropriate *Delete as appropriate

Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council
- 2 JUL 2012
Received

- 2. Name and address of premises to which this application relates.

THE LODGE
OXPENS RD.
OXFORD
OX1 1RX

If the application relates to a vehicle / vessel / stall give description and state where it is to be used as a sex establishment.

- 3. Full Name of Applicant.

ALISTAR LOCKWOOD THOMPSON

Date of Birth.

[REDACTED]

Occupation (during preceding six months).

COMPANY DIRECTOR

- 4. Address for Correspondence (If different from permanent address)

BERWIN LEIGHTON PARTNER LLP
ADELAIDE HOUSE
LONDON BRIDGE
LONDON EC4R 9HA

Telephone No.

[REDACTED]

If application is made on behalf of a corporate or unincorporated body.

5. Name of applicant body:

State whether a corporate or unincorporated body.

6. Address of registered or principal office.

7. Full names of all directors and other persons responsible for the management of the body, including if applicable the names of managers, company secretary and similar officers and the manager of the establishment.
(You will be required to complete a statutory declaration sheet for each person)

8. What hours and days to you require the licence to cover?

MONDAY TO SATURDAY
INCL. PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
23.00 TO 05.00

9. If the premises are not open between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm, state name, address and telephone number of person responsible for keys to the premises.

BETWEEN 09.00 AND 16.00
ALISTAIR THOMPSON

10. If only part of the building is to be licensed, give details.

11. Will any part of the premises be used for the exhibition of moving pictures?

Yes / No

12 Does the applicant presently use the premises or the vehicle, vessel or stall as a sex establishment?

Yes / No

If not, what is the present use?

If yes, give details of any person, other than the applicant(s) who has run the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall as a sex establishment since that date?

14 If the premises or the vehicle, vessel or stall are presently used as a sex establishment, when did the use commence?

12-7-11

15 Give full details of the type of business to be conducted at the establishment.

EXOTIC / EROTIC LAP / TABLE DANCING
SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL AND REGULATED ENTERTAINMENT

16 I declare I have checked the information given on this application and attached statutory declaration forms and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is correct.

17 I enclose payment of the appropriate application fee



Date: 2/7/12

Signature:

All applicants are required to send with this application (a) two plans showing the area to be licensed, (b) statutory declarations in the form shown in the attached document in respect of (i) the applicant, (ii) directors of any company applying for a licence and (iii) any other person who will be responsible for the management of the licensed premises.

Return to:
Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council
St Aldate's Chambers
109 St Aldate's
Oxford
OX1 1DS

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

Statutory declaration sheet for application for ~~grant~~ / renewal / ~~variation~~ / transfer of a Sex Establishment licence

To be completed by the applicant for (i) the applicant, (ii) directors of any company applying for a licence and (iii) any other person who will be responsible for the management of the licensed premises.

Full name. ALISTAIR LOCKWOOD THOMPSON

Position held. DIRECTOR

Date of birth. 

Place of birth. 

Permanent address. 

Address(es) at which person has been resident during the five years preceding the date of this application. AS ABOVE

Details of any relevant previous convictions and/or cautions
Please give details of any "unspent" convictions or cautions (see overleaf)

Date of conviction	Court of conviction	Nature of offence	Sentence
NONE			12/02578/SEV RENEWAL The Lodge Oxpens Road Date rec'd: 02/07/12

Please photocopy extra sheet for each declaration

Appendix B

From: [REDACTED]
Posted At: 27 July 2012 11:44
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: Lodge Licensing Renewal Application 12/02578/SEV
Subject: Lodge Licensing Renewal Application 12/02578/SEV

Application 12/02578/SEV

I wish to object to the renewal of a licence for The Lodge.

This application should be rejected on two grounds.

The site of this club is not appropriate. It is sited near a college which has a nursery attached and thus young people cannot help but come into contact with it. It is also next to the ice rink which by its very nature attracts young people and families. The fact that this club is next to a coach park which brings tourists to Oxford sends out far from the right message about the City of Oxford when the first thing in view is a so-called 'gentleman's club'.

I am concerned at the effect this club has on the experience of women in the city. I teach at Oxford Brookes, and believe that it is not appropriate for college students to have to walk past a venue which openly encourages lap-dancing and other forms of entertainment solely for men. Such entertainment debases and degrades women and legitimates a view of women as existing for men's sexual appetite. Such a venue contributes to a threatening context for women and helps perpetuate an environment for sexual assault and other related crimes.

Please reject the application for renewal.

All good wishes

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] OX4 1BZ

From: THOMPSON Emma
Sent: 20 July 2012 09:49
To: MASTERS Richard; HIBBERD Allan
Cc: ALISON Julian
Subject: FW: 12/02578/SEV

From: [REDACTED]
Posted At: 19 July 2012 19:45
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: 12/02578/SEV
Subject: 12/02578/SEV

Regarding licensing application number 12/02578/SEV

Applicant, Mr Alistair Lockwood Thompson
The Lodge, Oxpens Road, Oxford OX1 1RX

Application for the Renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence: The application is to renew the licence that currently permits "relevant entertainment" Monday to Saturday 23.00 hrs to 05.00 hrs.

I would like to object to the renewal of this licence. Such a venue is entirely inappropriate for the area.

These venues demean sexuality, demean women, and indeed demean men. They cast a pall of shame over the whole area. They mean that anyone walking past, at any time of the day, comes within a threatening area, where they know that many of those who frequent these locales are encouraged in a 'culture' that sees sex as 'entertainment', that sells a tawdry picture of grossly debased sexuality, parasitic upon cultural images of 'idealised' women's bodies which are known to cause enormous problems with body image and self-esteem, and encourage the notion that women in particular are to be traded as a commodity.

In view of the horrific problems that Oxford also has with trafficking in women for sexual slavery, not to mention the grooming of young girls, this all adds to a climate which lowers standards of sexual restraint, sees women as bait and as fair game for anyone with enough power and money to buy them. This in other words simply adds to the culture that permits and encourages trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors.

It is also a bad venue in a city where so many young people come to study, who may be legally adult but who are still effectively adolescent, and who therefore may be more vulnerable to falling into thinking that such low grade smut actually represents a valid avenue of human sexuality, rather than a profit making debasement of it.

It is also a bad venue for the tourist image of Oxford which is based upon wholesome scholarship and tradition. it's bad enough that for generations Oxford University excluded women. To have them on show for sale in this tourist town is something that makes me hang my head with shame.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature line]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

OX3 0SH

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

From: [REDACTED] Posted At: 29 July 2012 11:39 Posted To:
licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: Application number 12/02578/SEV
Subject: Application number 12/02578/SEV

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to urge you not to grant licenses to sexual entertainment venues in Oxford, specifically not to re-license the Lodge on Oxpens road.

I would like to refer to you to the work of 'Object' - an award winning human rights organisation that challenges the sexual objectification of women and the mainstreaming of the sex and porn industries through establishments such as lap dancing clubs. They identify (as have numerous other organisations) lots of research that clearly identifies negative attitudes towards women and anti-social behaviour in general that is caused by the presence of lap dancing clubs. Strikingly this behaviour is not only by those who attend the clubs but by others in the community. In particular their 'stripping the illusion' campaign is to 'strip the illusion' that such clubs are harmless. They write 'lap dancing clubs normalise the sexual objectification of women, create 'no go' zones for women and are a form of sexual exploitation'. Surely in a civilised society we should be seeking to do much better than having such a club in Oxford.

Yours truly

[REDACTED]

From: MASTERS Richard
Sent: 20 July 2012 13:01
To: ALISON Julian
Cc: HIBBERD Allan; THORNTON Robert M; MORRIS Jill; THOMPSON Emma
Subject: FW: Comment on application 12/02578/SEV

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

From: Cllr Oscar Van Nooijen [mailto:cllrovannooijen@oxford.gov.uk]
Posted At: 20 July 2012 12:59
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: Comment on application 12/02578/SEV
Subject: Comment on application 12/02578/SEV

Dear Julian,

I am writing on my own behalf as a member of the City Council, and on behalf of some of my constituents in the residential area of the Hinksey Park ward (which neighbours the application site) who have made representations to me, to object in the strongest terms to the application which has been made to renew the Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence of 'The Lodge' nightclub.

It is my view that the granting of such a renewal would frustrate the four licensing objectives adopted by the Council in line with national legislative requirements. The provision of a sexual entertainment venue at this unsuitable location, close to the city centre, to housing and to major tourist and leisure facilities, will jeopardise the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, and the prevention of nuisance. The proximity of such an establishment to two distinct quiet residential areas also risks clear and egregious conflict with all four objectives, most critically the fourth objective to secure the protection of children from harm because of the nature of the sexual entertainment to be provided. I would, in particular, draw the Authority's attention to the wording of section 5.1.1 of the Oxford City Council Statement of Licensing Policy (January 2011 to January 2014), which states:

'Providing customers with greater choice and flexibility is an important consideration, but will always be balanced against the duty to promote the four licensing objectives and the rights of local residents to peace and quiet.'

I would be grateful if you could keep me informed of the decision of the Authority on this application, and any likely date for determination by committee. I would like to speak at any committee hearing on behalf of my constituents.

Best wishes,

Oscar

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. All communications sent to or from Oxford City Council may be subject to recording and/or monitoring in accordance with relevant legislation. If you have received this email in error please notify the author by return email.

From: [REDACTED]
Posted At: 29 July 2012 14:45
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: Comment on application 12/02578/SEV
Subject: Comment on application 12/02578/SEV

This comment relates to the application for re-licensing of the lap dancing club on Oxpens Road. I wish to oppose this application on the grounds, firstly, that this area consists overwhelming in residential accommodation with a small amount of other activity such as the Royal Mail collection office and a petrol station. It is not part of the club land in the centre of the city. It was therefore inappropriate to inject a lap dancing club into this location and that remains the case. Secondly, the City Council says that it supports healthy recreational activity, both outdoors and indoors. It is a strange application of this policy to have a lap dance club almost next door to the ice rink which provides exactly the kind of activity for a wide range of ages which comes under this healthy activity heading. It is ironic that, while the Olympics are taking place in London, Oxford is facilitating an activity that can scarcely be classified as healthy recreation. The City must make up its mind what its policy is and not try to have its cake and eat it.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OX1 1TY

From: THOMPSON Emma
Sent: 20 July 2012 10:32
To: MASTERS Richard; HIBBERD Allan
Cc: ALISON Julian
Subject: FW: Comments for Licensing Application 12/02578/SEV

From: publicaccess@oxford.gov.uk [mailto:publicaccess@oxford.gov.uk]
Posted At: 20 July 2012 10:26
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: Comments for Licensing Application 12/02578/SEV
Subject: Comments for Licensing Application 12/02578/SEV

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

Comments were submitted at 10:25 AM on 20 Jul 2012 from [REDACTED]

Application Summary

Address: Coven (ii) Oxpens Road Oxford Oxfordshire OX1 1RX

Proposal: Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence

Case Officer: Allan Hibberd

[Click for further information](#)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Oxford

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment: - Crime and Disorder

- Protection of Children from Harm

- Public Nuisance

- Public Safety

Comments: 10:25 AM on 20 Jul 2012 I object to the location of this club. It is opposite an educational establishment which holds classes in the evening. It is next to a leisure facility which also operates in the evening. The purpose of the club is obvious to those who use these facilities even during the day. It is also next to a public coach park where visitors arrive from all over the world to visit Oxford. This club is not in keeping with the image which we want the City to present and is therefore bad for trade. The club is also close to a large number of residential properties and constitutes a threat to public order and to the safety of women in the area. The establishment's large advertisement close to the station makes its purpose explicit and is offensive to many who pass by. Its site next to the station and the Youth Hostel is particularly deplorable.


