

Cheltenham Borough Council Licensing Sub-Committee - Miscellaneous

Meeting date: 18 December 2023

Meeting time: 5.30 pm

Meeting venue: Council Chamber - Municipal Offices

Membership:

Councillor Dr David Willingham (Chair), Councillor Angie Boyes (Vice-Chair), Councillor Diggory Seacome, Councillor Simon Wheeler and Councillor Ed Chidley

Important notice – filming, recording and broadcasting of Council meetings

This meeting will be recorded by the council for live broadcast online at www.cheltenham.gov.uk and www.youtube.com/user/cheltenhamborough. The Chair will confirm this at the start of the meeting.

If you participate in the meeting, you consent to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for broadcasting and/or training purposes.

If you have any questions on the issue of filming/recording of meetings, please contact Democratic Services.

Speaking at Licensing Committee

To find out more about Licensing Committee or to register to speak, please click [here](#) or contact Democratic Services.

Please note: the deadline to register to speak is 5.00pm on the day before the meeting.

Contact: democraticservices@cheltenham.gov.uk
Phone: 01242 264 130

Agenda

1 Apologies

2 Declarations of Interest

3 Application for a renewal of and variation to an existing Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence (Pages 5 - 124)

4 Any Other Items the Chairman Determines Urgent and Which Requires a Decision

This page is intentionally left blank

Cheltenham Borough Council

Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee – 18th December 2023

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

Application for a renewal of and variation to an existing Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence

Red Apple Associates Ltd.

Report of the Licensing Team Leader

Case reference number: 23/01596/SEXA

1. Summary and recommendation

- 1.1 Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (“the Act”), as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, allows applicants to apply for, renew, vary and/or transfer a Sexual Entertainment Venue (“SEV”) licence where they wish to offer “relevant entertainment” on a frequent basis.
- 1.2 In this case a renewal and variation application for an existing SEV licence was submitted on 17 October 2023 for Jessop House, 30 Cambray Place, Cheltenham. GL50 1JP.
- 1.3 The current licence runs from 7th February 2023 until 6th February 2024 this subsequent application is to effectively renew and vary that licence for the period 7th February 2024 to 6th February 2025. The existing days and hours for relevant entertainment and those of the variation are shown at ANNEX 1.
- 1.4 **The applicant is requesting a variation to effectively permit relevant entertainment throughout the racing season in the evenings of all meetings.**

1.5 Implications

Legal

Any applicant who is refused a licence may, within 21 days of being notified of the refusal, appeal to the local magistrates' court.

However, the right to appeal does not apply where the licence was refused on the grounds that:

- the number of sexual entertainment venues in the area exceeds the number which the authority considers is appropriate
- the grant of the licence would be inappropriate considering the character of the area, the nature of other premises in the area, or the premises themselves

23/01596/SEXA			
		Page 1 of 10	Last updated 07 December 2023

2. Background

- 2.1 On 1 October 2014, Council approved the adoption of the amended provision of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 to take effect in the borough on 1 December 2014.
- 2.2 Since the adoption, any premises that want to offer “relevant entertainment” on a frequent basis can only do so by obtaining a SEV licence.
- 2.3 Relevant entertainment is defined as any live performance or any 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 the audience (whether by verbal or other means).
- 2.4 It should be noted that under the law any premises can provide relevant entertainment on an infrequent basis without the need for a SEV licence. An infrequent basis is defined under the Act as no relevant entertainment has been provided on more than 11 occasions within a 12-month period and no such occasion has begun within a period of one month beginning with the end of the previous occasion, and no such occasion has lasted longer than 24 hours. Any premises wishing to offer relevant entertainment more frequently are required to apply for a SEV licence.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 An applicant for a Sex Establishment Licence must give notice of their application in accordance with the requirements set out in schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The advertising requirements are the following:
- 3.1.1 Publishing an advertisement in a local newspaper circulating in the appropriate authority’s area, not be later than 7 days after the date of the application; and
- 3.1.2 Where the application is in respect of premises, notice of it shall in addition be displayed for 21 days beginning with the date of the application on or near the premises and in a place where the notice can conveniently be read by the public.
- 3.2 Schedule 3, paragraph 10(15) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 states:
- “Any person objecting to an application for the grant, renewal or transfer of a licence under this Schedule shall give notice in writing of his objection to the appropriate authority, stating in general terms the grounds of the objection, **not later than 28 days after the date of the application.**” [Emphasis Added]
- 3.3 The applicant has advertised the application in accordance with the statutory requirements set out above.

- 3.4 In determining the application, Members have due regard to any observations made by the Chief Officer of the Police and any other comments made by anybody else.
- 3.5 It should be noted that officers had recently agreed to notify a local representative body - GRASAC (Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Assault Centre) - that has had a great deal of dialogue with the council regarding SEV applications over the years, and did do so.
- 3.6 In addition, through discussions around this application, the council has also agreed to notify the BID of such applications being made to it. The BID is a consultee for many applications and works in partnership with the council in many respects, and it seems pertinent to notify them, in their role representing the interests of local businesses.
- 3.7 Members are to note in particular that any objection must relate to both or either of the mandatory or discretionary grounds for refusal set out below.
- 3.8 Objections made on moral grounds or values are not relevant to either the mandatory or discretionary grounds for refusal and should therefore not be considered relevant.

Consultation – Chief Officer of Police

- 3.9 The Chief Officer of Police did not raise any objections in relation to this application.

Consultation – Other Persons

- 3.10 In relation to this application the licensing authority received 36 objections and 50 emails/ letters of support from residents and others during the statutory consultation period. Copies of these are attached at **ANNEX 2 (along with attachments at ANNEXES 2 i and ii) and 3 respectively**.
- 3.11 There is no discretion for the authority to extend the statutory deadline for consultation therefore, the objections received outside the statutory deadline for comments has not been included in this report.

4. Policy Considerations

- 4.1 The authority's adopted policy statement in relation to the regulation and control of SEVs was adopted by Full Council on 29 July 2020, and this policy statement sets out the authority's guidance, application procedure, terms and conditions relating to the regulation of SEVs.
- 4.2 Below (para. 4.4 – 4.15) are relevant extracts from the policy to highlight relevant issues to Members. However, Members should read these in conjunction with the policy document for completeness and contextual understanding.
- 4.3 As a regulatory matter, the authority does not take any moral stand in adopting this policy. The authority recognises that Parliament has made it lawful to operate a sex establishment and that such businesses are a legitimate part of the retail and leisure industries. It is this authority's role as the Licensing Authority to administer the licensing regime in accordance with the law.

Mandatory Grounds for Refusal

4.4 A licence cannot be granted:

- a) to any person under the age of 18 years;
- b) to any 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 any 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 made;
- d) to a body corporate which is not incorporated in an EEA State; or
- e) to any person who has, within a period of 12 months immediately preceding the date when the application was made, been refused that 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.

Discretionary Grounds for Refusal

4.5 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 SEVs in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the Council consider is appropriate for that locality (nil may be an appropriate number for these purposes);
- d) the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard:
 - 1) to the character of the relevant locality; and/or
 - 2) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; and/or
 - 3) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

Location of Premises (Section 12)

- 4.6 In deciding the appropriate number of premises to be licensed, the authority must consider the character of the relevant locality and what is the appropriate number of SEVs for the relevant locality. The number can be 'nil'.
- 4.7 Cheltenham is a relatively small urban borough that is predominantly residential in nature. The authority has already resolved that it is inappropriate to licence SEVs in or in the vicinity of, amongst others, residential areas. It is the authority's policy therefore that there is no locality outside of the Designated Permitted Area (shown on **ANNEX 4** attached) in which it would be appropriate to license a SEV. Accordingly, the appropriate number of SEVs for outside of the Designated Permitted Area is nil.
- 4.8 The authority recognise however that the Designated Permitted Area offers a more varied situation in as much as it has a much wider mix on offer, particularly in the night time economy and it may therefore be appropriate to consider applications for SEVs in the area. The authority has therefore resolved that it will not set a limit on the number of permitted SEVs in the Designated Permitted Area providing those premises are not near properties with sensitive uses or in sensitive locations.
- 4.9 It should be noted that this venue is situated inside the zone.

Properties with sensitive uses or in sensitive locations

- 4.10 In considering if the grant, renewal or variation of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard to the character of the relevant locality or to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put, the authority shall consider, amongst other things, whether the grant of the application would be appropriate, having regard to:
 - a) The fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;
 - b) Whether the premises are sited near shops used by or directed at families or children, or on frontages frequently passed by the same;
 - c) Whether the premises are sited near properties which are sensitive for religious; and/or
 - d) Whether the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families.

Objections (Section 14)

- 4.11 When considering an application for the grant, renewal, variation or transfer of a SEV licence the authority will have regard to any observations submitted to it by the Chief Officer of Police and any objections that have been received from anyone else within the statutory consultation period. Any person can object to an application provided that the objection is relevant to the discretionary grounds for refusal of a licence.
- 4.12 Objections should not be made on moral grounds or values and the authority will not consider objections that are not relevant to the grounds mentioned above.

- 4.13 Objectors must give notice of their objection in writing, stating the general terms of the objection.
- 4.14 Where the authority receives notice of any objection it will, before considering the application, give notice in writing of the general terms of the objection to the applicant. However, the authority shall not without the consent of the person making the objection reveal their name or address to the applicant.
- 4.15 Objections may only be made within the period of 28 days following the date on which the application was made to the authority.

5. National Guidance (March 2010)

- 5.1 The Government has issued non-statutory guidance to aid local authorities carrying out their functions under Schedule 3, as amended by section 27.
- 5.2 Although it is non-statutory guidance, local authorities are encouraged to have regard to the guidance when exercising their functions (although there is no statutory requirement to do so) in order to promote best practice and consistency across England and Wales.
- 5.3 Below (para. 6.4 – 6.14) are relevant extracts from the policy to highlight relevant issued to Members. However, Members should read these in conjunction with the guidance document for completeness and contextual understanding.

Meaning of Sexual Entertainment Venue

- 5.4 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." (para 2.1)
- 5.5 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). (para 2.2)

Refusal of a Licence

- 5.6 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 days 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. (para. 3.23)

5.7 When determining a licence application **Page 11** 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. (para. 3.30)

5.8 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. (para. 3.31)

Relevant Locality

5.9 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. (para. 3.32)

5.10 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. (para. 3.33)

5.11 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. (para. 3.34)

5.12 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. (para. 3.35)

Licence Conditions

5.13 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. (para. 3.39)

The Services Directive

5.14 Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act constitutes an authorisation scheme under Article 9 of the EU Services Directive 2006/123/EC (“the Directive”) which was implemented in the UK by the

Provision of Services Regulations 2009 (the "Regulations"), which came into force on 28th December 2009. Local authorities must ensure they comply with the Regulations when applying the licensing provisions in Schedule 3. (para. 3.53)

6. Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (attached at ANNEX 5)

6.1 The PSED places a statutory duty on the council, in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

6.2 Protected characteristics are:

- a) age
- b) disability
- c) gender reassignment
- d) pregnancy and maternity
- e) race
- f) religion or belief
- g) sex
- h) sexual orientation

6.3 The licensing and regulation of SEVs does fall within the authority's PSED and therefore the authority must have regard to the matters listed above when, for example, setting policy and issuing licences.

6.4 The licensing and regulation of SEVs often creates a tension between the statutory right to operate such a venue and equality issues relating to discrimination and objectification of primarily women.

6.5 The starting point for the authority is the fact that it cannot take any moral stand in relation SEVs in recognition that Parliament has made it lawful to operate a sex establishment. This starting point however does not mean that the authority is therefore bound by the primary legislation at the expense of other statutory requirements.

6.6 When setting policy or determining individual applications, the authority must have regard to its PSED taking into account the individual merits of each application.

6.7 Equality issues may be relevant to (not exhaustive):

- a) The need to protect performers from harassment and threat;
- b) The need to ensure that any protected characteristic group is not more, or less, welcome than another;
- c) The need to properly consider the fear of any protected characteristic group using and accessing public spaces, facilities and infrastructure;

- Page 13
- d) The need to properly understand the locality and the need to ensure, taking into account the relevant locality, any protected characteristic group's view is taken into account such as those relevant to religion or belief or race;
 - e) The need to consider the views and experiences of people with disabilities as a protected characteristic group.

6.8 Some or all of these equality issues may be addressed through appropriate conditions and robust enforcement. Equally, the licensing process may also be an important tool to achieve the same outcome, for example, licence reviews and policy changes.

6.9 **High Court Decision - *THE KING (on the application of) CDE and BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL [2023] EWHC 194 (Admin)***

6.10 In February 2023 the High Court considered a judicial review of the decision to adopt a new SEV policy. This case was stemmed from the following considerations (note - ground 3 does not seem relevant to the variation before Members):-

The Claimant contends that the Defendant erred in that it failed to have regard to and/or conscientiously engage with these SEB concerns by dismissing them as amounting to "moralistic" objections which could not be considered in determining whether to adopt the Policy and the NCP in particular. In so doing, the Defendant is also said to have failed to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty ("PSED") under s.149 of the Equality Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act").

6.11 This case is referenced to ensure that Members consider the High Court decision as far as it would be relevant and appropriate to do so. The key points of focus would seem to be that the PSED, in the context of local authority decision making generally, must be given 'rigorous consideration' of the PSED based on a 'proper and conscientious focus on the statutory criteria'

6.12 The case can be found in full at - <https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2023/194.html>

6.13 A summary and analysis of the case can be found here - <https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/licensing/399-licensing-news/52893-high-courtjudge-quashes-decision-to-introduce-no-cap-strip-club-licensing-policy>

7. **Officer Comments**

7.1 When determining an application for a sexual entertainment venue licence, the committee must have regard to the relevant statutory provisions, the authority's adopted policy, the relevant guidance issued by the Home Office and any objections or comments made by the Chief Officer of Police and other persons.

7.2 In particular, the committee must bear in mind that its grounds for considering this application seem less restricted than for the grant of a new or renewal application. The legislation is silent on the grounds for consideration of a variation application, which is not

ANNEX 1 – Hours and Days of Application

Hours and days of current licence:-

Cheltenham Festival in March 2023 dates 13th,14th,15th , 16th , 17th and 18th
March 2023 - 6 days only with hours to be as below Monday: Monday 8pm until 5am
the day following Thursday: Thursday 6pm to 5am the day following Tuesday:
Tuesday 6pm to 5am the day following Friday: Friday 6pm to 5am the day following
Wednesday: Wednesday 6pm to 5am the day following Saturday: Saturday 8pm to
5am the day following

Hours and days of renewal and variation application:-

SEV to be operational for the following race events at Cheltenham Racecourse,
dates to be confirmed in writing to the Police and Licensing at least 1 month prior to
each event: October - 8pm to 5am for: The Showcase Friday & The Showcase
Saturday November - 8pm to 5am for: The November meeting Friday & The
November meeting Saturday. December - 8pm to 5am for: The Christmas meeting
Friday & The Christmas meeting Saturday. January - 8pm to 5am for: The New
Years Day meeting 1 st January each year & Festive Trials Saturday. March –
Cheltenham Festival Monday 8pm to 5am, Cheltenham Festival Tuesday,
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 6pm to 5am Cheltenham Festival Saturday 8pm to
5am. April -8pm to 5am for: April Meeting Wednesday & April meeting Thursday.
May - Hunters Showcase Friday 8pm to 5am.

This page is intentionally left blank

1.

Previously the operator used the premises as a SEV during the Cheltenham Racing Festival in March 2023. 6-8 commercial waste bins connected to the SEV were lined up outside the front of our premises and despite us moving them each morning, they were placed outside our premises again every evening. This was inconsiderate as the bins could have and should have been placed outside their premises. As a result our 3 window displays could not be seen clearly. Also, the visual impact on the corner position of these listed properties in this historic part of the town was very unpleasant. This vibrant area is now very much a mix of commercial and residential property (the residential element has increased significantly in the past 5 years through conversion of empty commercial buildings). We let out a flat on the top floor of our adjoining building to a young couple. I am concerned that the frequency of the SEV operation's opening dates from October to May, the unsociable hours and associated noise will have a significant impact on the lives of the people living close to the venue.

2.

I have before complained reference this application and went to the hearing at the Council offices.

I work into the evenings as my business requires me to be flexible for clients and all those dates will mean that I cannot offer any appointments as would not expect my clients to have to walk and listen to the noise that comes from number 30. We have two residential flats in this building and surrounded by flats, this is not just a "business" area. We have all worked so hard to keep this area such a friendly community and this just cheapens and degrades, and he has as far as I know not even introduced himself and given any of us any confidence at all into this venture.

3.

I know you must be very busy but I am writing to register my objection to the application for an extended licence to cover events from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. from October to May for 30 Cambray Place as an Adult Entertainment Venue.

Granting such an extension would be deeply offensive Christians, Muslims and other faith groups in the local area. In addition, Cambray Place is a shared space not just for businesses but also for local residents and families, including young children. The Adult Entertainment Venue is in close proximity to places of worship such as Cambray Baptist Church. There are for example various small alleyways connecting Cambray Place and Rodney Road and in the opposite direction connecting Cambray Place with Sandford Park. Such areas late at night when it is dark would be intimidating for women and other members of the public wishing to pass through this part of town if people were coming in and leaving the AEV into the early hours. In addition, there are a number of establishments in close proximity to the Adult Entertainment Venue used by children and young people and families such as the Entertainer, the Hickory-Dickory Day Care Nursery and a number of activities for young people and children happen in the evenings at Cambray Baptist Church. I am not sure shops such as Waitrose and others nearby with late night shopping would be that happy with an Adult Entertainment Venue open from 8 p.m.

Therefore, please would you reject the application for an extended licence for 30 Cambray Place.

4.

To whom it may concern,

I have been made aware of the above application for an extension to an existing Sexual Entertainment license at 30 Cambray Place, Cheltenham.

Whilst I do not have any objection overall to such licenses, I do believe that they should be permitted sensitively and with consideration to surrounding premises and their use.

The property in question is immediately opposite Cambray Church and under section 4.10c, Proximity to a Palace of Worship, I would object to such an application. Church is a spiritual environment, providing space for prayer and quiet reflection at all times. Increasing this license could cause members of the Church to feel vulnerable and uncomfortable by members of the public attending the premises at 30 Cambray Place.

I am sure you will give this application serious consideration before a decision is reached but I hope that the welfare of local residents will be given higher priority than those descending upon the town for the duration of a race meeting...

5.

I wish to register my opposition to this licence application for an establishment, the purposes of which should not be legitimised or validated in any way. Such premises are based on a misogynistic and objectifying view of women which should be totally unacceptable. They also often generate objectionable, antisocial behaviour and intimidating behaviour in and around the area they are in, most of it directed at women.

As a society we are experiencing an increase in violence in incidents in which women are the victims and a rise in discriminatory attitudes. The council should be taking a lead in helping to challenge and tackle these behaviours and attitudes. One way is to ensure that licences for premises of the type in this application are prevented from not granted.

6.

I am writing to object to the Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence (Ref 23/01596/SEXA) which has been applied for by Eroticats.

Cheltenham is marketed as a welcoming place which has a range of activities for families, couples and friends. It gives the impression of being a place of culture and sophistication with a mixture of literary, musical and sporting events. My most recent visit to the town was for several events at the Literary Festival.

I read through the Purple Flag award website describing the reasons that Cheltenham has achieved this award for six years:

*The nationally recognised award is given to towns and cities that have an **appealing, safe and welcoming evening and night-time economy.***

*...the Purple Flag award aims to **raise the standard and broaden the appeal** of town and city centres between the hours of 5pm and 5am. Areas awarded the Purple Flag are recognised for providing a vibrant and diverse mix of dining, entertainment and culture while **promoting the safety and wellbeing of visitors and local residents.***

*Cheltenham has had to demonstrate a continuing commitment to developing and maintaining a **safe evening and night-time economy (ENTE) which appeals to all.***

Cheltenham's evening and night-time economy *is* assessed as **safe, welcoming and inclusive**.

Cheltenham's night-time offer has a vision that it should be **accessible and appealing to every sector of the population and above all safe**.

I do not think that a lap dancing venue fits with Cheltenham's commitment to being welcoming and safe for all and it is certainly below the standard of events generally taking place in the town. In 2023, when we are striving towards equality, diversity and inclusion it seems a backwards step to grant a licence for a venue which promotes misogyny and the exploitation of women. Surely in the 21st century it is possible to attract men to the race events without needing to entice them with the prospect of seeing naked women. It is not enough to say that a venue is well run when the entertainment on offer is discriminatory and degrading and attracts men who will be drawn to this. They are not confined only to the venue but will make the town more unsafe and unappealing to women; residents and visitors alike.

7.

The venue is opposite a Place of Worship, namely Cambray Baptist Church (Your ruling 4. IOC applies). It is very close, as there is no road separating the two buildings, just a paved pedestrian area. This Church has a large congregation and holds various events each day and evening, including a busy youth club and lunches for pensioners. These folk need to be able to visit their Church in safety.

I have personal recollections of being harassed by men attending the sex club which ran from The Three Pigs. I, thereafter, took care to avoid that area of town when the club was in operation, but this prevented me from attending events in the town centre, as my bus stop is in the lower High Street. I shall have the same concerns if the licence is extended to cover every race event. Currently I avoid the town centre on the Gold Cup dates but extending this licence would affect my enjoyment of the town centre for 3 days of 8 consecutive months.

I am not sure if you are aware, but three doors from the Club, at 33 Cambray Place, is a Mental Health facility, whose staff counsel victims of sexual assault and people who have left the sex trade. (Your ref 4.5dii applies here.)

8.

The application for a SEV licence is inappropriate because the characteristics of the relevant locality (and the Council Policy) indicate that it would be inappropriate for the following reasons:

A) The fact that the premises are sited in a residential area.

My family and I live in an area just off Cambray Place and have young children. We do not wish to be awoken by visitors to the premises who, given the nature of the application request, would (and have in the past) traipse the local surrounding area causing disturbances, waking up the locals during the early hours of the morning and late at night.

B) The premises are sited near shops used by or directed at families or children, or on frontages frequently passed by the same.

We have very young children and frequently pass the site on our way to and from school, as well as the local shops. Our eldest is naturally curious and inquisitive and notices every little change in his surroundings. What are we supposed to tell him when he asks what is happening there?

There are also two cafes directly opposite the establishment which are frequented daily by children, young persons and young families wishing to enjoy a peaceful sit down meal, as well as the family-friendly Oxfam shop which is adjacent to the site.