From: MASTERS Richard
Sent: 09 July 2012 08:52
To: HIBBERD Allan
Cc: ALISON Julian; MORRIS Jill; THORNTON Robert M; THOMPSON Emma
Subject: FW: Licence application - the Lodge

Richard Masters

Licensing Assistant
Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council
St Aldate's Chambers
109 St Aldate's
Oxford
OX1 1DS

Tel:01865 252565
Email: rmasters@oxford.gov.uk

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

From: stebbes [mailto:
Posted At: 08 July 2012 18:17
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: Licence application - the Lodge
Subject: Licence application - the Lodge

Dear Sir

This is an application for a second year for this sex entertainment place in Oxpens Road.

My objections to a renewal of the licence are :

The character of the locality in which the place is now is not suitable.

The Cherwell College faces the place and the Lodge is clearly visible for what it is to students and visitors to the College. Now the place opens at 10pm its activities are visible to students and visitors to the College for evening sessions. The Ice Rink is close by - this is a good and valuable sporting facility which is in no way similar to the Lodge activities.

Private houses and flats in Woodbine Close and in Thames Street give the area a residential aspect again not suited to a sex activity place. The Public coach Park is adjacent, passengers alighting here, probably to visit the City, have the Lodge in full view - not a good advertisement for the City. The very large advertisement for the Lodge on the bill board at the Railway Station leaves no doubt in visitors' minds that the City has a full scale sex entertainment place. Is this unfortunate as the City tries to establish the idea that Oxford is a world heritage site ?

Therefore my objection to the Lodge is the place where it is situated. Such places - if Oxford is prepared, as it appears to be, to allow such places - should be in areas where their presence is well away from residential areas, educational areas and places where normal sporting activities take place.

Nor should the Lodge be allowed to advertise so blatantly at the railway station where so many visitors arrive.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OX1 1TN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: THOMPSON Emma
Sent: 20 July 2012 11:43
To: MASTERS Richard; HIBBERD Allan
Cc: ALISON Julian
Subject: FW: Sex establishment application- 'The Lodge'

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

From: [REDACTED] Posted At: 20 July 2012 10:58 Posted To:
licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: Sex establishment application- 'The Lodge'
Subject: Sex establishment application- 'The Lodge'

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Please consider this email as an objection to the application from 'The Lodge' on Oxpens Road.

My objection relates to the location of these premises next to facilities for young people and tourists, as well as residential blocks.

First of all, the premises are directly opposite a very busy college which is in use into the evenings and thus during the establishment's opening hours. It is essential that students feel that their journeys to and from educational institutions are safe. I can imagine few less encouraging environments, particularly for female students, than the type of atmosphere that is produced by a sex establishment.

Secondly, they are next to the (again, heavily used) ice-rink, which again is open into the evenings and sometimes relatively late for events, ice-hockey competitions, etc. This is a family facility and it is not acceptable for it to have a sex establishment cheek-by-jowl.

Third, the facility is right next to one of the busiest coach parks in Oxford. Over recent weeks, hundreds of young people of all nationalities have been congregating on the coach park. The Lodge, as a sex establishment, is hardly a good advert for Oxford in that respect, nor does it send a positive message to young people.

Finally, I do not think it is fair on local residents to have to put up with the kinds of noise and petty harassment that routinely arise out of proximity to a sex establishment. Having lived next to one in London I can testify that it can produce a very unpleasant atmosphere on the streets, particularly for female residents. Furthermore, as a cyclist who routinely passes the Lodge virtually every day on the way to and from the station, I would rather not be plagued with the types of sexist shouted comments and harassment that routinely is faced by women living near to/passing by sex establishments.

I hope these concerns can be taken into account when considering the application, which I hope will be rejected.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

OX4 4GW

From: THOMPSON Emma
Sent: 20 July 2012 11:44
To: MASTERS Richard; HIBBERD Allan
Cc: ALISON Julian
Subject: FW: The Lodge - licence renewal

From: [REDACTED]
Posted At: 20 July 2012 11:03
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: The Lodge - licence renewal
Subject: The Lodge - licence renewal

12/02578/SEV
The Lodge,

Oxpens Road, Oxford,

OX1 1RX
Carfax

Ward

Application for the Renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence: The application is to renew the licence that currently permits "relevant entertainment" Monday to Saturday 23.00 hrs to 05.00 hrs.

NAME OF APPLICANT / CLUB

Mr Alistair Lockwood Thompson

I am writing to object to the application for the renewal of the sexual entertainment venue licence at the Lodge, Oxpens Road [as above]

Generally I find it offensive that Oxford should licence anything to do with sexual entertainment. More particularly for this particular application I am objecting on the following grounds:

The character of the area is quite unsuitable Private houses and flats in Woodbine Close and in Thames Street are of a residential nature quite unsuited to a sex activity venue.

The Lodge faces Cherwell College and is clearly visible for what it is to students and visitors to the College. Since it opens at 10 pm its activities are visible to students and visitors to the College for evening sessions.

The Ice Rink is near by - this is a good and valuable sporting facility which is in no way similar to the Lodge activities, and is used by a wide range of the public including youngsters.
The public coach park is adjacent; passengers alighting here to visit the City have the Lodge in full view and this is not a good advertisement for the City.

There is a very large advertisement for the Lodge on the bill board at the Train Station which leaves no doubt in visitors' minds that the City has a full scale sex entertainment place. Is this unfortunate as the City tries to establish the idea that Oxford is a world heritage site ? It is also clearly visible to school children and other youngsters passing on the bus etc.

The Lodge should not be allowed to advertise so blatantly at the railway station where so many visitors arrive.



From: ALISON Julian
Sent: 03 July 2012 12:01
To: HIBBERD Allan
Cc: MORRIS Jill; THOMPSON Emma; CHEUNG Annie; MASTERS Richard
Subject: FW: "The Lodge" application to renew Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence

From: Councillor PRESSEL Susanna
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 12:00 PM
To: ALISON Julian
Subject: RE: "The Lodge" application to renew Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence

Thanks, Julian.

I'd like to object to the renewal of the Lodge's licence, because this sleazy club is an insult to women and unworthy of our City.

Furthermore there are many residents nearby, especially young people, who are at risk from departing patrons under the influence of the pornography they have been watching.

There are also many young people coming and going to the ice-rink next door to the club at all hours of the day and night (because it's cheapest in the early hours).

This makes Oxpens a particularly unsuitable location, as well as the fact that it is very close to residential neighbourhoods, whose residents I represent.

Susanna Pressel

City Councillor for Jericho and Osney Ward
County Councillor for West Central Oxford Division
7 Rawlinson Road
OXFORD
OX2 6UE
01865 554001

From: ALISON Julian
Sent: Mon 02/07/2012 17:16
To: Councillors All Members
Cc: PAYNE Tony; COPLEY John
Subject: "The Lodge" application to renew Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence

Dear All,

You had asked to be made aware when the lap-dancing club "The Lodge" submitted it's application to renew the licence - please see below (ahead of my weekly update to you all).

Kindest regards

Julian Alison

Licensing Team Leader, Oxford City Council, St. Aldate's Chambers, 109 St. Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1DS

Office: 01865-252381 \ Office Fax: 01865-252344 \ Office Mobile: 07799-581923

E-mail: jalison@oxford.gov.uk \ Website: <http://www.oxford.gov.uk>

(Office: Monday - Wednesday) \ (Mobile Working: Thursday - Friday)

From: MASTERS Richard
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2012 12:49 PM
To: 'licensing@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk'
Cc: ALISON Julian; HIBBERD Allan; CROSSAN Karen
Subject: The Lodge Sev renewal

Dear all

Please be advised that we have received a renewal application for the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for The Lodge, Oxpens Road, Oxford, OX1 1RX. Monday to Saturday 23.00 hrs to 05.00 hrs. The application is made by Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP on behalf of Mr Alistair Lockwood Thompson. The premises falls in Carfax Ward.

The Uniform reference is 12/02578/SEV and the consultation deadline is 30/07/2012.

Kind regards

Rich

Richard Masters

Licensing Assistant
Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council
St Aldate's Chambers
109 St Aldate's
Oxford
OX1 1DS

Tel:01865 252565
Email: rmasters@oxford.gov.uk

From: THOMPSON Emma
Sent: 19 July 2012 11:08
To: MASTERS Richard; ALISON Julian
Cc: HIBBERD Allan; MORRIS Jill
Subject: FW: The Lodge, Oxpens - objection

From: [REDACTED]
Posted At: 19 July 2012 11:06
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: The Lodge, Oxpens - objection
Subject: The Lodge, Oxpens - objection

Head of the Environment Agency

Oxford City Council

Ramsay House

10 St Ebbe's Street

Oxford OX1 1PT

19 July 2012

Dear Sir,

Writing as Chair of the St Ebbe's New Development Residents' Association (SENDRA) I would like to register an objection to the renewal of the license to operate a venue for sexual entertainment at The Lodge in Oxpens Road.

The Oxpens location is most inappropriate for entertainment of this sort. It is immediately opposite The Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, which is open for use by its adolescent pupils until 10.00 p.m. It abuts onto the coach park which is used regularly and frequently by school parties of all nationalities. It is about 100 yards from the Ice Rink which has night-time sessions which are much used by student sporting groups. It would be hard to find a place in Oxford more full of impressionable young people to be intrigued by advertisement and present in the vicinity during the hours of operation of the club.

Since there is no question of attracting the passing trade I see no reason why this club should not be in an isolated situation outside the city, where clients can be delivered and removed by car.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [MASTERS Richard](#)
To: [ALISON Julian](#); [HIBBERD Allan](#)
Cc: [MORRIS Jill](#); [THOMPSON Emma](#)
Subject: FW: Comments for Licensing Application 12/02578/SEV
Date: 24 July 2012 12:10:38

From: publicaccess@oxford.gov.uk [mailto:publicaccess@oxford.gov.uk]
Posted At: 24 July 2012 12:01
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: Comments for Licensing Application 12/02578/SEV
Subject: Comments for Licensing Application 12/02578/SEV

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

Comments were submitted at 12:00 PM on 24 Jul 2012 from [REDACTED]

Application Summary

Address: Coven (ii) Oxpens Road Oxford Oxfordshire OX1 1RX

Proposal: Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence

Case Officer: Allan Hibberd

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] OX2
6QY

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Members of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment: - Other objection

Comments: 12:00 PM on 24 Jul 2012 This sexual entertainment demeans women, increases hostility to women and is objectionable and distressing to those living and working in the area.