C) The premises are sited near properties which are sensitive for religious reasons; and

D) which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families.

The site is located directly across from Cambray Baptist Church, an important place of worship in the local area and which receives a sizeable attendance of young children, young persons and families.

I do wish to also point out that the last time this venue was used for the purposes of being used as a SEV, those responsible for running the premises were parked ILLEGALLY in the pedestrian zone, as well as across the striped lines in the parking bay on Cambray Place.

I trust all the points above are sufficient grounds for the application of a SEV at the above-mentioned premises to be rejected.

9.

1. I write to object to **23/01596/SEXA** pertaining to an application for a Sexual Entertainment License at 30 Cambray Place. I submit this objection on two grounds:

a. Firstly, the grant of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put. The proposed premises is directly opposite Cambray Baptist Church, a long established, prominent and active Christian church in our town. It should be noted that Cambray Baptist Church exercises a broad ministry, including amongst children and vulnerable adults. During the week, parents and carers often drop off and pick up children outside the church, and this venue would be in direct view of these children. There are two other premises within metres of 30 Cambray Place where counselling for victims of sexual assault and those who have left the sex trade take place.

b. Secondly, I object on the grounds of proximity to a place of worship. It is deeply offensive to the many Christians in Cheltenham to license such a premises directly opposite a Christian place of worship.

2. Having witnessed first-hand the melee following the end of a day at the races this year, I am additionally concerned about the safety of women in our town and the impact venues of this sort have on it. Your own survey on the safety of women at night¹ highlights how unsafe women feel in Cheltenham. 75% of our women do not feel safe, and almost a third report regular sexual harassment. Research² has shown that the presence of strip clubs increases violence against women in the local community. I would ask you to consider carefully whether you can tolerate this further risk to our women.

10.

This application if approved will undoubtedly put women and girls at significant risk of sexual objectification, sexual discrimination, sexual harassment and sexual violence in this area of Cheltenham, given the existing criminal activity surrounding human trafficking and sexual

exploitation connected to the Cheltenham Racing Festival this would only serve to compound this elicit behaviour and culture. If the local authority were, to approve this application this would undoubtedly convey the message that they're in agreement and condone the sexual exploitation of women and girls.

There is also ever-increasing evidence of the link between AEVs, prostitution and violence against women and girls. The Gender Equality Duty 2007, legally requires local authorities to promote equality between men and women in all that they do. The gender equality duty is particularly relevant in relation to the licencing of AEVs because of the gendered nature of sex establishments like adult like lap dancing clubs, etc and because of the negative impact that these AEVs have on efforts to promote equality between men and women.

The negative implications of SEVs on women are outlined below: SEVs normalise the sexual objectification of women in contradiction to efforts to promote equality between women and men. The links between objectification, discrimination and violence against women are recognised at the international level by the legal 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. Similarly, the UK based End Violence Against Women coalition has called on the UK government to tackle the sexualisation of women and girls because it provides a "conductive context" for violence against women. For recent research on this issue see these research findings which show how objectification of women in lads mags is undifferentiable to most people from the language used by sex offenders to talk about their victims (<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/aboutus/news-events/news/mags.asp>). Similar to 'lads mags', SEVs promote "sex-object" culture - the mainstreaming of the sex and porn industries and the ever increasing sexual objectification of women and girls. In addition, the PR makeover of branding lap dancing and SEV 's as glamorous and "harmful fun", have contributed to a significant percentage of teenage girls seeing being a lap dancer as an ideal profession. We need to think about how our culture treats women more generally. Teresa May at the Women's Aid Conference 2010: "It is only when businesses appreciate their responsibility to end the sexualisation of women that some people will stop treating women like objects. And it's only when our communities stand up and say violence against women is unacceptable — that attitudes will really begin to change".

As a local resident and parent of both boys and a girl, I would urge the councillors to make a stand and reject this 'sexual entertainment' licensing application, as not only will it effect the reputation of Cheltenham, but the crime, disorder and affects on the local residences, businesses. It would be offensive to the Christian community of Cambray Baptist Church directly opposite, Muslims and other faiths represented in the local area.

There is also a children's nursery and children's Dance School very close to the AEV, which is highly inappropriate and would likely expose young girls to inappropriate sexual conduct and behaviour. A review by the Department of Work and Pensions found that '75% of women involved in prostitution were drawn into prostitution when they were children'. With many young people spending their time in the town centre, they would be put at high-risk of exposure around the Cambray Place area, particularly with the close proximity of a number of public houses to the AEV, adding alcohol to the mix would further increase the likelihood of risk to these vulnerable individuals.

This is something that I urge the local authorities ~~to not allow~~ or condone but rather protect our children and youth in our community from the risk of harm both physically and mentally by rejecting this application.

It would also contradict and undermine the aim of the local community to bring about positive, genuinely sustainable characterful and thriving neighbourhoods within Cheltenham which support the need to and principle of upskilling its population and closing the education gap across its communities.

11. Alex Chalk MP

I am writing to object to the above application. An SEV at this (or indeed any) location in Cheltenham would be wholly inappropriate, and I urge CBC to use its broad discretion to refuse it.

By way of context, the Policing and Crime Act 2009 reclassified lap dancing clubs as “sexual entertainment venues” [SEVs] and gave local authorities the power, if they adopted the legislation, to regulate such venues as sex establishments under Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 [Schedule 3]. The change introduced by section 27 of the 2009 Act was in response to concerns that, under the Licensing Act 2003, local communities did not have sufficient powers to control where lap dancing clubs were established. According to the Home Office Guidance, the reclassification allows local authorities like CBC to refuse a licence application on wider grounds than under the 2003 Act and gives local people a greater say in the licensing process. Indeed, para 1.3 of the Guidance states as follows:

Section 27 gives local authorities more powers to control the number and location of lap dancing clubs and similar venues in their area...these provisions will allow local authorities to refuse an application on potentially wider grounds than is permitted under the 2003 Act and will give local people a greater say over the regulation of lap dancing clubs and similar venues in their area.

As noted above, I would invite CBC to use those powers. I would further note that Philip Kolvin, *Licensed premises: law, practice and policy* (2nd ed), Bloomsbury, 2013, p668 states that the grounds for refusing a licence under Schedule 3 “confer a wide discretion and will not easily be shown to be unreasonable...”

On the specifics of this application, it is noted that Cambray Place is a mixed-use street, made up of commercial but also residential properties. Locating a SEV near to residential properties where children can be expected to come and go would be wholly inappropriate. The proposed operating hours (opening at 6pm or 8pm depending on the day) simply undermine the application further.

Second, the venue is sited near properties which are sensitive for religious purposes – specifically Cambray Baptist Church. The Church holds various activities throughout the week corresponding to times at which the application has been requested. By way of example, youth group activities take place on Friday evenings, during the proposed period of operation of the licence. To have young people walking past a functioning SEV is plainly wrong.

I would be grateful if the above points could be taken into consideration.

12. **Councillor Iain Dobie** - College Ward

CBC Cabinet Member for Clean & Green

(Waste & Recycling and Parks & Gardens)

Councillor Garth Barnes has confirmed his support for the comments made by Councillor Dobie and he confirmed that he agrees with the points made by him.

As one of the two borough councillors for College Ward (the other being Councillor Barnes) I wish to object to the proposal to licence a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) at the above location in my ward.

My objection is on the specific grounds that

- this is a residential area
- the proposed location is opposite a public house with an outside area that is used by families
- that a church is very close by (immediate line of sight)
- that the application proposes separate and individual booths for the sexual entertainment which I feel would not provide adequate safety and security for the entertainers.

Moreover, I would like the committee to note that I have been contacted by a number of residents who have their own concerns, particularly

1. About the wellbeing of the female entertainers (there is scepticism that regulation by the council provides sufficient protection - it is claimed the dancers are likely to be under coercion by employers to provide formulaic statements of assurance which may not be true)
2. About the likelihood that "punters" will emerge from the SEV in a state that will be more likely to threaten and endanger women they encounter subsequently in our town centre.

I am sympathetic to these concerns from voters.

I have sought - and the media have reported this - clarification from Alex Chalk, MP for Cheltenham and Minister for Justice, as to why the legal loophole continues that prevents a wholesale ban on SEVs in Cheltenham. Despite his claiming to oppose SEVs, and having the power to change the law, I have to date not received a response from Mr Chalk to this challenge.

I would be grateful if you would make public the full text of this objection as part of the Licensing Committee proceedings.

13.

I write to object to the application above on several grounds:

1. The council's own survey in August 2021 showed women did not feel safe at night, and during race week the number of these increased to 75%. If you fully considered these figures from your own survey and their implications, you would conclude this application should not be granted.
2. Faith communities (Christians, Muslims, and Jews for example) find these establishments highly offensive.
3. Other premises nearby cater for vulnerable & frail people, people with mental health difficulties, and children. The Practice rooms and the Counselling Rooms do this, and the Hallowed Grounds (in the forecourt of Cambray church) also caters for such people. For their sake, this application should not be granted.
4. In a similar vein, the Salvation Army is nearby, and as you probably know the S.A. has a major role in helping women trafficked by the sex trade. If you carefully considered their views, you would conclude this application should not be granted.

14.

I am a resident of Cambray Place, Cheltenham, and would like to strongly object to a sexual entertainment license being granted for Jessop House, Cambray Place, Cheltenham, application number 23/01596/SEXA.

I object on the following reasons:

1. Cambray Place, is mostly residential to include families with young children.
2. Jessop House has multiple residential flats either side of the property and in front of the venue. Allowing this application would seriously impact these properties, especially with the license finishing at 5am. This would create an undesirable location for the residents.
3. Jessop House is directly opposite from a popular and well used place of worship. The Church is used by many families as a place of worship, and holds weekly children's clubs, including early Sunday school.
4. The venue is not far from a Childrens shop in the high street, which obviously attracts young children.

Jessop House is therefore in a sensitive area, and it would be detrimental to the community of Cambray Place for the Council to approve a sexual entertainment license for this venue.

I would be more than happy to discuss my objection with the licensing committee.

15.

We wish to object to the above application on the grounds that this venue is opposite Cambray Church and neighbours a Mental Health facility which provides help and counselling for victims of sexual assault and for people who have left the sex trade. Thus this conflicts with Section 4.5 dii – “Uses to which other premises in the area are put” and also 4.10c, “Proximity of Place of Worship”.

16.

I wish to make an objection to the aforementioned application due to the fact that the venue is in a residential area used by families (including us, frequently, and we have young children) and is opposite a religious venue.

My wife has already submitted an objection. Can I submit one myself even if we are in the same household?

17.

I would like to register my objection to the extension of licence to the Eroticats in Cambray Place during Horse racing events and at other times Viz: <https://www.punchline-gloucester.com/articles/aanews/eroticats-wants-to-bring-lapdancing-to-new-venue-in-cheltenham-during-race-events>

These kinds of clubs objectify both women and men and should not be encouraged in our town. It is particularly inappropriate that the proposed location is opposite Cambray Baptist Church.

The Lilith Project on lap dancing in three London Boroughs (Eden, 2007) found that there was a “50% increase in reported rates in the vicinity of the clubs and an increase in local people’s feelings of harassment and fear of violence.”