From: [THOMPSON Emma](#)
To: [MASTERS Richard](#); [HIBBERD Allan](#)
Cc: [ALISON Julian](#)
Subject: FW: Application 12/02578/SEV re The Lodge, Oxpens Road, Oxford
Date: 23 July 2012 09:44:44

From: [REDACTED]
Posted At: 21 July 2012 17:25
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: Application 12/02578/SEV re The Lodge, Oxpens Road, Oxford
Subject: Application 12/02578/SEV re The Lodge, Oxpens Road, Oxford

I wish to object most strongly to the renewal of the Sexual Entertainment License for The Lodge in Oxpens Road. This location is inappropriate for an establishment of this nature. If Oxford has to have a sexual entertainment venue within its boundaries, it should not be located in close proximity to an educational establishment (Cherwell College) and a sporting facility (the ice rink). Neither should it be located near a residential area (Thames Street and Woodbine Close), particularly as it is open all night so that residents are likely to be disturbed by patrons arriving and leaving. In addition, its location next to the coach park and the very large advertisement at the railway station does not give a very good impression to visitors. Oxford is, or should be, a world heritage site not a venue for rowdy stag parties, and the blatant advertisement of The Lodge encourages the latter idea rather than the former.

Therefore I urge the Licensing Committee not to renew this license.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] OX14 2PQ

From: [THOMPSON Emma](#)
To: [MASTERS Richard](#); [HIBBERD Allan](#)
Cc: [ALISON Julian](#)
Subject: FW: The lodge
Date: 20 July 2012 14:27:42

From: [REDACTED]
Posted At: 20 July 2012 13:10
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: The lodge
Subject: The lodge

12/02578/SEV The Lodge

I wish to object to the new licence for The Lodge on two grounds.

Oxford City Council wishes to encourage tourism to the city as a means of providing jobs for many groups in the population. Tourists come to enjoy its history and heritage ;many would find the presence of The Lodge to be unwelcome and offensive.

Many students come to the Oxford to learn English and to study. Parents would be reluctant to send their children to the City if they were to learn that there were a sex establishment near the city centre.

[REDACTED]

Lye Valley City Councillor

From: MASTERS Richard
Sent: 06 July 2012 15:38
To: ALISON Julian; HIBBERD Allan; MORRIS Jill; THORNTON Robert M
Cc: THOMPSON Emma
Subject: FW: Contact Via Website

Please see email below

Richard Masters

Licensing Assistant
Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council
St Aldate's Chambers
109 St Aldate's
Oxford
OX1 1DS

Tel:01865 252565
Email: rmasters@oxford.gov.uk

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

From: www- [REDACTED] Posted At: 06 July 2012 15:50 Posted To:
licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: Contact Via Website
Subject: Contact Via Website

You have received a contact message from the Oxford City Council Website as follows:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OX3 0DW

[REDACTED]

Comments: website won't let me put in the following comment on the application below in ref number box:

As a local resident of Oxford and a mother of two young children I would urge councillors not to renew the licence at this sex establishment because of the damage that it is causing and would continue to cause to the City's reputation, crime and disorder and affect on young people.

The City centre is relatively densely populated. It is known virtually worldwide for its historic buildings and tourist attractions which do not fit well with sex establishments. The economic benefits to the City of tourism are huge and should not be put at risk by the extension of the licence of this sex establishment. Given the pressure on the economy and local jobs the reputation of the City is especially important at this time.

Even for those who wish to see sex establishments in the City, there is a real problem with the location of this one since many families use the areas nearby this building – there is a coach park next door, a large shop, the college opposite and the ice skating rink next door. There is a church and nursery nearby too. Young children and women should be able to feel comfortable in this area but they do not because of the presence of this sex establishment. If councillors are minded to vote for this I would like them to think of how they would justify and explain what this is for, to the many young children and women whose lives necessarily bring them near this sex establishment.

The current licence to have a sex establishment at this location has greatly changed the character of the area to its detriment. Rather than it being a nightclub where men and women alike can socialise it has been a sex establishment run by a man mainly for men. It has left many women in Oxford feeling very uncomfortable.

I would expect that if it hasn't already, it will impact negatively on crime and disorder and certainly on the feeling of safety of women in this area

I'd urge councillors to consider the impact this sex establishment has had and will continue to have on families and women in the City. I would urge councillors to respect the great heritage we enjoy in Oxford and not to continue to put our worldwide reputation as a great City at risk by approving this sex establishment. It's licence to date has made a number of women feel less safe in this area and this renewal should therefore be refused.

Customer reference number: 12/02578/SEV

From: [REDACTED]
Posted At: 30 July 2012 15:41
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: 12/02578/SEV
Subject: 12/02578/SEV

I wish to attach my name to objections you are receiving in response to the consultation on the renewal of the licence for The Lodge lapdancing venue. I attach a document which has been carefully researched by a member of one of the women's groups of which I, too, am a member. I fully endorse the points made.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OX2 6JD

This representation submits objections to the applicant being granted a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence on the following grounds:

Uses to which premises in the nearby vicinity are put

It is submitted that the applicant's premises is situated in a locality which is highly inappropriate for an SEV given the uses to which nearby premises are put. The OCC draft SEV Licensing Policy (2012) states that "the council will not normally licence premises that are in close proximity to:

- (i) Historic buildings or tourist attractions
- (ii) Schools, play areas, nurseries, children's centres or similar premises
- (iii) Shopping centres
- (iv) Residential areas
- (v) Places of worship"

Oxford is a small city, and there is no part of central Oxford which does not include residential clusters and related amenities such as schools, children's play areas, places of worship. The Council's chose to give primacy in licensing considerations to issues of location and proximity including to schools, historic buildings, tourist sites etc.

(i) Proximity to historic buildings or tourist attractions

"The Lodge" position on Oxpens Road is in close proximity to the following:

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The Lodge itself acknowledges its proximity to the leisure facilities of the city by advertising its location with reference to them (from website) The Lodge Gentleman's Club, Oxpens Road, (Next to the ice rink), Oxford OX1 1RX.

- b) City Centre Car Parks (less than 100m)
- c) Oxford Castle (approx 390m)

In congruence with the draft OCC policy, it is clear that a strip club in close proximity to such historic and tourist amenities is neither acceptable nor appropriate for a variety of reasons including the impact of perceptions of safety. Use of and access to amenities is, for many, reliant on the use of the city centre car parks located just off Oxpens Road and the position of The Lodge is considered, by women, to impinge their safety in using such amenities (see Oxford Feminist Network survey results, submitted separately. We would also like the Committee to consider "That there are places in the locality where women are likely to be vulnerable to the higher levels of harassment associated with sexual entertainment venues" (taken from Dr James Harrison's legal advice¹ on SEV Licensing (Co-Director, Centre for Human Rights in Practice, School of Law, University of Warwick). Evidence of this is seen in the comments to the Oxford Feminist Network survey, for example:

"The men who visit lapdancing clubs, even when not at the club, towards women, are awful - I've been jeered at and had horrible comments about my body and the way I dress, all in loud voices by big men who make me feel threatened. [...] It's as though the club has made men think that they have a right to treat all women as available for them to stare at and expect sex from and treat demeaningly"

¹ Sexual Entertainment Venues – *A rational decision that no venues should be granted licenses in a particular area will not breach human rights law*

“I go to midnight ice hockey every Wednesday and have to walk past The Lodge. [...] I have frequently felt uncomfortable walking past it and have on two separate incidents been harassed by individuals in the street who have left the club.”

“Having lived on the same road as The Lodge, I felt very threatened if I ever had to walk/cycle home at night. The street makes you feel very isolated when the only other people there are men either pumped about going to such a venue or worse who are leaving, probably more exited and with more skewed views towards women than when they went in.”

In a doorstep consultations with residents, members of Oxford Feminist Network heard stories from residents about men leaving the club (5am) shouting sexually explicit epithets whilst walking down the street, urinating in doorways, ripping drainpipes and other wall attached items from their holdings and, more rarely, climbing fences into people’s gardens whilst drunk leaving residents feeling unsafe and being forced ring the Police more than once. Local businesses reported their staff and customers being racially abused by men leaving the club. From the Oxford Feminist Network survey, the number of answers saying that women would avoid using amenities such as car parks etc in proximity to a lap dancing venue shows that the location of The Lodge is, in effect, curtailing women being able to access the city centre both by day and, more strongly, at night. It is creating a second-class citizen status for women and runs directly counter to the Council’s Equality Duties.

Additionally given that part of the car park area is a dedicated coach park which does load and unload passengers at the Oxpen’s location it would be impossible to access any part of the city centre, including Oxford Castle without seeing The Lodge and this has an impact on the attitude towards the City and visitors expectations of it. Whilst the previous Licensing Application did consider the proximity of the Ice Rink, they failed to consider the impact of children and young people repeatedly seeing the advertising (however discrete it is considered) which feeds into our later discussion of the impact on equality..

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“The Lodge” position on Oxpens Road is in close proximity to the following:

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- c) St Thomas Nursery (approx 260m)

The applicant’s premises is sited close to St Thomas Nursery, making it impossible for parents coming from the Thames St area to access the nursery without passing by the strip club. OCV has teaching until 9pm and additionally it educates students under the age of 16 (on apprenticeship programmes etc) and vulnerable adults under the age of 21 (on a variety of programmes) thus it’s proximity should be considered in the same way as a secondary school. It is noted that OCV is located almost directly opposite the club meaning all their students see the club on a daily basis. Kings Mead House houses, amongst other things, A4E which runs adult training courses including work with vulnerable adults. Parents and nursery staff, students, teachers and trainers ought to be entitled to a safe community environment which is not situated in close proximity to the sex

industry. The choice of advertising location, on the major foot route from the station to town and in a residential area with children is highly inappropriate and suggestive that the club owners are not concerned about the impact of their venue nor about the Council's duties.

(iii) Shopping complexes

"The Lodge" position on Oxpens Road is in reasonable proximity to:

- a) Westgate (approx 470m)

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"The Lodge" position on Oxpens Road is in close proximity to the following:

- a) Thames St
- b) St Thomas St
- c) Residents walking from train station

Residents on Thames St report used condoms on the pavement, an increase in advertising for Escort Agencies and traffic issues around close of business for The Lodge. Residents on Oxpens Road reported the public disorder/criminal activities noted above. Whilst some residents noted fewer problems than when the premises were being run as The Coven, failures of previous licensing and enforcement are not grounds for approval of this application. Such reasons reflect concerns raised by key stakeholders in consultations which led to the subsequent reform of licensing law governing the sex industry vis-à-vis strip clubs. Other reasons included the heightened statistical link to physical, verbal and sexual assaults against women who live or work in the vicinity of strip clubs. It is noted that whilst the applicant employs door staff immediately outside the entrance of the strip club, these staff cannot and do not provide security for members of the public who traverse on the Oxpens Road past the club on their way to and from work, of which there are very high numbers given the applicant's proximity to major transport hubs (see below).