The Centre for Crime and Justice Studies reported that

“women’s sense of safety and wellbeing in public spaces is compromised by the widespread use of sexualised imagery of women and girls in public spaces and by the growth of SEVs such as lap dancing clubs.” (Patiniotis and Standing, 2012)

Leeds used to have a number of these “clubs” and some research revealed the extent of bad behaviour and practice in relation to the performers who have to pay the clubs (not, as one might expect, the other way round)

Experience on women working as lap dancers:

"The management in all the clubs treated the girls very badly, they were discriminatory, frequently derogatory in their comments to and about the girls, they routinely practised favouritism, among the girls who were the high earners, and certainly purposely perpetrated an atmosphere, of intense competition between the girls, it was certainly meant to intimidate us and divide us. The management in all the clubs routinely put on too many girls on a night, so there was intense competition between the girls for the customers. The customers' attitudes varied between politeness to downright hostility and abuse." *Alexandra*

"[The industry is seen as] a dream built on a myth that you can become famous, rich etc., it is perceived as being glamorous, and particularly due to the success of celebrated topless models like Jordan (Katie Price), girls and young women perceive this as being a stepping stone onto greater things, however, for every Jordan there are millions of girls who will never become famous, and will either: go into prostitution as they get older or give up the industry and do something else, but be emotionally and even physically damaged by the industry. The industry by its very nature is highly discriminatory and ageist, it is a certain fact that men want to see nubile young women naked, not 40 year old women, so the very core of the industry is extremely derogatory, and degrading to women of all ages." *Alexandra*

"I don't know any where you get paid a wage. It varies but you have to pay what's called a house fee. You pay club £10 up to £80 for being there. That's not for doing anything. You give them that up front. Then they take a percentage of what you earn. It varies depending on what you earn. 10% if you don't do very well, or 25% if you have a good night. If the managers see you having a good night, they bump up the commission level. Lots of people would lie so they wouldn't have to pay. [there are] lots of hidden costs they don't tell you about." *Sarah*

"You have a code of conduct but it's not adhered to too much. It's just to placate the local authorities. We weren't even encouraged to read it. You just sign it quickly. I was worried about signing it – but it became apparent it was all nonsense." *Sarah*

Women who want to work in these clubs are, at best being exploited and at worst may be trafficked for the purpose. To ascertain which pertains will take considerable Police time and cost to the local tax payers.

Why does Cheltenham Borough Council wish to follow the poor practice in Metropolitan areas when it comes to the safety and well-being of women and girls?

18. Gloucestershire Women's Liberation Collective (GlosWomen)

We are writing on behalf of our members to object to the application submitted by Red Apple Associates Limited to allow for lap dancing at Jessop House, 30 Cambray Place, Cheltenham to coincide with race meets at Cheltenham Racecourse. We are disappointed but not at all surprised that the applicant has submitted an application for year-round lap dancing.

We refer to our letter of objection dated 10 September 2023 which details our concerns relating to the impact on the lives of women and girls of Cheltenham (both women working in the sex trade and women and girls in the wider community), which we believe should be considered as part of Cheltenham Borough Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in deciding the outcome of this application.

Lap dancing clubs - where women are sexually objectified and the idea that men are entitled to access women's bodies is reinforced - contribute to harmful sexist and misogynistic attitudes that underpin the endemic abuse, harassment and violence against women and girls in society.

We attach the full results of GlosWomen's Race Week survey (Please see '**Appendix**'). As mentioned previously, women reported feeling unsafe in Cheltenham during Race Week and a

number of respondents felt that the presence of lap dancing reinforced the sexual objectification of women and girls.

Sex equality concerns not ‘moral objections’

GlosWomen, along with a number of other objectors, attended and contributed to the Licensing Committee Meeting on 4 October 2023, where a variation of an existing licence at Under the Prom was granted to allow for lap dancing to take place during the November race meet.

We were pleased that objections made on the basis of sex equality concerns were not dismissed by the Licensing Committee as ‘moral objections’, as has been the case previously. We hope this change in approach will allow for more detailed consideration of the impact of the sex trade on women and girls and how this contributes to sexist and misogynistic attitudes that drive male violence against women and girls in society.

It was also positive to hear of the new survey launched by the Cheltenham Community Safety Partnership to understand how safe women feel in the evening and at night in the town centre, as well as a commitment to consult with local women on the proposed Pledge for Women’s Safety.

Public Sector Equality Duty

We were encouraged by the discussion of the Public Sector Equality Duty during the Committee Meeting of 4 October 2023. Councillors asked questions about discrimination or inequality specifically relating to the applicant and the venue. There was also discussion about taking a ‘gender neutral’ approach in terms of the application of SEV policy and consideration of the protected characteristic of disability.

Unfortunately, what councillors failed to do was engage with the wider issues of an industry where women are sexually objectified and the idea that men are entitled to access women’s bodies is reinforced.

As equality law expert Karon Monaghan KC put it to the Women and Equalities Committee in 2018, Sexual Entertainment Venues *“have an impact on the wider community because they promote the idea that sexual objectification of women and sexual harassment commonly in those environments is lawful and acceptable...How are we [licensing SEVs] in the 21st century? We are not going to get rid of sexual violence if we mandate the sexual objectification of women in licensed venues.”*

We were told that there was no evidence in Cheltenham of a link between the lap dancing club and harassment and violence towards women and girls. But research clearly tells us that there is a link between sexist and misogynistic attitudes, a culture that perpetuates and reinforces these messages and the perpetration of sexual violence. Lap dancing contributes to a culture that reinforces sexist and misogynistic attitudes.

- A study for The Journal of Sex Research found that more than half of the men interviewed visited strip clubs to escape social conventions and rules that required them to treat women as equals. One contributor commented that, *“With all of this sexual harassment stuff going around these days, men need somewhere to go where they can act like they want.”*¹

¹ Frank, K. (2005). Exploring the motivations and fantasies of strip club customers in relation to legal regulations. Archives of Sexual Behavior, 34(5), 487-504

- A review for the Government Equalities Office in 2020, found that there was strong evidence of a link between the sexual objectification of women and harmful sexual attitudes and behaviours towards women.²³
- A 2011 research study of women who perform in lap dancing clubs found that over half of participants reported frequent incidents of sexual assault.⁴
- A 2013 United Nations study found that for men who admitted subjecting women to rape, the most frequently cited motivation was a belief in their entitlement to sex.⁵

Councillors must also consider the fact that the majority of sexual harassment and violence is not reported by women and girls. We live in a culture that normalises such abuse, blames women for the violence they are subjected to and, if women do report, a criminal justice system that routinely fails and re-traumatises them.

Our research showed that over half of the women and girls surveyed had experienced sexual comments or noises, such as catcalling or wolf whistling during Race Week, while a third experienced unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature, such as kissing, brushing up against someone.

Councillors have previously heard evidence from the Cheltenham Guardians of the numerous interventions that they have to make during Race Week, to prevent women from being cornered by men.

The Licensing Committee will also no doubt be aware of recent press coverage of Cheltenham Race Week in The Sun and The Daily Star, where a male patron enthusiastically described the lap dancing club and women working there as “three floors of wh***s”. This is derogatory and misogynistic language and an example of the attitudes reinforced by lap dancing.

Supply and demand

It seems clear from the pattern of Sexual Entertainment Venue licence applications (which always coincide with race meets) that lap dancing only becomes viable at times when racegoers, with cash to spend, arrive in town. Even then, it seems that significant effort is needed to drum up business. The applicant always requests variations to the SEV policy standard conditions to allow for leafleting, the running of a minibus (to advertise and transport patrons) and to extend operating hours.

By granting a licence for year round lap dancing, particularly on terms that allow for extended operating hours and advertising and solicitation, Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) are complicit in

² GEO (2020). The Relationship Between Pornography Use and Harmful Sexual Behaviours: Literature Review.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/952

³ /The_Relationship_between_Pornography_use_and_Harmful_Sexual_Attitudes_and_Behaviours-_literature_re view.pdf

⁴ Sanders, T., & Campbell, R. (2012). The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Briefing for Licensing Practitioners. University of Leeds.

⁵ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/9/half-of-men-report-using-violence-and-a-quarter-perpetrate-rape-according-to-un-survey>

creating demand for lap dancing, which contributes to a culture that reinforces sexist and misogynistic attitudes towards women.

¹ Sanders, T., & Campbell, R. (2012). The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Briefing for Licensing Practitioners. University of Leeds.

¹ [http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/9/half-of-men-report-using-violence-and-a-quarter-per-petrate-](http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/9/half-of-men-report-using-violence-and-a-quarter-per-petrate-rape-according-to-un-survey)

[rape-according-to-un-survey](http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/9/half-of-men-report-using-violence-and-a-quarter-per-petrate-rape-according-to-un-survey)

We are often told that CBC's hands are tied in respect of the grant of Sexual Entertainment Venue licences because it is a legal activity and due to the existence of the frequency exemption. However, CBC's own Sexual Entertainment Policy allows for a nil cap for SEV licences.

In respect of the frequency exemption, the relevant legislation does allow for these provisions to be repealed and we would hope that CBC will use whatever influence it may have to call for such a change.

We hope that the Licensing Committee will show their commitment to ending the sexual objectification and commodification of women by refusing this application.

Appendix - GlosWomen's Race Week Survey

Please see separate document

19.

My husband and I live in Cheltenham about 7miles from the application site. We are largely retired but visit Cheltenham town centre frequently and regularly for shopping, coffee, meeting up with family and friends and for other leisure activities. We are regular attendants at the Cambray Baptist Church and have been so for a great many years. We are also keen supporters of Cheltenham Literature, Jazz, and Science Festivals.

My husband and I are appalled by the proposed extension of opening dates and times of this Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV). Based on information provided by the Licencing Team leader at my request, if approval were to be granted, the SEV could potentially operate between 2-6 days each month, during the week, at weekends and on public holidays, from October to Christmas/New Year and right through to May every year. This substantial increase in frequency and intensification of such use at the application site is unacceptable and we object on the following grounds.

1. Contravening provisions under The Aarhus (or Aarhus) Convention, ratified by the UK Government on 23 February 2005 (see attached)
 - a. All local authorities in the UK (including Cheltenham Borough Council) are bound by UK law to make environmental information easily accessible to the public. Without such information, members of the public are unable to make informed decisions about how proposals are likely to affect the environment in which they live, work, play, interact with each other and enjoy different pursuits. Exemptions to the provision of information may apply if the information relates to sensitive issues like international

relations, public security, commercial and industrial confidential matters, or affecting protected species (under the Habitats Regulations).