(v) Places of Worship

"The Lodge" position on Oxpens Road is in close proximity to the following:

- a) St Thomas the Martyr Church (approx 290m)

The applicant's premises are in very close proximity to the Church which is used for regular worship.

Other uses to which nearby premises are put

The location of important amenities in the locality of the applicant's premises directly exposes residents and commuters to the harms and disturbance associated with the sex industry (especially verbal, physical and sexual assaults). These include that Oxpens Road is a significant "hub" for city centre transport on foot and in cars. It's proximity to the Railway Station and bus stops and it being the most direct route to Abingdon Road and St Aldates from those locations. Given that in the case of *Vimac Leisure and Durham City Council* the factor of local transport hubs was cited as a legitimate ground for the refusal of a premises licence with attached adult entertainment provisions given the high numbers of minors congregating in the region of a local bus and railway station. Here, however, we have a combination of the proximity of an educational provider working with under 16s, an

educational provider working with some vulnerable adults and proximity to transport links. Additionally female commuters from London and Birmingham who arrive at the station after dark and need to access, for example Thames St, are faced with having to pass the strip club and its “patrons” during operational hours on their way home.

Character of the relevant locality

OCC draft policy also provides that SEV licences shall be considered with respect to the character of the relevant locality. Arguably the Oxpens Road area is one struggling to attract development and improvement, treated as it is as a liminal site which people “move through” rather than remain in and this will only continue to be exacerbated by the presence of this strip club. Efforts are being made by local residents to improve the area, indeed residents during a canvas of the area did point out “that their area was already struggling to improve and the fact that there was now a Lap dancing club there really didn't help”². and therefore we would argue that efforts to upgrade the area into a safe, welcoming and respectable area that attracts a broader segment of the population is being severely inhibited by the presence of the applicant operating as a strip club. In order to achieve the economic and social prosperity which the local area needs, the public image of the region would be improved by refusing the applicant an SEV licence.

Equality

Whilst not specifically address in the OCC draft policy, it is a valid reason to refuse a licence when considered in conjunction with the Equality Act 2010 and the Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls (2011). The Equalities Act 2010 places every public authority under a duty to “in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to ... eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.” The latter guidance states that it recognises “that violence against women is a consequence of continuing inequality between men and women, and is a barrier to achieving equality”. It is our contention that lap dancing venues *in toto* represent one way in which inequality between men and women is reinforced. As such the **Location** of The Lodge, its proximity to child-focused establishments and to civic amenities makes it inherently gender inequitable and as such Licensing such an activity at these premises runs contrary to the duty in The Equality Act 2010. Lap Dancing, it must be remembered, is an industry in which “men exercise their social, sexual and economic authority over women who are dependent on them and are organised according to gender inequality, which is perpetuated in gendered spaces and consequently sexualised. The typical strip club scenario displays young, nude or partially nude women for fully clothed male customers. When organizations are produced in the context of the structural relations of domination, control and violence, they reproduce those relations” (Holsopple 1999). The Lodge itself readily acknowledges this gender imbalance in its promotional material (see website) which makes clear this is a male dominated space:

Our stunning dancers are waiting to entertain and treat you as Kings for the evening. Oh what a night! It was fantastic and we were treated like kings! I'd highly recommend The Lodge.

² Canvas of Thames St.

*Oozes class. Everything from the decor to the ladies are top quality! I couldn't imagine any group of men not having a great time there.*³

The Lodge therefore readily acknowledges that they are running a business based on male dominance and authority in which women are presented as commodities on a par with the furniture and fittings of the club (i.e. as objects rather than people). Indeed research has shown that wherever lapdance and strip clubs appear, women's quality of life deteriorates as a result, with increased reports of rape⁴. 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 "sexobject" culture - the mainstreaming of the sex and porn industries and the ever increasing sexual objectification of women and girls. The End Violence Against Women coalition (UK) has called on the Government to tackle the sexualisation of women and girls because it provides a "conducive context" for violence against women. For example, there is growing evidence that sexobject culture is conducive to violence against women when we consider that a general audience cannot tell the difference between the objectifying language about women in "lads mags" and the language used by sex offenders to talk about their victims⁵. It is accepted that Lap dancing clubs have a negative impact on women's safety in the local vicinity. The UK Royal Institute of Town Planning has drawn attention to concerns regarding the impact of lap dancing clubs on women in the local areas: 'Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'⁶. Personal testimony from women, as well as hundreds of responses to council consultations (including Oxford's) on the issue further reinforce the idea of a link between the proliferation of lap dancing clubs and increased levels of sexual harassment for women in the vicinity: 'On separate occasions, I have had men say to me "How much for a dance love? I'll give you £20 to get yours out,"... they seem to always think that because they can pay to degrade and abuse women inside the club that I am no different'⁷. Additionally strip clubs have a negative impact on women's safety in wider society by normalising the representation of women as being always sexually available and this is worrying in light of widespread public opinion that women are in some way responsible for sexual assaults perpetrated against them. The links between the expansion of lap dancing clubs and an increase in the levels of sexual violence have been raised by organisations who work with victims and perpetrators of gender-based violence. For example, as Chair of Rape Crisis Nicole Westmarland reported that lap dancing clubs 'both support and are a consequence of sexual violence in society'. This view is reiterated by the Director of the White Ribbon Campaign, an organisation which works with men to end violence against women: 'Any expansion of lap dancing clubs feeds an increase in the lack of respect for women'⁸. Furthermore, in response to research it commissioned into the impact of lap dancing clubs

³ The Lodge Promotional Quotes taken from their website.

⁴ Eden, I. (2003) *The Lilith Report on Lapdancing and Striptease in the Borough of Camden*. London: Eaves

⁵ See <http://www.mdx.ac.uk/aboutus/news-events/news/mags.aspx>

⁶ Royal Town Planning Institute (2007), *Gender and Spatial Planning, Good Practice Note 7*, 10 December 2007

⁷ See www.object.org.uk for testimonies

⁸ Both quotes are from an OBJECT leaflet 2008

on the city, Glasgow City Council⁹ stated: “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.”

In this sense, licensing SEVs is at odds with the duties of the Local Authority in terms of promoting prevention of crime and disorder, public safety or the prevention of nuisance. Additionally there is evidence showing that in a two year period to 2011 sexual and violent crime in Bristol increased by 82% within a 50m radius of Sexual Entertainment Venues compared to 45% in the rest of the city centre area¹⁰. Indeed a senior Police Officer in Cornwall has commented on the link Police have seen between lap dancing clubs and sex crimes¹¹.

As such we submit that refusing the application is the only reasonable and appropriate on which can be taken.

However, should the Council not listen to the views of their residents and license this establishment, we would ask that the Committee gives due regard to the impact of any and all advertising and for restrictions on taking photographs and visual film footage. Advertising for these establishments, including signage and frontages of premises and billboard advertising elsewhere, creates an intimidating atmosphere and a real threat to the safety of women. No advertising should be allowed for such premises and explicit images displaying what goes on within the clubs should not be allowed in any public spaces – indeed the impact of the large advertisement has been commented on in the local press, particularly when it was (over Christmas) next to an advert for a children’s pantomime. We also argue that, for the welfare and safety of the dancers the taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) should not to be permitted on the premises during operating hours. We believe allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could then easily exist on the internet and in pornographic publications without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and we see no reason why, with the dancers’ welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended in lap dancing clubs.

We would also like to recommend that, like other employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets), The Lodge should be made by a condition of licensing to provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women at who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they found themselves on the same public transport as someone who had been a customer earlier in their shift, as she would no longer have the protection of

⁹ 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>

¹⁰ See <http://coventrywomensvoices.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/police-rpt-vaw-control-areas-nov111.doc>

¹¹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-18199223>

the security staff. We would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers' welfare in mind.



30 July 2012

Dear Licensing Committee

Re: Application 12/02578/SEV

Please consider this representation as an objection to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence by The Lodge of Oxpens Road. Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre (OSARCC) is a local charity providing specialist support services to women and girls who have experienced rape, sexual abuse or any other form of sexual violence. We witness the devastating impact that sexual violence and harassment has on the lives of women in Oxford every day.

Research demonstrates that wherever lap dance and strip clubs appear, women's quality of life deteriorates, with increased reports of sexual violence - indeed the presence of lap dancing clubs creates 'no-go' zones for women in the local vicinity.¹ 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 clubs². A senior Police Officer in Cornwall has commented on the link Police have seen between lap dancing clubs and sex crimes³.

Other local councils have found links between Sexual Entertainment Venues and violence against women in their localities. In response to research it commissioned into the impact of lap dancing clubs on the city, Glasgow City Council⁴ stated: "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."

Lap dancing clubs also contribute to the normalised representation of women as sexual objects which is directly linked to increased violence against women. Such clubs represent women as always sexually available and 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 women.

The application from The Lodge is of great concern to OSARCC. The proximity of residential areas, local tourist attractions and historic buildings, places of worship, shopping centres and educational institutes to the applicant's premises mean that its location is highly inappropriate. For these reasons, for those outlined above and because consultation demonstrates that local women consider such a venue to impinge on their safety (see Oxford Feminist Network survey), the granting of a licence to this premise is unacceptable. We urge you to refuse the application.

Yours


(Service Manager)

¹ OBJECT factsheet <http://www.object.org.uk/files/Fact%20Sheet%20on%20Lap%20Dancing.pdf>

² Eden, I. (2003) *The Lilith Report on Lapdancing and Striptease in the Borough of Camden*. London: Eaves

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1

Sex shops/strip clubs/lap dancing
clubs should have no place, and are
not needed in any Community.

It's time you dared to make a stand! 25/7/12.

Dear Sir / ~~Madam~~

I cannot believe that after all the
sexual abuse now coming to light; the
constant sex-attacks (in East Oxford especially)
that you continue to give licences to
lap-dancing clubs and 'sex shops'.

I protest most strongly against the
"private shop" and the other sex-shop on the
Cowley Road, as well as the lap-dancing club
in Oxpens, to continue to be open and
trade.

I am an OAP who has worked
with the Sexually Abused in the Highfield
Unit Headington, and also with sexual
abusers at Clark's Bait Hostel Oxford.
Research shows that pornography (sold
in Sex Shops) & lap-dancing, only serves
to "excite" and "feed" the fantasies of sexual
abusers & magicians! (Lap-dancing clubs,
especially "excite" men, so much that these
types of clubs attract prostitutes (often
vulnerable and already abused ^{by} men) because the
men want the "use" of a prostitute when leaving
that type of club because their sexual feelings
have been so "aroused" by lap-dancers.

This makes not only prostitutes vulnerable
- especially in a lonely road such as Oxpens
but also vulnerable men, who maybe just
be going thro' a 'rough' time in marriage.
Sexual acts ⁵¹ are not always "acts"

of love" in a proper relationship; it can also be distorted, depraved, and so damaging to people who have already been damaged, maybe as early as childhood! Already distorted, sexual fantasies, are often "fed" by lap-dancers, the stuff found in sex-shops
 → How can you continue to allow these types of places to even exist?