- b. Given the significant increase and intensification of use at the application site for SEV, relevant information that is most useful during consultation stage include staff number (including no. of dancers, door security staff, bar attendants); transport arrangements; marketing/leafletting/publicity arrangements at/around the site; arrangements to control queues at the door before/during SEV opening hours; crowd control arrangement including max no. of customers queuing outside the venue, and any overriding reason(s) for the proposal (other than the obvious financial gains for the owners). As members of the public, we also want to know if there any positive spinoffs for the local communities (local businesses and church) that are negatively impacted by this proposal. None of this information is provided by the Council.
 - c. There is no information displayed on the Council website despite my email (and verbal) request to the Council Licencing Team. We are concerned that at best, the Council has failed in its duty to disseminate vital information under The Arhus Convention, thus making this consultation a routine exercise of no real substance. At worst, the Council is at risk to be perceived at colluding with the applicant while the applicant is trying to hide things from the public.
2. Inconsistencies with Cheltenham Borough Council SEV Policy Statement (adopted 29 July 2020)
- a. The application site is located directly opposite Cambray Baptist Church on the other side of Cambray Place. Cambray Baptist Church service is well attended every Sunday morning by children, as well as men and women of all age groups and of different nationalities. Evening service is also regularly held at the church. The church building is used throughout the week/weekends. Throughout the week, Cambray Church runs meetings during the day and evening for church members, and holds events and outreach activities for kids, youths (aged 7-9 and 10-13), young adults, pensioners. Hallowed Grounds, located at the church forecourt at Cambray Place, welcomes passersby who are not church goers and offers them coffees, cakes and a listening ear particularly to those more vulnerable members of the society.
 - b. The application for extended dates and opening times will be extremely insensitive to a religious organisation and its ongoing/future/planned activities. Currently Rodney Road is a busy road with on-street parking on both sides and narrow pavements, it is unsuitable location for dropping off/picking up people attending church activities after dark. Cambray Place offers a better alternative as it is well lit and relatively safer for church users waiting (on foot/in the car) to pick up and/or drop off their kids and other vulnerable persons at church events. We are concerned that extending the opening dates/times at the SEV will make Cambray Place more intimidating and potentially unsafe (from a safeguarding perspective), making it easy for vulnerable young people to be targeted, and potentially discriminating against any current/future church after dark/evening activities for children, women, young persons or families.
 - c. Council's SEV Policy Statement also identifies the presence of residential properties as a factor in considering the location and use of an SEV. Cambray Place is predominantly residential in character with some retail and commercial uses located closer to the pedestrianised High Street. Apart from Cambray Place, residential properties are also located on Selby Lodge, Cambray Court, and Wellington Street, all within easy walking

distance from the application site. The proposal favours the SEV workers/users but is biased against women, kids, young children, young families, elderly and other vulnerable residents living in the vicinity of the application site. Residents who want to walk to the High Street shops (e.g. Tesco Express, Superdrug, John Lewis, Soho Coffee, Costa Coffee, Tailors, The Entertainer etc) will have no choice but to walk past the SEV and its potential customers queueing or loitering around at Cambray Place most likely under the influence of alcohol or other abuse substances.

- d. There are also two other mental health facilities at 33 Cambray Place and 10 Bath Street, which offer counselling and support to victims of sexual assault and persons who have come out of the sex trade. The proposal, if approved, is insensitive to the staff who work at the facilities and needs of the users.

3. Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

- a. Cheltenham Borough Council's recent survey of safety of Women at night (August 2021) has identified the following findings which are of relevance to the consideration of this application:

- an overwhelming majority of respondents (72% out of 638 respondents) that they don't feel safe at night. (This percentage rose to 75% during race week.)
- 30% of respondents said they get regularly sexually harassed.
- 33% of the respondents said those unwanted behaviours are regularly happening in pubs and clubs.
- 94% of respondents also reported that they have changed their behaviours following their experiences.

- b. The SEV is not exclusive to visitors to the races. Increased use of the venue as a SEV will encourage the loitering of potential SEV users (or other undesirables) around the area waiting for the SEV to open or when it is open. Realistically, the SEV as a business can only employ security staff to manage queuing outside its premises. It has no responsibility or control over anti-social behaviour from public loitering in the vicinity of its premises.
- c. For women (particularly those who do not work in night clubs or the sex entertainment industry), there is a genuine fear of unwelcomed, unsolicited, unprovoked anti-social behaviour (jeering, name calling, wolf whistling, being shouted at across the street etc) from men who are waiting outside or loitering around night clubs/SEVs during the day/night. To anyone who has not experienced this behaviour first-hand, the fear is only academic. Many years ago I experienced this while working in a city centre office (in Birmingham) near those venues. The experience of being harassed (on a quiet street during the day) because I was a lone ethnic minority female was frightening; it made me feel very vulnerable and unsafe. Nowadays I tend to avoid any parts of a town or city during the day/night particularly if there is a night club/SEV around and I am on my own.
- d. Based on my experience and the findings from the Council's own survey of Women safety at night, I believe that this proposal will only add to the risk of women being targeted near venues like this SEV, thereby being discriminated against and put at risk by the Council's own licencing regime if this proposal is permitted.

Based on the above, we urge the Licensing Sub-Committee to reject this proposal.

Copy of email from x:

Dear Jason

Thank you for your time earlier this morning, and for providing me with additional info on the proposed variation of operating hours/times. I will access the link to minutes of the Licensing Subcommittee meeting last Nov when the SEV application was discussed.

Thank you also for confirming that the deadline for consultation is 13/11/2023. May I suggest this date be added to the council website to provide clarity.

From our conversation, it would appear that the applicant has submitted more information but it has not been disclosed on the council website. In the spirit of openness, transparency and fairness, basic info relating to operations hours, staff no, transport arrangement, likely publicity including advertising/ leafletting/soliciting, justifications etc will be required to help us (members of the public) to make more informed comments regarding the implications of the application. Without the disclosure of such basic information, the council is at risk to be perceived being biased towards the applicant and that the applicant is trying to hide something from the public.

Many thanks again and hope you have a good break.

20.

I am writing to object to this application and the variations requested within it.

Whilst I acknowledge that, under current legislation, there is a frequency exemption which the applicant could use to operate an SEV (subject to the constraints of the exemption and other related licensing legislation), the council has the power to make decisions regarding the operation of the SEV as outlined within their SEV policy statement and their adult entertainment guidance note.

Objection to the entire application

Within the SEV policy adopted by the council on 29th July 2020, Section 11.2.1 outlines the discretionary reasons that the council can refuse an application.

I believe that 11.2.1.d is relevant to this application and provides the council with sufficient grounds to refuse (or restrict aspects of) this application and the variations requested:

d) that the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard: -

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

Whilst the location of the venue (but not the paved pedestrian area immediately outside of the entrance to the venue) is (just) within the designated area, S 12.1 and 12.3 of the SEV policy allows the council scope not to licence a venue if it is near other properties with sensitive uses or in sensitive locations (The SEV policy incorrectly refers to section 11.4. This does not exist and should more correctly be referred to as 12.4).

12.4 Properties with sensitive uses or in sensitive locations:

Requires that consideration is given to the following when deciding whether to grant the application and variations:

a) The fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

b) Whether the premises are sited near shops used by or directed at families or children, or on frontages frequently passed by the same;

c) Whether the premises are sited near properties which are sensitive for religious; and/or

d) Whether the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families.

Location

The location of the venue is on the outer edge of the council's designated area, with the paved pedestrianised area immediately outside the entrance to the venue being outside of the designated area. The venue is located within the town centre, at Cambray Place, and is directly opposite residential locations (flats) and other businesses (Taylors public house & restaurant, a coffee shop and tanning salon) and Cambray Baptist Church which are all outside of the designated area and are directed at families and children.

Cambray Baptist Church and two restaurants all cater for the inclusion of children. The Ox advertises itself as "a neighbourhood family restaurant" and Taylors displays a child's menu for under 12s on its website with a Winnie the pooh colouring template.

Businesses within the designated area and immediately next to the location are Oxfam, a wedding design shop, and a complimentary therapy collective.

Cambray Place and the adjacent streets (such as Wellington Street and Mews) have a significant number of private residences. On several visits to this area, the presence of children at a number of these residences has been evident. Cambray Court, a large residential block of flats, sits at the bottom of Cambray Place. The paved area of Cambray Place is a direct access point for adults (young and old) and children to access this residential area from the High Street.

Objections to the variations within the application (with reference to the council's SEV policy statement and adult entertainment guidance note).

The applicant has requested that on a number of days the hours the SEV operates are extended beyond those noted in General Conditions 1 of the council's SEV policy. Namely that entertainment can commence at 17:00 rather than 20:00 and cease at 05:00 rather than 04:00. (see Appendix 2 for the details provided by the council).

The council's SEV policy (General Conditions, point 1) states that "***adult entertainment will only be allowed within the hours of 20:00 hours and 04:00 the following morning***". If this licence is granted, I urge the council to reinstate these operating hours. This is a measured and pragmatic solution given the sensitive nature of the venue as outlined in the council's own policy.

The venue is currently closed and undergoing refurbishment. There are sensitive areas immediately to the front of the venue, which is (I understand) the only point of access to the venue.

Cambray Baptist Church holds regular events for children and young adults at the church during the days and hours that the venue wishes to operate:

- two youth groups on Fridays 7.30pm-9pm (school years 7 to 9 and 10 to 13, so children aged from 11 to 16)
- BLAST children's club – ages 6-11 Fridays 6-7.30pm

Hickory-Dickory's, the nursery, which is located at Cambray Place is open until 6pm every day.

As noted above the two restaurants at Cambray Place are aimed at families with children.

I have noted at a previous licensing meeting an argument was posited regarding the potential for groups of men to congregate outside the venue if the applied-for hours were not permitted. I would suggest that an easy and implementable solution is feasible.

Based on observations as a resident of Cheltenham who frequents this area and more specifically having visited this area several times following the application, it is reasonable to conclude the residents who live in this location include children and young people.

Additionally, given the number of venues that cater for families with children, it is evident that children and young people will be in the vicinity of the venue at times it wishes to operate, particularly during the Cheltenham Festival, given the extended opening hours that have been previously agreed and have been requested for additional days during the racing calendar.

I believe that the request for entertainment to commence at 17:00 (rather than 20:00) will have a disproportionate impact on the area in the immediate vicinity of the venue and request that the council adhere to the hours currently outlined within their SEV policy.

The venue plans

Having looked at the plans submitted by the venue I would raise the following concerns / questions.

1. It is my understanding, based on the plans, that the SEV will provide entertainment in 30 booths across 3 floors. I understand that there is no "common area" within the venue where entertainment will be provided.
2. Condition 18 of the council's SEV policy states "**that there must be no physical contact between the performer and any member of the viewing public**".

Furthermore, the council's adult entertainment guidance note states that "**A safe distance of one metre should be maintained between performers and customers**".

These requirements reflect the very sensitive nature of the entertainment provided at this venue and are there to protect the performers.

Having looked at the plans submitted by the applicant it was not possible to calculate the size / height of the booths. It is therefore not possible for the committee, based on the plans presented, to assure itself that the conditions noted above will be met at this venue.

This is a serious safeguarding risk for the performers and requires urgent clarification by the applicant before the committee makes a decision on this application.

The licensing team were not aware of whether the booths have any doors or other mechanism that can be used to enclose the booth. The plans appear to suggest not but clarification of this would be prudent.

Page 35

Whilst not required by the council, I would suggest given the nature of this entertainment details regarding any furniture (such as chairs) and any structure, temporary or otherwise, within the booth are provided by the applicant.

3. Floor 2 appears to have an area with booths for performances which double as a changing room for performers. I would suggest that clarity of how this area operates for the privacy, safety and dignity of the performers is sought from the applicant. It would be a safeguarding risk for performers if customers could access this area whilst performers were changing.
4. The plans submitted by the applicant do not appear to include the location of CCTV. I do not know if separate details of CCTV have been provided.

It is well known that most, if not all, CCTV systems have blind spots (areas within the camera's field of view where surveillance coverage is limited or non-existent) which occur due to factors such as camera placement, obstructions, lighting conditions or technical limitations.

Corners, recesses, or areas behind obstacles are common blind spot locations, which will be abundant at this venue given it has 30 booths. Given this venue appears to provide all of its entertainment in booths this is an area of high risk (in terms of safeguarding performers) that merits further evaluation by the committee before a decision is made.