I realize that what a couple does in one's own private place is their right, I understand that, but anything they require for their private "sexual games" can now be bought on the Internet (not that I think that that is always a good thing unless it is "regulated". But there is now absolutely NO NEED nowadays for Sex Shops

I do not believe for one moment that the owners of the shops REALLY take notice of the age of their customers (any more than people who sell alcohol to the "underaged") Nor are they able to tell if their customers are "vulnerable" maybe mentally ill or even a future rapist / sexual abuser / a paedophile. They do not care so long as they sell their "products"!

I just do not understand why year after year you give licence for these places to exist - especially in East Oxford where anything "sleazy" is allowed to exist! Have you not seen the countless documentaries on television re sexual abuse and abusers? Do you not read the local newspapers who continuously report rape / sexual assault? Do you not "read up" the "confessions" of sexual abusers, and the terrible

Life destruction of the sexually Abused?
Why allow these establishments to "feed"
into the fantasies of sexual-abusers which
have been proved over and over to be
factual!!? They feed the depravity!

If you have done any kind of research
re the subject of sexual-abuse etc (which you
should do if you take your position as licencing
seriously) then you would know how much damage
can do - in Sex-shops/private shops and all pornography
and potential Sexual Abusers

It is nonsense to say these shops "enhanced"
"flagging" marriages etc - they can buy stuff on
the internet (not that I'm convinced it solves
the problems, having been married with children myself.)

It's so easy to "feed" the "depraved"
parts of our natures which we all have
no matter how much we deny - they exist
in us! (We never have to teach children to be naughty!)

Sorely with all the knowledge we now
have re Sexual Abusers & Paedophiles and the brave
Sexually abused who have dared to tell their
stories and how their lives have been completely
destroyed, it is time we cut sex-shops, pornography,
lap dancing, strip-dancing etc out of our communities
altogether! It is absolutely nothing to do with
"Womens Lib" etc/Boys get roped and sexually abused!

I dare to suggest that only the depraved
in our society would allow such establishments
to continue to trade, not just in Oxford but in
any decent society/community! DARE TO MAKE
A REAL DIFFERENCE!
Yours truly,



This representation submits objections application 12/02578/SEV and to the applicant being granted a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence on the following grounds:

Uses to which premises in the nearby vicinity are put

It is submitted that the applicant's premises is situated in a locality which is highly inappropriate for an SEV given the uses to which nearby premises are put. The OCC draft SEV Licensing Policy (2012) states that "the council will not normally licence premises that are in close proximity to:

- (i) Historic buildings or tourist attractions
- (ii) Schools, play areas, nurseries, children's centres or similar premises
- (iii) Shopping centres
- (iv) Residential areas
- (v) Places of worship"

Oxford is a small city, and there is no part of central Oxford which does not include residential clusters and related amenities such as schools, children's play areas, places of worship. The Council's chose to give primacy in licensing considerations to issues of location and proximity including to schools, historic buildings, tourist sites etc.

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- I've been jeered at and had horrible comments about my body and the way I dress, all in

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loud voices by big men who make me feel threatened. [...] It's as though the club has made men think that they have a right to treat all women as available for them to stare at and expect sex from and treat demeaningly”

“I go to midnight ice hockey every Wednesday and have to walk past The Lodge. [...] I have frequently felt uncomfortable walking past it and have on two separate incidents been harassed by individuals in the street who have left the club.”

“Having lived on the same road as The Lodge, I felt very threatened if I ever had to walk/cycle home at night. The street makes you feel very isolated when the only other people there are men either pumped about going to such a venue or worse who are leaving, probably more excited and with more skewed views towards women than when they went in.”

“Just walking past The Lodge I have had cars stop and ask if I am offering “business” (i.e. engaged in prostitution) and have had other cars wind down their windows to shout sexual expletives at me. This hasn't happened anywhere else in town, it's specific to that part of Oxpens Road (and therefore The Lodge). I try to avoid that area, especially after dark as I fear one day the problem will escalate from verbal abuse to something else.”

In a doorstep consultations with residents, members of Oxford Feminist Network heard stories from residents about men leaving the club (5am) shouting sexually explicit epithets whilst walking down the street, urinating in doorways, ripping drainpipes and other wall attached items from their holdings and, more rarely, climbing fences into people's gardens whilst drunk leaving residents feeling unsafe and being forced ring the Police more than once. Local businesses reported their staff and customers being racially abused by men leaving the club, being asked for use of a payphone so men leaving The Lodge can ring prostitutes and becoming extremely hostile when refused. From the Oxford Feminist Network survey, the number of answers saying that women would avoid using amenities in proximity to a lap dancing venue shows that the location of The Lodge is, in effect, curtailing women being able to access the city centre in the evening and at night. It is creating a second-class citizen status for women and runs directly counter to the Council's Equality Duties.

Additionally given that part of the car park area is a dedicated coach park which does load and unload passengers at the Oxpens location it would be impossible to access any part of the city centre, including Oxford Castle without seeing The Lodge and this has an impact on the attitude towards the City and visitors expectations of it. Whilst the previous Licensing Application did consider the proximity of the Ice Rink, they seem to have omitted consideration of late night and midnight skates which run regularly and involve young people from the ages of 14. The previous Licensing Application also failed to consider the impact of children and young people repeatedly seeing the advertising (however discrete it is considered) which feeds into our later discussion of the impact on equality.

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In this sense, licensing SEVs is at odds with the duties of the Local Authority in terms of promoting prevention of crime and disorder, public safety or the prevention of nuisance. Additionally there is evidence showing that in a two year period to 2011 sexual and violent crime in Bristol increased by 82% within a 50m radius of Sexual Entertainment Venues

compared to 45% in the rest of the city centre area². Indeed a senior Police Officer in Cornwall has commented on the link Police have seen between lap dancing clubs and sex crimes³.

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The applicant’s premises are in very close proximity to the Church which is used for regular worship.

Other uses to which nearby premises are put

The location of important amenities in the locality of the applicant’s premises directly exposes residents and commuters to the harms and disturbance associated with the sex industry (especially verbal, physical and sexual assaults). These include that Oxpens Road is a significant “hub” for city centre transport on foot and in cars. It’s proximity to the Railway Station and bus stops and it being the most direct route to Abingdon Road and St Aldates from those locations. Given that in the case of *Vimac Leisure and Durham City Council* the factor of local transport hubs was cited as a legitimate ground for the refusal of a premises licence with attached adult entertainment provisions given the high numbers of minors congregating in the region of a local bus and railway station. Here, however, there is proximity of an educational provider working with under 16s, an educational provider working with some vulnerable adults and proximity to transport links. Additionally female commuters from London and Birmingham who arrive at the station after dark and need to access, for example Thames St, are faced with having to pass the strip club and its “patrons” during operational hours on their way home.

Character of the relevant locality

OCC draft policy also provides that SEV licences shall be considered with respect to the character of the relevant locality. Arguably the Oxpens Road area is one struggling to attract development and improvement, treated as it is as a liminal site which people “move through” rather than remain in and this will only continue to be exacerbated by the presence of this strip club. Efforts are being made by local residents to improve the area, indeed residents during a canvas of the area did point out “that their area was already struggling to improve and the fact that there was now a lap dancing club there really didn't help”⁴. and local residents argue that efforts to upgrade the area into a safe, welcoming and respectable area that attracts a broader segment of the population is being severely inhibited by the presence of the applicant operating as a strip club. In order to achieve the economic and social prosperity which the local area needs, the public image of the region would be improved by refusing the applicant an SEV licence.

² See <http://coventrywomensvoices.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/police-rpt-vaw-control-areas-nov111.doc>

³ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-18199223>

⁴ Canvas of Thames St.

Equality

Whilst not specifically address in the OCC draft policy, it is a valid reason to refuse a licence when considered in conjunction with the Equality Act 2010 and the Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls (2011). The Equalities Act 2010 places every public authority under a duty to “in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to ... eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.” The latter guidance states that it recognises “that violence against women is a consequence of continuing inequality between men and women, and is a barrier to achieving equality”. It is our contention that lap dancing venues *in toto* represent one way in which inequality between men and women is reinforced. As such the **location** of The Lodge, its proximity to child-focused establishments and to civic amenities makes it inherently gender inequitable and as such Licensing such an activity at these premises runs contrary to the duty in The Equality Act 2010. Lap Dancing, it must be remembered, is an industry in which “men exercise their social, sexual and economic authority over women who are dependent on them and are organised according to gender inequality, which is perpetuated in gendered spaces and consequently sexualised. The typical strip club scenario displays young, nude or partially nude women for fully clothed male customers. When organizations are produced in the context of the structural relations of domination, control and violence, they reproduce those relations” (Holsopple 1999). The Lodge itself readily acknowledges this gender imbalance in its promotional material (see website) which makes clear this is a male dominated space:

Our stunning dancers are waiting to entertain and treat you as Kings for the evening. Oh what a night! It was fantastic and we were treated like kings! I'd highly recommend The Lodge.

Oozes class. Everything from the decor to the ladies are top quality! I couldn't imagine any group of men not having a great time there.⁵

The Lodge therefore readily acknowledges that they are a running a business based on male dominance and authority in which women are presented as commodities on a par with the furniture and fittings of the club (i.e. as objects rather than people). Indeed research has shown that wherever lapdance and strip clubs appear, women's quality of life deteriorates as a result, with increased reports of rape⁶. 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 “sexobject” culture - the mainstreaming of the sex and porn industries and the ever increasing sexual objectification of women and girls. The End Violence Against Women coalition (UK) has called on the Government to tackle the sexualisation of women and girls because it provides a “conducive context” for violence against women. For example, there is growing evidence that sexobject culture is conducive to violence against women especially considering that a general audience cannot tell the difference between the objectifying language about women in “lads mags”

⁵ The Lodge Promotional Quotes taken from their website.

⁶ Eden, I. (2003) *The Lilith Report on Lapdancing and Striptease in the Borough of Camden*. London: Eaves

and the language used by sex offenders to talk about their victims⁷. It is accepted that lap dancing clubs have a negative impact on women's safety in the local vicinity. The UK Royal Institute of Town Planning has drawn attention to concerns regarding the impact of lap dancing clubs on women in the local areas: 'Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'⁸. Personal testimony from women, as well as hundreds of responses to council consultations nationally (including Oxford's) on the issue further reinforce the idea of a link between the proliferation of lap dancing clubs and increased levels of sexual harassment for women in the vicinity: 'On separate occasions, I have had men say to me "How much for a dance love? I'll give you £20 to get yours out,"... they seem to always think that because they can pay to degrade and abuse women inside the club that I am no different'⁹.

Additionally strip clubs have a negative impact on women's safety in wider society by normalising the representation of women as being always sexually available and this is worrying in light of widespread public opinion that women are in some way responsible for sexual assaults perpetrated against them. The links between the expansion of lap dancing clubs and an increase in the levels of sexual violence have been raised by organisations who work with victims and perpetrators of gender-based violence. For example, as Chair of Rape Crisis Nicola Westmarland reported that lap dancing clubs 'both support and are a consequence of sexual violence in society'. This view is reiterated by the Director of the White Ribbon Campaign, an organisation which works with men to end violence against women: 'Any expansion of lap dancing clubs feeds an increase in the lack of respect for women'¹⁰. Furthermore, in response to research it commissioned into the impact of lap dancing clubs on the city, Glasgow City Council¹¹ stated: "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."

Business Model and Worker Safety

Still under considerations of equality and safety, the business model operated by all lap dancing venues is currently under legal challenge. Lapdancers are claimed, by the clubs, to be self-employed despite the club determining how and when they can work (see *Quashie v Stringfellows* for more on the legal challenge) and charging a fee to the workers for working. Without this additional economic exploitation, the lap dancing industry would

⁷ See <http://www.mdx.ac.uk/aboutus/news-events/news/mags.aspx>

⁸ Royal Town Planning Institute (2007), *Gender and Spatial Planning, Good Practice Note 7*, 10 December 2007

⁹ See www.object.org.uk for testimonies

¹⁰ Both quotes are from an OBJECT leaflet 2008

¹¹ 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>

collapse – at the current time, lap dancing clubs console themselves that even on a slow night, they are making money directly from their dancers (through the house fee and other *ad hoc* charges) before a single customer enters the club. As self-employed workers, the women dancing have fewer employment rights, little job security and less employment protection than other workers, then there is a need to investigate the working conditions are a core part of the business.

Part of the reason for determining the dancers to be self-employed is that this encourages them to compete for the attention of male customers, creating an atmosphere in which the financial set-up of the business feeds into a state of financial insecurity which can, and does, lead to women working in such conditions to break the rules by offering, for example, additional sexual services to enhance their income. Jennifer Hayashi Danns & Sandrine Leveque (2011)¹² document workers in sex entertainment venues in the UK describing “ruthless competition [between dancers] with women resorting to masturbating for the customers or ignoring no-touching rules to earn enough to pay the fees” aided and abetted by security staff and managers turning a blind eye to men groping, insulting or even threatening the women”¹³. Additionally, Object have documented accounts of the way in which clubs exploit their workers, for example evidence from ex-lap-dancer (Lucy) tells the story about conditions graphically: “For example on my first night they said I didn’t have the right shoes or dress and said if I wanted to work then I would have to buy them off the club. The shoes were £60, the dress was £70 or £10 to rent per night. I didn’t have the cash but they said I had to have them or I couldn’t work so I would have to take them immediately and then work to pay them back. So from my very first night I was in debt to the management and working to pay off that debt. We also had to pay for our own (over-priced drinks) as well as paying commission to the house every night which was a minimum of twenty pounds *whether or not you made any money*. Some nights it was possible to actually lose money. There was also the fact that if you as a dancer break the regulations then you were fined : £20 for being late onto the floor, £20 for wearing the wrong shoes. £20 for the wrong dress, £20 for missing your pole dance. These regulations, unlike the licensing regulations regarding touching for instance, were enforced strictly. You weren’t allowed to leave early, you got fined if you don’t turn up at all. It becomes very easy to start losing money”. This is wholly inconsistent with local authority duties and with any sense of equality or natural justice.

Breaches of Licensing Conditions

I have seen at least two breaches of licensing conditions relating to The Lodge. Below is photographic evidence (from November 2011) of flagrant breaches of the licensing conditions relating to staff and customers sharing smoking areas showing that the Club has little regard for the conditions imposed by the Council.

¹² *Stripping: the bare reality of lapdancing* (Jennifer Hayashi Danns & Sandrine Leveque 2011)

¹³ From interview with Danns, The Guardian 10th November 2011, available at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2011/nov/10/truth-lap-dancer-clubs>.



(original, full size digital photographs can be sent if required)

Additionally Oxford Feminist Network has conducted a walk-past/drive past visual count in relation to the condition for the door staff to wear high visibility jackets. The results of which are below:

Month	No of Obs	No of time with Hi-Vis	Month	No of Obs	No of time with Hi-Vis
November 2011	1	0	December 2011	2	0
January 2011	2	0	February 2011	2	1
March 2011	3	1	April 2011	2	0
May 2011	2	0	June 2011	3	1
July 2011	2	2	Totals	19	5

Concluding Remarks

As such I submit that refusing the application is the only reasonable and appropriate on which can be taken.

However, should the Council not listen to the views of their residents and license this establishment, I would ask that:

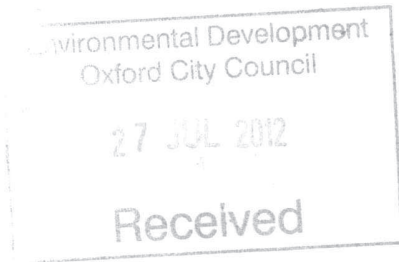
- the Committee gives due regard to the impact of any and all advertising, particularly reviewing the current advertising place. Advertising for these establishments, including signage and frontages of premises and billboard advertising elsewhere, creates an intimidating atmosphere and a real threat to the safety of women. No advertising should be allowed for such premises and explicit images displaying what goes on within the clubs should not be allowed in any public spaces – indeed the impact of the large advertisement has been commented on in the local press, particularly when it was (over Christmas) next to an advert for a children’s pantomime.
- the Committee give due regard the taking photographs and visual film footage on the premises. For the welfare and safety of the dancers the taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) should not to be permitted on the

premises during operating hours. I believe allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could then easily exist on the internet and in pornographic publications without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and I see no reason why, with the dancers' welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended in lap dancing clubs.

- the Committee make a condition of the license that, like other employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets), The Lodge must provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women at who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they found themselves on the same public transport as someone who had been a customer earlier in their shift, as she would no longer have the protection of the security staff. I would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers' welfare in mind.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
OX3 0QP



27th July 2012

Email

Head of Environmental Development
Oxford City Council
3rd Floor
St Aldates Chambers
109 St Aldates
Oxford. OX1 1DS

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to say that I wish to object to the application being put forward by Mr Alistair Lockwood Thomson of the Coven nightclub on Oxpens road, Oxford. This is for a sexual entertainment venue being proposed.

First of all, the current nightspot is close to the Oxford Ice Rink and also a College of further education. At night, the ice rink is where families go with their children.

Two venues including Baby simple on the Cowley Road as well as the Lodge near St Giles church had to cease trading due to objections from local residents.

Therefore, I along with members of my local church New Road Baptist in Bonn Square would like you to look into these points and re-consider this application.

Thank you for your assistance and I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Appendix C

From: [REDACTED]
Posted At: 29 July 2012 21:09
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: Forthcoming S.E.V license application for the lodge oxpens road Oxford
Subject: Forthcoming S.E.V license application for the lodge oxpens road Oxford

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the forth coming S.E.V licence application for The Lodge on the Oxpens road, Oxford.

As an Oxford resident I find The Lodge to be a well managed entertainment venue that offers diversity and I would just like to offer my support to The Lodge on their application.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

This email was sent from an email account of BMW Hams Hall Motoren GmbH which is a company registered in Germany with company number HRB 120 457 and has its offices at Petuelring 130, 80809 München and a registered branch in England and Wales with company number BR004623 and its registered offices at Ellesfield Avenue, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 8TA. The Managing Directors are Dr Anton Heiss and Nicholas Spencer and the trading address is at Canton Lane, Hams Hall, Coleshill, North Warwickshire, B46 1GB. -----

From: [REDACTED]
Posted At: 25 July 2012 10:20
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: The Lodge Gentlemans's Club
Subject: The Lodge Gentlemans's Club

I understand that the renewal of the SEV license for the Lodge Gentleman's Club is due.

I would like to inform you that this has to be one of the best clubs I have ever visited.

It is exceptionally well managed and run in high quality premises which are maintained to a very high standard.

This club provides excellent entertainment of high standard and I frequently take my wife with me when visiting.

The entertainment provided is of adult nature but presented at a level that others would do well to aspire to.

One is also impressed by the quality and numbers of the door staff who are immaculately presented and provide a professional approach regardless of the requests made.

I ask you to renew this licence so that discerning members of the public can continue to enjoy the excellent facilities in the future.

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: "licensing@oxford.gov.uk" <licensing@oxford.gov.uk>
Sent: Sunday, 29 July 2012, 20:36
Subject: THE LODGE, OXPENS ROAD, OXFORD.. RENEWAL SEV LICENSE

To the Head of Environmental Development

I am one of the owners of the above premises and writing in support of the SEV application.

We put a lot of time in carefully finding a venue that would suit the area, and was granted our licence in 2011. Nothing has changed in the area since the license was granted.

Our team work along with the police and licensing authorities in maintaining a well run club. Our objectives being to follow the SEV guidelines set out according to our license and their many conditions. The people who enter our establishment, enter on their own accord, male and female and couples too, who have an enjoyable evening..

Also I may add we spent a lot of money in refurbishing the very untidy building to what it is now. The venue was specifically built as a Lapdancing club and has no passing trade whatsoever to rely on.. This venue could not be a bar, restaurant or a club. We employ 20 or so staff who all need their employment and are trained especially in this field of entertainment. We also have 100 dancers working every week, many who live in the Oxford area who would find it impossible to travel to other towns to work.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
The Lodge
07974351829

From: [THOMPSON Emma](#)
To: [MASTERS Richard](#); [HIBBERD Allan](#)
Cc: [ALISON Julian](#)
Subject: FW: 12/02578/SEV The Lodge Oxford
Date: 23 July 2012 09:49:15

From: [REDACTED]
Posted At: 20 July 2012 20:10
Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: 12/02578/SEV The Lodge Oxford
Subject: 12/02578/SEV The Lodge Oxford

Dear Sir, I would like to make a comment about the current licensing application of The Lodge, Oxpens Road, Oxford, to renew its license as a strip/lapdance club. I would hope that the licensing committee will consider my email during its deliberations, but please excuse me, I am not legally trained, just a regular member of the public.

I would like to offer my support for the renewal of their licence. I am a regular visitor to the city of Oxford and I have taken friends and business friends to the Lodge club.

The venue is very different to other venues in the city. It has a great ambience and I am always courteously greeted and attended by the door staff and waitresses. The music isn't too loud at all and the general feel of the club is of a very upmarket venue.

I myself haven't ever encountered a problem in or outside the venue , but I have witnessed the door staff deal with a customer who was clearly intoxicated and politely refused him entry and made sure he was put in a taxi home. Very impressed.

Yes, there are ladies dancing naked inside the venue, but it is 100% theatre and not offensive in the slightest. I understand we are living in 2012 and the issue of nudity as entertainment is subjective, however, I feel those who are offended, shouldn't go inside. From the outside, you wouldn't realise what the venue is used for and there are signs at the entrance clearly stating it's nature of business.

I hope you will pass this email on to the people who make the decision on the license renewal.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

From: Thirstbar [mailto:thirstbar@googlemail.com]

Posted At: 29 July 2012 20:57

Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk

Conversation: Licence template : if you could fill in address, sign and email me back that would be great :-)

Subject: Fwd: Licence template : if you could fill in address, sign and email me back that would be great :-)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 29 July 2012 20:41:50 GMT+01:00
To: Jess <jesshayesuk@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Fwd: Licence template : if you could fill in address, sign and email me back that would be great :-)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Oxford
Ox1 1BU

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the forthcoming S.E.V license application for The Lodge on the Oxpens Road, Oxford.