5. I would further reference conditions 31 and 33 (door supervisors) of the council's SEV policy which outline how the performance areas will be supervised by the applicant's on-site team. Given performances are provided in booths (which appear to have solid sides) this will obstruct the view into all areas of the booths. I do not believe that compliance with the conditions can be guaranteed (unless there is a supervisor stationed outside every booth at all times during the operation of the venue). I believe that this creates an unacceptably high safeguarding risk for the performers.

Based on the plans and details observed, I do not believe it is possible for a guarantee of no physical contact or a safe distance of one metre to be given in relation to this venue. I would ask the committee, at the very least, not to permit entertainment in booths.

Wider Context / Commentary

Evidence from SEVs

According to Notbuyingit, a standard lap dance involves *near* sexual contact which makes it almost impossible to tell from club CCTV or even on-site inspections whether or not *actual* sexual contact is happening and 'conditions' and 'house rules' are being breached.

[Background – Not Buying It](#)

Reporting of Sexual Violence

On a wider point, comments made at the 4th October 2023 licensing committee meeting (in relation to there being no evidence of women being subjected to sexual violence) do not take into account with plethora of evidence that sexual violence is under-reported.

It is unequivocal that sexual offences are under-reported. In 2021, the Guardian published data that showed out of 1,000 sexual offences only 145 will be reported to the police.

[Sexual offences: when women report them, what happens? | Sarah Everard | The Guardian](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/ng-interactive/2021/oct/02/sexual-offences-when-women-report-them-what-happens>

The council's own survey in 2021 returned feedback from the participants that ***“Despite the frequency of these unwanted behaviours, 34% of respondents are not telling anyone about their experiences.”***

Under the Public Sector Equality Duty, the council has an obligation to (all) women within the venue, in the vicinity of the venue and in wider society to eliminate harassment. I am unclear how this obligation is currently being taken into the decision-making process of this committee.

Men's sexual violence against women and girls

Data provided by the council via FOI confirms that during the Cheltenham Festival (March) there is an increase in sexual violence in Cheltenham. Regardless of where this violence occurs, it is incumbent on the council to mitigate the risk to performers, its female residents being subjected to such violence and women in wider society being impacted by men's sexual violence.

Within the Council's 2023 Purple Flag Submission concern is noted, yet again, regarding violence against women and girls in the night time economy.

“Violence against women and girls is of particular concern at present. This can be justified by the responses to recent resident surveys and a 50% increase in the number of sexual offences reported within the Purple Flag area in the last year. Our vision for Cheltenham's ENTE is that it be safe and welcoming for all.”

The following is an excerpt from the Safe and Equal Bristol report: Sexual Entertainment Venues Policy Review (November 2021)

“In the largest ever multinational study of male violence against women published in 2013 by the United Nations, the most common motivation of men who have admitted to rape is the belief that they are entitled to sex, even without the female partner's consent. This study interviewed 10,000 men and 1 in 4 had raped their wife, their partner or another woman. That is not an insignificant minority of men. Entitlement, which is the stock in trade of lap dancing clubs, is the main motivation given by men who rape. 70-80 percent of men who had raped reported that they believed they had the right to sex. The second most frequently reported motivation was related to entertainment-seeking – interpreting forced sexual access to women's bodies as fun or as something to alleviate boredom. The most commonly identified attitudinal risk factor for men's sexual and domestic violence and coercion against women globally stems from gender inequality - a belief in the dominance of men, and their needs or wishes and bodies, over women”

This committee and indeed this venue do not operate in a vacuum. Decisions need to consider the increase, in general, of sexual violence in the Purple Flag area, combined with the unequivocal evidence that sexual offences are significantly under-reported. Given the scale of the evidence from SEVs across the UK, I am unclear how it can be argued with confidence that Cheltenham is an exception. I urge the committee to use what powers it has, within the SEV policy that was adopted by the full council in 2020, to mitigate these risks.

Conclusion

Based on the council's SEV policy there are sufficient grounds for this application to be refused due to the sensitive nature of the venue's location and the impact that the venue will have on the character of that location.

Insufficient detail has been provided to show how the venue will comply with the condition regarding no contact between performers and customers. This presents a serious safeguarding risk.

Furthermore, sufficient grounds are contained within the conditions of the council's SEV policy to refuse the granting of the variations requested by the applicant in relation to the time that venue will operate.

Appendix 1

Cheltenham Borough Council's "pledge" and other actions in relation to women & girls' safety

I believe that comments made by Cllr Boyes at the 4th October 2023 licensing meeting merit further scrutiny and a response from the committee / council.

Cllr Boyes referred to the concerning feedback provided by the 2021 survey and provided an update from the member for safety and communities regarding the "pledge" which (along with other commitments made by the council) remains undelivered over two years after the survey was undertaken by the council and actions agreed.

When the results of the survey were published on 12th October 2021 under the banner of "**We asked. You said. We did**", the council committed to progress the following items regardless of whether home office funding was secured:

"Whether the bid is successful or not, we are committing to:

- ***Develop a pledge for women's safety***
- ***Incorporate the pledge within our licensing policy (There was a £0 cost allocated to this action)***
- ***Develop a communications plan to create a culture where sexual harassment is unacceptable."***

[Safety of women in the evening and at night-time - Cheltenham Borough Council - Citizen Space](#)

<https://haveyoursay.cheltenham.gov.uk/strategy/safer-streets-for-women-at-night/>

Indeed, the minutes from the 18th October 2021 meeting include actions for the pledge noted below with delivery milestones beginning in October 2021 and continuing to March 2022.

"We will work to incorporate the pledge within our licensing policy – so that we make signing and implementing the pledge a condition of granting a licence."

"Development work with key partners to refine the four areas of pledge" (October 2021 milestone).

"Bring forward amendments to the council's licensing policy" (March 2022 milestone)

[18 October 2021 minutes \(cheltenham.gov.uk\)](#)

https://democracy.cheltenham.gov.uk/documents/s38549/2021_10_18_COU_Safety_Women_At_Night.pdf

According to its own timeline the council would have been aware in late 2021 that their bid for Home Office funding was not successful.

Following meetings with representatives of the council earlier this year and as at November 2023, I understand that the pledge has not been developed or incorporated into licensing policy.

Cllr Boyes read out an update from the member with responsibility for safety and communities which references that "Covid changed people's behaviour". The council's 2023 Purple Flag

Submission highlights that one area of behaviour that has not changed is men's violence against women and girls.

“Violence against women and girls is of particular concern at present. This can be justified by the responses to recent resident surveys and a 50% increase in the number of sexual offences reported within the Purple Flag area in the last year. Our vision for Cheltenham’s ENTE is that it be safe and welcoming for all.”

Within its own remit, it is unclear what actions the council has taken since 2021 to improve the safety of women and girls in Cheltenham, particularly in relation to the night time economy. I would suggest that council provides an update on the commitments made following the 2021 survey, including those noted above along with evidence of the impact of these actions.

Appendix 2

Details provided in relation to the time variations requested by the applicant (provided by the licensing team)

- ***October - 8pm to 5am for: The Showcase Friday & The Showcase Saturday***
- ***November - 8pm to 5am for: The November meeting Friday & The November meeting Saturday.***
- ***December - 8pm to 5am for: The Christmas meeting Friday & The Christmas meeting Saturday.***
- ***January - 8pm to 5am for: The New Years Day meeting 1st January each year & Festive Trials Saturday.***
- ***March - Cheltenham Festival Monday 8pm to 5am, Cheltenham Festival Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 6pm to 5am Cheltenham Festival Saturday 8pm to 5am.***
- ***April -8pm to 5am for: April Meeting Wednesday & April meeting Thursday.***
- ***May - Hunters Showcase Friday 8pm to 5am.***

21.

I wish to object to the license request that has been submitted by Steve Burrows for an SEV at Jessop House, Cambray Place.

Firstly, I find the location of interest. Despite the move, the venue is still outside of the permitted zone and is directly opposite a church, with residential properties very near. The fact that a new venue has been selected but is still outside the council's permitted zone suggests a level of contempt, or at least indifference, to the council's authority and regulations. Once again, I would like to put in an objection that the requested permit falls outside of the permitted zone, albeit just off the high street. The church opposite is an active church with a number of services and events for people of all ages, as such a strip club opposite that is operating up to 11 hours a day is absolutely inappropriate.

At the last meeting I raised the idea that the extension to the last license to include the Nov race meet was a move towards the opening of a strip club at every race meeting. This has been proven true by this application, and as such I wonder how long it will be before this new "luxury tea and coffee house" requests to be turned in to a full time strip club. Is this something that the council

think would benefit Cheltenham? I strongly believe it would have a detrimental effect on the women and girls who live here.

Given that the "loop-hole" of a "pop-up" SEV license still exists, I find it unlikely that the council will agree to this objection. I'm hopeful however that they will listen and accept the concerns that Cheltenham residents have with regards to this license and the commodification of women that it supports. I would ask the council to look at the flyer / leafleting that is done around the town and to really think about whether this is appropriate. I say that this is advertising sexual entertainment away from the venue, and where it could easily be seen by minors. Also, the mini-bus that they claim is put on to make the customers and dancers safer. I question if a service that drives drunk people door to door to pay for erotic dances is there for the customers' benefit or for the benefit of the owner's bank balance.

I would urge the council to set limits on the license as is within their power. During the March meeting Mr Burrows is requesting a license for 11 hours a day. I would argue that if Mr Burrows made use of the loophole and moved the venue nightly, there are not many, if any, that would be able to be open until 5am in the morning.

I have continuing moral objections to the sex industry, but I accept that moral arguments won't be taken in to consideration. Instead, I would hope that the safety of local women and girls matters to the Council. There are an increasing number of us speaking out about how unsafe we feel during race meetings. The granting of this license for all the dates requested will just mean more dates that local women are pushed out of entertainment in the town centre due to tourists making them feel unsafe.

I strongly object to this license on my own behalf and also on behalf of the 3 Counties branch of the Women's Rights Network.

22.

I am writing to object to the application for a sex establishment licence for 30 Cambray Place, ref 23/01596/SEXA

My objection is on the discretionary grounds of sensitive location, the premises being almost opposite the Cambray Baptist Church.

Although the premises are within the Designated Permitted Area, the nature of Cheltenham town centre is that there are still a number of residential properties within the central commercial area (and a desire to create more to address the accommodation shortage, and the decreasing demand for office space). My family and I lived in Cambray Place for several years before moving to our current home.

I continue to be disappointed that neither Cheltenham Borough Council, nor our current or previous MP (Alex Chalk and Martin Horwood respectively) while in government have been willing to address the problem of sex tourism during racing events, primarily during Gold Cup week, but increasingly as demonstrated by this application during other race events. Sex tourism provides no benefit to the town, while creating harms, especially for women and girls living and working in Cheltenham.

23.

I write to object to Red Apple's application for Eroticats to use Jessop House as a sexual entertainment venue during multiple race events as referred to in in Punchline 1st November 2023 ["Eroticats wants to bring lapdancing to new venue in Cheltenham during race events."](#)

<https://www.punchline-gloucester.com/articles/2023/02/03/eroticats-wants-to-bring-lapdancing-to-new-venue-in-cheltenham-during-race-events>

The planned venue sounds like a real asset for the town. It will be a "luxury tea and coffee house" by day and at night transformed into a "fantasy cocktail bar" with seven themed rooms.

Licensing this venue for Eroticats lap dancers would be against the public interest as lap dancing is inherently sexist and harmful. The licensee, Steven Burrows, would profit, and a few women, but most women and girls will be left feeling uncomfortable at best, and most of all like the venue is not for them and the council is not protecting their interests.

Despite this, I expect the council will approve the license application. They will say this is the only legal option open to them, that licensing helps protect women performing in the venues and that sexual entertainments venues can't be blamed for any women or girls feeling uncomfortable or unsafe in town.

They will dodge all questions about their Public Sector Equality Duty, claiming they only need to have "due regard" and no action is required.

If the council feels unable to reject the application, then I ask it to do all it can to ensure the licence conditions reduce harm to performers for the following reasons.

Lap dancing is sexist

Men don't work as lap dancers. If they strip the dynamic is very different. They are on stage as part of a group like the Dream boys or they are paid to work individually. They are not lined up and chosen, or not chosen.

In the July 2019 SEV Policy Review Report, Eroticats reported that male strippers have not applied for work during race week, despite being invited. Eroticats also say they have put on 3 or 4 male strip shows in the past. Strip shows, not lap dancing. If they had been popular they would have continued.

The [Eroticats customer rules](https://democracy.cheltenham.gov.uk/documents/s42723/App_1_d_Customer_Rules.pdf) https://democracy.cheltenham.gov.uk/documents/s42723/App_1_d_Customer_Rules.pdf ask people to "Please behave like gentlemen". The [Eroticats Cheltenham Festival Events page](http://www.eroticats.co.uk/cheltenham-festival) <http://www.eroticats.co.uk/cheltenham-festival> says their "Gold Cup strippers" are part of a "lads night out".

Lap dancing is about men objectifying women. Licensing Eroticats means women are lined up and men choose to pay them, or not, based on their physical appearance.

Lap dancing harms women financially

Some will claim that women working as lap dancers make good money, and that because they have chosen this work it isn't harmful. This includes some lap dancers. They will claim it is empowering and lucrative work, especially while they are still working as lap dancers, and when their employer is present. This might be true for some women, especially house mothers, those responsible for managing other women. But it's also fair to say it's embarrassing to admit that you didn't make money, that men didn't want to pay you for a lap dance.

The Nordic Model Now booklet "[What are we talking about when we talk about the sex industry?](https://nordicmodelnow.org/2023/02/03/what-are-we-talking-about-when-we-talk-of-the-sex-industry-booklet/)" <https://nordicmodelnow.org/2023/02/03/what-are-we-talking-about-when-we-talk-of-the-sex-industry-booklet/> states

"Strip and lap dancing clubs in the UK are invariably profoundly precarious and exploitative workplaces for women, providing no job or income security. Women have to pay 'house fees' to the club with no guarantee they will recoup all or any of it. 70% report losing

money...This means clubs displace the financial risks onto the women while securing their own commercial success.”

The Eroticats [License to Occupy Space](#)

[https://democracy.cheltenham.gov.uk/documents/s42732/App 1 m Licence to occupy space 1.pdf](https://democracy.cheltenham.gov.uk/documents/s42732/App%201%20m%20Licence%20to%20occupy%20space%201.pdf) on the Cheltenham website, states:

The fees payable by the Dancer to the Owner for License shall be as follows:

- 4a) £60 per evening
- 4b) 25% of such sum as may be paid by the customer to the Dancer in cash
- 4c) 35% of any credit card payment collected by the Dancer from the customer
- 4d) Any fine levied under the Code of Conduct

I couldn't find the Eroticats Code of Conduct, so I don't know what fines are listed there, but the Eroticats [House Rules](#) [https://democracy.cheltenham.gov.uk/documents/s42733/App 1 n House Rules.pdf](https://democracy.cheltenham.gov.uk/documents/s42733/App%201%20n%20House%20Rules.pdf) on the Cheltenham Council website state:

2. House fees to be paid in full on signing in, no refunds will be given
3. Arriving late increased house fee will be charged
4. Leaving early check out fee will be charged, unless agreed with House Mother.
5. Cancelling with 24 hours notice. Cancellation fee of 25% of house fee will be charged.

So it's very feasible that a lap dancer could end up in debt to Eroticats, and feel obliged to pay off her debt by working for a different Eroticats service, such as live cams or gentlemen's evenings, as listed on the Eroticats website www.eroticats.co.uk

The women who do this work are less likely to be in a financially stable position, and yet they have to pay to work and are subject to fines. They need to be warned of the financial risks, and protected from financial harm.

The [SEV Policy Review meeting 17 July 2019](#)

[https://d.docs.live.net/ff1d2429103b65f4/Documents/RadFem/Glos women/Eroticats/House rules and licence to occupy space/2020_07_29_Adoption of revised Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy_appendix 3_policy review meeting mi.pdf](https://d.docs.live.net/ff1d2429103b65f4/Documents/RadFem/Glos%20women/Eroticats/House%20rules%20and%20licence%20to%20occupy%20space/2020_07_29_Adoption%20of%20revised%20Sexual%20Entertainment%20Venue%20Policy_appendix%203_policy%20review%20meeting%20mi.pdf) (cheltenham.gov.uk) states that the licensing team intervened to ensure a lap dancer who complained got a refund. Can they do more than this?

Or perhaps this is a Trading Standards issue, I notice the [Advertising Standards Authority Non-Broadcast Code](#) https://www.asa.org.uk/type/non_broadcast/code_section/20.html states “Marketing communications for business opportunities must neither contain unrepresentative or overstated earnings figures”.

Lap dancing harms women emotionally

Choosing to work as a lap dancer doesn't mean it isn't harmful.

Women who end up as lap dancing are more likely than other women to have been raped and/or sexually abused. Lap dancing doesn't help these women recover, it makes things worse. The Not Buying It report. [Still Stripping The Illusion](#) <https://notbuyingit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Still-Stripping-the-Illusion.pdf> states:

- Being objectified and/or objectifying yourself is harmful, regardless of whether it is chosen. Psychologists describe it as a form of insidious trauma .
- Behaving sexually and exposing yourself for men in an exchange that is not based on mutual desire is harmful. Doing this for men who have bought you to behave this way (often

multiple times a night), for whom you have the desire/interest (and who might even repulse you) is psychologically damaging.

- Providing the 'girlfriend experience' is equally part of the work. Women must sit with men, sometimes for hours on end, feigning interest and desire. 'You can never be your true self', 'it is all an act', 'having to hang on a punter's every word, act interested'. Many women describe this as one of the hardest parts of the job, not least because they cannot dissociate.

You don't get this kind of emotional trauma from bar work, or from having a mean boss. Lap dancing is not just another job, it's inherently harmful. Acknowledging the harm done can help women recover. Dismissing it as a "choice" reinforces the harm.

Lap dancing harms women physically

The Nordic Model Now booklet (ref above) states "Like other areas of the sex industry, lap dancing and stripping revolve around presenting and maintaining yourself as a sexual object for the benefit of random men, pandering to their egos and accepting the kind of behaviour that would be considered sexual harassment in other workplaces. Men assaulting and stalking the women is common. All this can take a heavy physical, mental and psychological toll on the women."

There is no record of any incidents in the venue being reported to the police but this doesn't mean they don't happen, it just means that both Eroticats and the Council need to do more.

Eroticats data monitoring:

The report of the [SEV Policy Review meeting 17 July 2019](#) suggests that Eroticats keeps a close eye on their staff:

"On the database they keep a record of everyone who has ever worked for Eroticats including information regarding their conduct and behaviour, they also keep an incidence log and incidents are rated from severe to minor. They have had situations whereby they haven't invited people back."

Unfortunately Eroticats doesn't seem to monitor customers in a similar way, despite presumably having a considerable database thanks to collecting phone numbers from those using the bus, and email addresses from those registering for services and requesting information on the Eroticats website.

Alongside this, the Eroticats licensee Steven Burrows is a member of Nightsafe, which monitors people using various venues in Cheltenham and shares information.

And yet at the 4th October licensing meeting he was unable to provide any general statistics about the reasons for customers being refused entry, or the numbers refused.

Perhaps Cheltenham could follow the example of [Sheffield Council's Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy](#) and apply the following license condition:

"The licence holder must maintain an incident log of any person(s) refused entry at the premises and record the reason why such persons were refused entry. The log shall be retained for a period of 12 months and the licence holder shall make the log available to any Police Officer or authorised officer of the Council on request."

Council data monitoring:

General statistics are also important. Cheltenham Community Safety Partnership is running a [survey about how safe women feel in the evening and at night in the town centre](#) <https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/news/article/2843/feeling-safe-and-enjoying-cheltenham-s-night>

[t time economy](#) . They have also made a commitment to consult with local women on the proposed Pledge for Women's Safety.

This is encouraging; however the survey is not collecting data about respondents' sex, male or female, which could mean it is failing to meet its responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The closest it gets is question 15 about "gender identity", whether someone has a sense of themselves as male, female, non-binary (neither male nor female) or something else.

It's reasonable for the council to ask about gender identity, even though it is gender reassignment rather than gender identity that is a protected characteristic.

But "none" should be an option, just as it is for religion. And asking about gender identity doesn't remove the need to ask a person's sex.

Meaningful data is important if the council is serious about improving women and girls safety.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to object. I am sure that you have the best intentions and hope that these points will help you improve the safety of women and girls in Cheltenham.

24. Gloucestershire Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre (GRASAC)

On behalf of GRASAC, I am seeking those making the decision regarding this licence request to reject this application (renewal) on the basis of their duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty within the Equality Act 2010. Cheltenham Borough Council has previously taken the time to survey residents of the town (2021) regarding the safety of women in the night-time economy and the response rate was high. A second survey is currently underway (closing date 31 January 2024) therefore safety of women and girls in Cheltenham is clearly a real issue. The outcome of the 2021 survey (638 respondents) reported as follows:

- 72% of respondents told us that that they don't feel safe at night, rising to 75% not feeling safe during race week.
- 30% of respondents told us that they get regularly sexually harassed.
- 33% of respondents told us that these unwanted behaviours are happening regularly in pubs and clubs.
- Despite the frequency of these unwanted behaviours, 34% of respondents are not telling anyone about their experiences.
- And 94% of respondents told us that they have changed their behaviours following their experiences.

Anecdotally we hear from GRASAC staff and our clients, as well as university students, that they all change their behaviour during major race weeks. University lectures are cancelled for the Cheltenham Festival race week, women change their habits in terms of not going running or participating in social and sports activities around the town. In relation to this a specific survey question around respondents changing behaviours, only 6% of respondents had not changed their behaviour during the evening in order to keep themselves safe. In this regard, the Council has a duty to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation under the Equality Act 2010 and GRASAC on behalf of its clients, would expect and hope that the Council will do all in its power to ensure the safety of women and girls in the town. By considering this licence application to have the option to operate during all major race events this is completely contrary to the surveys that the Council have

and continue to undertake, where the Council says it takes violence against women and girls seriously. GRASAC are aware that under the current legislation, licenced premises can provide entertainment on an infrequent basis (11 occasions within a 12 month period), but by approving this licence application, over numerous race events – including the New Year ‘family races’ the Council is condoning that women should repeatedly change their behaviour in order to feel safe. I urge the committee to consider the application under the Act, having due regard to its equality duty when making its decision to approve this licence. GRASAC team members have attended the Cambray Place premises during the renovation, in attendance was the Licensing Team Leader, I would ask you to note the following:

- Our acceptance of the invitation to attend and view the premises does not mean that GRASAC condones the granting of licenses to SEVs.
- Neither does our wish to ensure the safety of women attending the premises and/or female members of staff mean that we are ‘working closely’ with the business owner as stated at a previous hearing by the Licensing Team Leader
- In March 2023 the Co-Chair of GRASAC and member of the Council’s committee working to address violence against women and girls delivered a short (maximum 1 hour) introduction to bystander training, and therefore not ‘extensive’ as previously claimed. The Licensing Team Leader has seemingly misunderstood the training given to the Cambray Place staff in March 2023, with the extensive Kindling Bystander Training programme delivered to the Council.
- The objection made by GRASAC is not on moral grounds at all, but the issue of safety for women and girls in the town, now, on multiple days and evenings.