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the owner of [REDACTED] based in St Aldates Oxford. I would just like to offer my support to the Lodge on their application and express that we have no concerns with this matter.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Oxford City Stars Ltd
c/o Oxford Ice Rink
Oxpens Road
Oxford
OX1 1RX

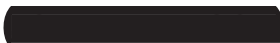

29th July 2012

To whom it may concern,

I am a director of the Oxford City Stars Ltd, the company running the Oxford City Stars ice hockey team based at the Oxford ice rink.

I am writing on behalf of myself and co-director, Elaine Sutcliffe, regarding the forthcoming S.E.V. license application by The Lodge on the Oxpens Road in Oxford, to offer our support to the Lodge on their application and express that we have no concerns with this matter.

Yours sincerely,


 CITY STARS LTD
Tel: 07786 234252

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 July 2012 19:03
To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Cc: ALISON Julian; HIBBERD Allan
Subject: Letter in support of the SEV renewal for The Lodge Oxpens Rd

To The Head of Environmental Development:

cc Julian Alison & Alan Hibberd

29.07.12

I am writing in support of the SEV application for the Lodge Gentleman's Club, Oxpens Road. Oxford.

As one of the owners of the premises and the license holder for the SEV I have a few points I would like to explain.

A Gentleman's Club is an extremely regulated and specialist business. We have a huge amount of conditions attached to our license and as such we work closely with the Police and Licensing Authorities to ensure that these conditions are implemented and strictly adhered to.

The premises are different to other licensed premises. We are not just a bar that happens to have an SEV license. When we were granted our SEV license at the hearing last year, we, at great expense, adapted and designed the building specifically for the purpose. We greatly reduced the capacity for customers and as such reduced fire exits. We removed the dance floor, built a stage and removed the huge sound system. The club is designed for seated customers not vertical drinking and dancing.

Were we to lose the SEV at the renewal hearing we could not just revert the premises to run on the premises license as a regular bar without first converting the premises back for that use. This would involve not only substantial costs but also loss of earnings while we closed to complete the work. We would also have to lay off a lot of our staff that are employed for their skill sets relative to the Gentleman's Club. I am of the opinion that the location does not lend itself for use as a bar. It is tucked out of the way with almost zero footfall in the evenings.

We were granted the SEV license a year ago and nothing in our location has changed to deem the location inappropriate in my opinion.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

From: [REDACTED] Posted At: 29 July 2012 21:20 Posted To: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
Conversation: Head of Environmental Development
Subject: Head of Environmental Development

I am writing in support of the Application for the Sex Establishment Licence, made by The Lodge Gentlemen's Club in Oxpens Road, Oxford.
I am the DPS, and one of the owners.

The company went to great length's and considerable cost to satisfy all the requests made by the Licensing Authority, and Police.

The Lodge is a viable business, and has shown this by our strong customer base, who enjoy the safe environment we provide.

We have a large group of employees and local business's, who rely on the income derived from the business, much of which is re spent into the Oxford economy.

In my 23 years of experience of the local night time economy, this location, would not survive as a bar.

I hope on consideration, of the Renewel of the Licence, this will be taken in to account.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B12 Ops

The Lodge Gentleman's Club
Oxpens Road
Oxford
OX1 1RX

17th July 2012

To whom it may concern

Letter of support

I would like to offer my support to the Lodge Gentleman's Club, Oxfordshire which I understand is due to renew its license.

I have frequented this establishment on a number of occasions with friends as part of a stag party and with colleagues after work. The Lodge is a classy venue offering a relaxing environment to all and everyone from bar staff to door staff are both friendly and totally professional in their line of work. The lodge offers a safe environment that practices and fulfils all licensing objectives.

The beautiful ladies, offer something for every man or woman carrying out their duties in a meticulous, professional manner and the expertise exhibited by these ladies whilst carrying out their craft is truly amazing.

Everyone is treated to a special unforgettable experience, both during the live shows and individual dances.

The Lodge offers employment to members of the community and brings much needed revenue to the local economy. It also attracts tourists to the area, who, by staying in hotels as well as visiting other local areas within the Oxfordshire area also boost the economy.

Needless to say if the club was to close this would be a great loss to the community not to mention countless job losses.

Yours faithfully



The Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council

27 JUL 2012


To whom it may concern,

I live and study in Oxford and go out in the town often, I have been to The Lodge club many times and find it a very friendly and relaxing place to be. It offers good service with a warm inviting atmosphere. I would like to think that in this day and age people can have the option to attend venues like The Lodge without discrimination. It is very professionally run and harms no one.

Good luck to the Lodge club my friends and i say.

Kind regards

The Licensing Authority,
Oxford City Council



Stratford upon Avon

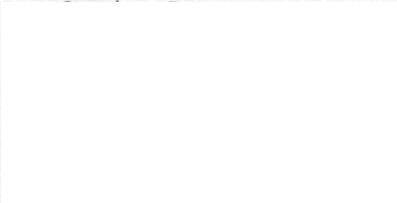
CV37 6NW

To whom it may concern,

I am a customer of The Lodge Gentlemen's club in Oxford city centre. I have visited the premises on a number of occasions and with my girlfriend on a couple of these occasions. The club is beautifully decorated, and the décor is to the highest standard. The staff from management to door staff to bartenders is of the highest standard as well, making you feel very welcome and at ease. The performing girls look elegant and classy making even female customers welcome, my partner loves the club, and she said "I love coming here, all round excellence".

I do understand that the Lodge needs a sexual entertainment license, and I'd highly advise that they keep it! After all the club is the best place to drink in Oxford for both sexes, it's safe, beautiful and generally excellent. The owners obviously know what they are doing, I do hope they retain the license as I will be returning to the venue and it would be a shame to see it had been closed down.

Many regards



The Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council

27 JUL 2012



GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

OXPENS ROAD OXFORD OX11RX

TEL: 01865721533

www.thelodgeoxford.com

Stratford Upon Avon.

10th July 2012

To whom it may concern

I am the manager at The Lodge and also another club of this nature called Cazbar in Stratford Upon Avon. I have been in this business for seven years now. I feel that lately our trade has been picked on terribly and unfairly by people who know nothing of our business apart from their own misguided perception about womanising, immoral earning or any other ideas they might have. And all these ideas come from not one encounter to a well run club. So my question is, why a provisioned, licensed, taxable, safe and harmless entertainment should be taken away from the public which is clearly in huge demand, and this is proven by the success of this venue.

It is also proven that crime rate in the area in which The Lodge is situated has again fallen since the opening of the venue as did it when the Penny Farthing Place club opened. This is a huge positive factor in its self. Is it not?

We as a team strive to provide the best working environment possible for all members of staff. Who in turn provide a very professional service, the club is run extremely well and to best possible standards of cleanliness, professionalism and in accordance with the law and any local council regulation which gets administered to our licence. And I know firsthand that the owners will have it no other way.

I urge anyone with doubts about our standards to please have a look for themselves!!!

I strongly will the decision of the councillors and any other authority concerned to grant us the licence to carry on trading.

If the club were to close it would mean over a hundred people losing their sole livelihood, I think this would be very unfair and unjust.

With regards,

The Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council

27 JUL 2012

Headington Oxford

10th July 2012

To whom it may concern,

I am writing with regard to the renewal of the SEV licence held by The Lodge.

Not only am i in favour of this beautifully designed establishment and the way it is run, but for it to carry on being the elite in Oxfords evening entertainment. I find the service impeccable, the staff are very well trained and presented, the surroundings welcoming and comfortable and the atmosphere is one of a fabulously desirable nature!

I would also add how safe and comfortable the ladies that work there tell me they feel and that it is the nicest venue they have been too work at.

All in all a lovely friendly place to relax!

I for one, of many i know in favour, would be very disheartened if Oxford were to lose such an asset, as there is not much choice when it comes to a night out apart from cocktail bars and overcrowded night clubs. I do feel it necessary to be open minded to venues such as these as many towns and cities across the UK have them.

I followed the case on the Penny Farthing Place venue and learned that the crime and disorder in areas surrounding such well run clubs of this sort was in fact a lot lower than areas with other clubs and bars, therefore being a much safer environment for everyone.

The Lodge club does appeal to the more experienced gentleman.

I hope this letter is of help to the venue and its owners and i can highly recommend The Lodge club.

Yours sincerely

The Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council

27 JUL 2012

B68 9LA.

4.7.2012

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the pending license of the lodge, Oxpen's road, Oxford.

I am currently employed on a full time basis in the capacity of manager at The Lodge and if the lodge were to not have the SEV license it would leave me in considerable hardship.

I am currently about to go on paid maternity leave as I am expecting my first child. If the company were forced to close due to the license not being re-issued I would then have to rely on government sources and statutory maternity pay for funding during this and the foreseeable future. I would not receive sufficient funds to support my mortgage and the personal consequences would be un-imaginable.

I would just like to take this opportunity to say that during my employment I have found all the owners and directors a pleasure to work for. During my pregnancy they have been outstanding in supporting me with any help that I have needed and accommodated any requests way beyond their legal obligation. I personally believe as employers they set a bench mark for consideration towards their employees making the club a safe and great environment to work within.

Best Wishes,

The Licensing Authority,
Oxford City Council

Dear sir/Madame,

I'd like to take this opportunity to describe my experience working for the lodge in oxford.

I have worked here for 5-6 weeks now, and have settled in extremely well.

I was immediately welcomed with a kind and friendly manner. I was introduced to the relevant people including members of the Management team, who i would be working along side for the duration. All induction training was provided and all rules and regulations for work were outlaid in a helpful and professional manner.

Working at the lodge allows me to make ends meet, pays towards the necessities of life which my full time job can not currently fulfil. I truly enjoy working at the lodge and intend to continue working here until the foreseeable future. Staff are very helpful, friendly, supportive and professional. Working here is a pleasure and probably the safest feeling evening environment i have ever encountered whether visiting for work or pleasure purposes.

Id like to thank all those that have made this job comfortable and showing my recognition for all the hard work put in by those people.

Best regards

The Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council

27 JUL 2012

OX42FQ

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been employed as the Bar Manager for The Lodge Gentlemen's Club since our opening at Oxpens Road, having worked for the company for over a year beforehand in our previous location.

In my honest opinion, the club is very well run, has a fantastic atmosphere, and all staff employed is polite and friendly at all times, willing to help and cooperate when needed. In return, this maintains a positive and safe surrounding for our customers that comes in and the dancers that work there.

Financially, this job has immediately enabled me to fully support myself after graduating from Oxford Brookes University, paying off my student debt, as well as obtaining invaluable work experience for my future career in the drinks industry. More importantly, it has allowed me to help support my parents by contributing monthly into our joint account, as well as into my own to pay for my daily and living needs.

In fact, only recently I will be moving somewhere more expensive, relevant and closer to work and so this current job has and will help contribute to my new flat.

I think I can say that on behalf of all the staff on the bar whom I all know personally very well, the existence of The Lodge is so very important in providing the necessary financial support in our lives, especially at a time when jobs are hard to come by.

Yours faithfully,

The Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council

B74 3LB
5th July 2011

To whom it may concern,

I currently work as bar staff at The Lodge three to four nights a week. My job is very important to me and I know it would be difficult to find another job in this current economy, that would enable me to take care of my son and earn enough money to pay my bills. I really enjoy working at The Lodge and enjoy a great relationship with the owners and other staff and hope to continue working here for the foreseeable future.

Best Wishes // ✓ /

The Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council

IP20 9NU,

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a new dancer who has just started working at the Lodge in Oxford.

I would just like to show my support for the lodge in the license application. I have only recently started dancing and all the girls and staff have made me feel welcome.

Even though there are clubs much closer to my home than the Lodge i drive 2.5 hours to get there because the club is so welcoming and safe.

Kind Regards.

The Licensing Authority,
Oxford City Council

Oxford

7th July 2012

To whom it may concern,

I am working in The Lodge as a waitress; I am glad to be here as they always had such a nice behaviour with me. The staff is very nice and the work atmosphere too. For me, that I am Spanish and I need to do English lessons, working here is a great opportunity as allows me to pay my studies.

Regards,

The Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council

Oxford
OX4 2UW

5th July 2012

To whom it may concern,

I work as a dancer at The Lodge, Oxford and have done since our re-opening in November 2011. It's a great club to work in, I have a great relationship with the staff, dancers and management and very much wish to continue dancing here in the future. I am currently saving to pay for a postgraduate course at Oxford Brookes which begins in September and would struggle to find full-time employment for the next few months which could greatly jeopardise my ability to go forward with my course over the next year.

Having worked for many different clubs, pubs and restaurants over the years, I highly commend the running of this establishment and the commitment to the safety and welfare of all staff, dancers and customers who enter the premises, as well as the commitment to the positive impact on the community in terms of bringing business to the area and sponsorship of local sports teams.

Please consider the detrimental impact that closing of the club would have on the lives of all the staff and people who enjoy the fun and safe atmosphere that it provides.

Kind regards

The Licensing Window,
Oxford City Council

Oxford
OX3 7PN

2nd July 2012

To whom it may concern,

I currently am full time student in London and finishing up my second year which is very demanding both financially and mentally. I am positive I would not have made it this far through my degree without being a dancer at the Lodge. It is very important to me that the lodge stays open because I am able to work evenings when it suits me and my academic timetable. No other club would be able to me the flexibility and short commute time.

Before furthering my education I worked in numerous clubs around the country and I can honestly say that this club cannot be faulted. The management and staff run the establishment impeccably ensuring the welfare of both dancers and customers alike.

I feel that if this club were to close I would certainly be unable to fund my education and pay rent forcing me to be supported by the state. Like many of the girls here who rely on this club to fund their education and support their children.

I thank you in advance for taking the time to read my letter

Kind regards

The Licensing Authority,
Oxford City Council

Oxford,

Ox4 3UJ.

Dear Sir / Madam.

I would just like to write in support of the Lodge SEV License which is up for renewal. I am currently employed here on a full time basis and if the club was to close I would be out of employment.

The Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council

Norfolk,
IP20 9NU,

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a new dancer who has just started working at the Lodge in Oxford.

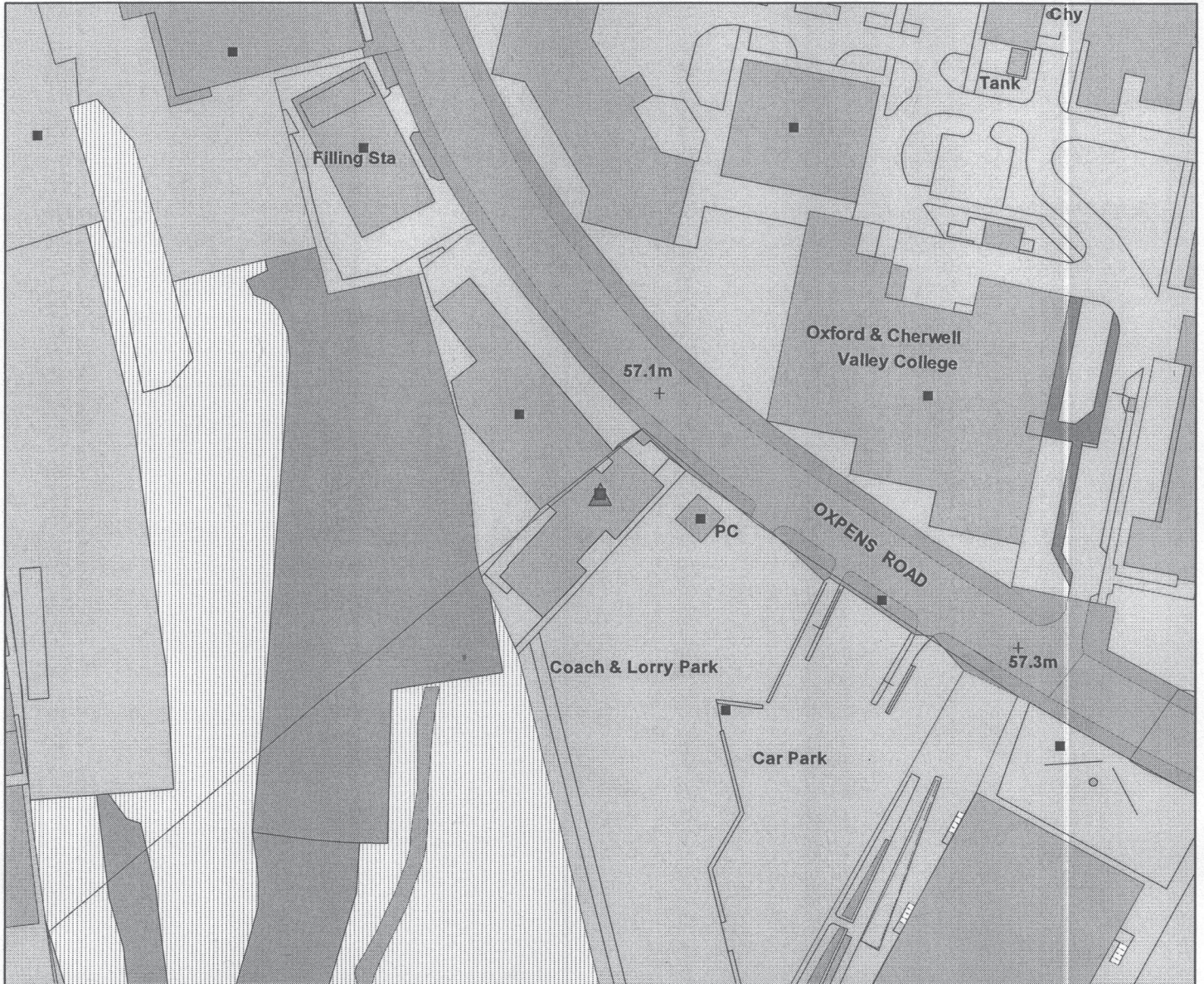
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Even though there are clubs much closer to my home than the Lodge i drive 2.5 hours to get there because the club is so welcoming and safe.

Kind Regards.

The Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council

The Lodge



Legend	
The Lodge	
Oxpens Road	
Oxford	
Scale:	1:1250



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Organisation	Oxford City Council
Department	Environmental Health
Comments	
Date	14 August 2012
SLA Number	100019348

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Agenda Item 5

LICENSING AND REGISTRATION SUB COMMITTEE

Monday 30 July 2012

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Cook (Chair), Gotch and Royce.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Lois Stock (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer), Daniel Smith (Law and Governance), Dawn Cox (Team Leader - Environmental Development), Samantha Howell (Licensing Officer) and Tony Payne (Licensing and Development Manager)

18. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE COUNCIL YEAR 2012/2013

Resolved to elect Councillor Cook as Chair of the Sub Committee for the Council year 2012/13

19. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE COUNCIL YEAR 2012/2013

This item was deferred.

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

None

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All three members of the Sub Committee (Councillors Cook, Gotch and Royce) declared that they knew one of the applicants (Mr Sajjad Malik) as a fellow Councillor.

22. STREET TRADING APPLICATION FOR A VACANT SITE

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the vacant approved street trading site 18 at St Giles.

At the request of the Chair, Daniel Smith (Legal Advisor to the hearing) explained the procedure that would be followed. There were 3 applications to fill this site. Each of the applicants would present his or her case to the Sub Committee, and answer questions. The other applicants would not be present whilst this took place. The press would be present, unless their absence was specifically requested by the applicant on the grounds that his or her application contained exempt information under provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (information about the business dealings of an individual).

Samantha Howell (Licensing Officer) presented the report to the Sub Committee.

The following applicants presented their case in turn:-

- (1) Mrs Leila and Mr Soulaiman Aidi;
- (2) Mr Sajjad Malik;
- (3) Mr Antonio de Jesus Neves

The Sub Committee considered all submissions, both written and oral, and RESOLVED to award the vacant approved street trading site 18 at St Giles to Mrs Leila and Mr. Soulaiman Aidi, subject to a satisfactory inspection of the food preparation area by West Oxfordshire District Council;

The Applicants were further advised to:-

- (1) Seek to minimise noise from their generator;
- (2) Keep the area free from litter and waste arising from their business;
- (3) Where possible, to use biodegradable packaging.

In reaching this decision, the Sub Committee took into account the criteria set out in the Council's Street Trading Policy and the corporate priority of achieving a vibrant and sustainable economy. It attached particular weight to the following aspects of the application:-

- The range of food that the Applicants were prepared to offer;
- Their commitment to the business;
- Their 18 years' shared experience in this field;
- Their investment in a trailer and good quality, quiet generator;
- The fact that they would be the principal operators;
- Their previous involvement in a business which had received a 5 star rating for hygiene;
- The establishment of a new business, which was positive for the local economy.

The Sub Committee resolved that it was less convinced by the business cases submitted by the other two applicants and that on this occasion, their applications were not successful.

Councillor Royce asked that her concerns about the food generally served from street trading pitches, and that she felt unable to support any of the applicants on this occasion, be minuted.

23. BREACH OF STREET TRADING CONSENT CONDITIONS

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning a breach of street trading consent conditions by Mr Elouath.

Samantha Howell presented the report to the Sub Committee. She informed the Sub Committee that the arrears have been paid in full since the report was written. There were no complaints about Mr Elouath, or breaches of his consent conditions.

Mr and Mrs Elouath attended the meeting and presented their case.

The Sub Committee considered all submissions, both written and oral. They were mindful of Mr Elouath's good record up until this incident, and felt that the failure to pay was down to simple error. The Sub Committee also took into account the Council's Street Trading Policy that was adopted in July 2010. Taking all evidence into account the Sub Committee RESOLVED to:-

- (1) Take no action against Mr Elouath, but remind him of the necessity of paying pitch fees promptly on the required date;
- (2) Delegate to officers the power to suspend the licence should Mr Elouath fail to pay at the required time in future.

24. MINUTES

Resolved to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2012.

25. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

The Sub Committee resolved to consider matters pertaining to street trading in confidential session.

26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 24th September 2012.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 6.45 pm

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