25. The Trustees of Cambray Baptist Church

As Trustees of Cambray Baptist Church we are writing to you on behalf of the Church. Doing so we represent over 300 adults and 100 children and young people of Cambray Baptist Church. We are an active church which engages the community around the church and throughout Cheltenham. The church building and its many activities for children, youth, families, adults with learning needs, vulnerable adults and elderly people is located immediately opposite the site relating to the proposed application.

As a licencing committee you are able to use your discretionary powers to refuse this application. In these discretionary powers, although you only need issues with one of these legal grounds to refuse permission, there are good reasons to refuse permission on all four legal grounds which are open to you:

Firstly, sensitivity to proximity to a place of worship. The proximity is clear and evident. Such a venue opposite an active and vibrant place of worship which is open and used throughout most days and in many evenings is an affront and an insult, not only to the people of Cambray Baptist Church, but to all churches in Cheltenham. It is just as offensive to us as it would be to those of other religions whose premises have not been impacted. In days of increased awareness of sensitivity to the views and beliefs of others, the offence the proximity causes cannot be understated. Both press and public will conclude that the council has been negligent, or even wilful, if it permits this licensing application.

Secondly, regarding the Character of the Area. The plans proposed soon after John Lewis opened to refurbish Cambray Place have recognised it as a 'destination' and cafe area suitable for families. The 2011 Census shows that Cambray Place is a residential area, including the flats above the shops that

reach into the Designated Permitted Area. Of the residents, 42% are female, 16% of residences having children in their household, 52% of residents are aged 16-34, and 19% of residents aged over 65, with a complex for older people at the end of Cambray Place. The family feel is reflected in the local businesses, such as John Lewis on High Street, the Hickory Dickory nursery 5 doors from the venue site, The Entertainer Toy Shop and a children's Sweet shop very close by on High Street. The Dance School on High Street has classes into the evenings. Cambray Place roundabout is a regular drop-off point for families transporting children to these locations. It is clear that it is an area in which a Sexual Entertainment Venue would be wholly out of character, and certainly is at odds with the Council's own plans for Cambray Place.

Thirdly, regarding the use to which other premises in the area are put, we have already noted the child centric shops and businesses. In addition, Cambray Baptist Church itself is a family church. We have a full-time Children, Youth and Family Pastor because of the extent of our provision for Children and Young People. We provide Youth and children's clubs into the evenings weekly, and Schools events termly in the day. We run the local Community Christmas Market in Cambray Place. We have provision in the day for Mums and non-working mothers and children. We have regular meetings for old people and for adults with learning difficulties, some in the evenings. A thriving Chinese Church also meets on our premises, and again runs events with young people and children in attendance. And we have families who frequent our Coffee shop and other local coffee shops. A Sexual Entertainment Venue within 10 meters is inappropriate. We have already experienced parents (including those who do not attend our church but whose children come to our activities) who have expressed grave concern or have said they would no longer want their children or young people coming to our activities because of the fact that this venue is in the area, and it is very difficult to reassure them when their response is to what they witnessed of the first operation of the venue during Race Week 2023.

Fourthly, regarding the Designated Permitted Area. Your 2020 Policy Statement identifies a DPA outside of which there should be no permitted Sexual Entertainment Venue. Page 1 1 of that policy gives a map of the boundaries. The property in which the venue is cited is on the very edge of that boundary but area immediately in front of the property (i.e. along the edge of its fence and front step) is not within the designated permitted area. You have therefore already decided that immediately outside its door is an inappropriate location. When the site was used during Race Week in 2023 the venue cordoned off an area of the street (i.e. not within the DPA) to queue clients into and out of the property with advertising pictures on the fencing (again, not within the DPA), and sited its staff on the street (not within the DPA) to encourage clients to enter. They distributed leaflets not only within the DPA but were witnessed doing so on multiple occasions in the part of Cambray Place which is outside the DPA. Their minibuses, with clear markings as to the nature of the business, parked outside the church and in parts of Cambray Place which is not in the DPA. Clearly the SEV cannot operate without extending beyond the Designated Permitted Area, and therefore it is an inappropriate place to host the venue.

In summary, there are deeply seated and very strong grounds on every legal point where the licensing Committee are permitted to take a decision to turn down this application. We ask you to use these grounds to turn down this and any future license application.

But, there is a further reason we would wish to point out — an issue of contradiction in the council's own actions and expressed concerns. Your research on "The Safety of women in the evening and at night-time" (see <https://haveyoursay.cheltenham.gov.uk/strategy/safer-streets-for-women-at-night/>) points clearly to the problem of woman's safety and security in Cheltenham, with 72% not feeling safe at night and 33% reporting unwanted behaviour in pubs and clubs. 94% of respondents said they had to change their behaviour as a result of their experience. Being a part of the community in Cambray we have been approached on many occasions by women to express fears

and concerns regarding the SEV, and its presence is causing women to change their behaviour during its operation — clearly exacerbating the very issue that the council says it wishes to respond to. There is a clear mismatch between the licensing extensions for the SEV and council policy on woman's perceptions and experiences of sexual violence and safety.

We highlight all the above points as strong reasons why this application for a license and/or license extension should not be granted to operate a Sexual Entertainment Venue in this location. Your due consideration to our objections is vital to this church and our legal rights to freedom of worship and belief.

We are aware that you do not permit 'moral' grounds for objection, even though any decision on this matter by the licencing committee is, de facto, a moral decision. We have therefore excluded such grounds in this letter but would be happy to discuss such matters, which are not trivial and should not be so readily dismissed.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this letter of objection.

26.

I write with regard to 30 Cambray Place (formerly Wild Beer Pub, immediately opposite Cambray Baptist Church). I note that the business applied for a 'Sexual Entertainment' licence last October, and the Cheltenham Borough Council granted them a licence for the March 2023 Gold Cup races. I note that they have applied for an extended licence to cover all race events from 8pm to 5pm October to May. I understand that this will mean two to three days every month for 8 months of the year.

I wish to object to this application in view of the following:-

- o Character of the Area (4.5di and 4.10):
- o This proposal is contrary character of the area. This is as it is largely residential and catering to families. In particular the Cambray Baptist Church and the dance school which both host a range of activities catering for families. Also, there is day care there which provides services for families. There is also the nearby shop Entertainer which sells toys for children.

o Use to which other premises in the area are put (4.5dii and 4.10 b & d refer~~s~~**S**):

There are a number of businesses that attract children, vulnerable adults, and the like to the area. The coffee cart opposite @Hallowed Grounds@ interacts with a number of individuals with mental and physical disabilities that find safety and community here. There are also two mental health facilities: the Practice Rooms at 33 Cambray Place and the Counselling rooms at 10 Bath Street. I understand that these two mental health facilities counsel victims of sexual assault and individuals who have come out of the sex-trade.

o Proximity to a Place of Worship (4.10c):

This refers to Cambray Baptist Church which is opposite, Confidence in the area is important for those who are aged or have children. They rely on the ability to pick up/drop off in a well-lit area. There alternative access to the church would mean parking on Rodney Road; however, this is not suitable for all of the youth and children's evening activities. This is as the Rodney Road is not as well lit.

●Women's safety concerns:

I refer in particular to Cheltenham Borough's own survey "Safety of Women at Night" which was presented on 18 October 2021. The Executive Summary itself begins "The council and its partners have been concerned about the safety of women at night for a number of years

now." The Background 1.1 states "The Council and its partners have been concerned about the safety of women at night for a number of years as the reports of sexual harassment, abuse and intimidation have increased." Section 2 Safety of women at night survey: quotes that "72% of respondents told us that that they don't feel safe at night, rising to 75% not feeling safe during race week.". I note that women workers, not least from the bars - apart from 30 Cambray Place - may pass through the area. In addition, other women may pass through the area. The proposed application may effect that an even larger amount of women that the 75% to not feel safe during race week. This is going contrary to Cheltenham Borough Council's own objective in "Corporate and community plan Implications": "Keeping women safe at night in our town centre...".

27.

I would like to object to the above referenced application.

This is inappropriate for our town and specifically is in an area used by families and people of Christian faith. It is very close to a place of worship, a support centre, dance school, toy shop and generally in an area used by families.

Time has been taken to make this area one where people can walk and relax. It is well lit for people to walk through and has been made safer by the lighting and pedestrianisation. Therefore, families will be walking through and being met with behaviours that are inappropriate.

I urge you to reject this application.

28.

I am writing to object to the application for the extension of the licence for the Sexual Entertainment Venue to operate regularly from November through to May, according to the timing of race meetings.

The location of this venue, opposite the main entrance of Cambray Baptist Church, is offensive to those worshipping there. I am one of many involved in the extensive children's and youth work there and am concerned about the detrimental effect such a venue might have on the children. There are also other businesses focusing on children in the vicinity such as "The Entertainer", a dance school and the local nursery school.

In view of the above, I would urge you to deny this extension to the Sexual Entertainment venue.

29.

6th November 2023

30 Cambray Close - 23/01596/SEA.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing as a frequent visitor and appreciator of Cheltenham regarding proposals that 30 Cambray Close be licensed for an extended period for 'Sexual Entertainment.'

Cheltenham has a deserved reputation as a family-

-friendly town. We often walk through town with our three young children, and enjoy the many things Cheltenham offers. A business related to sexual entertainment, therefore, would be incongruous with the town's character, and that of the local neighbourhood which includes residences and the sorts of shops children frequent. Moreover, it strikes me that this sort of business will do Cheltenham's reputation and long-term prosperity no good, given its family-focused demographics.

It should also be borne in mind that there is a place of worship nearby. For the sake of community cohesion and the respect for people of all faiths and none, it would seem further licensing of sexual entertainment shops will not help to make all people ^{feel} part of the Cheltenham community.

In summary, I would urge the Committee consider the potentially deleterious effects of expanded licensing of a sexual entertainment venue at 30 Cambrey Place, particularly in relation to Cheltenham's character, reputation as a family-friendly town, and respect for Cheltenham's diverse religious communities.

Yours sincerely,

30.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I believe that an establishment at 30 Cambrey Place (formerly the Wild Bear Pub) in Cheltenham has applied for extended licensing for a Sexual Entertainment License to cover all race meetings at Cheltenham Racecourse.

(Reference 23/01596/SEXA)

I would like to object to this on the following grounds.

A place of sexual entertainment goes completely against the character of the area. Cambrey Place is a residential street and a family shopping area close to the high street. Family members, especially the young and the aged, should feel safe in this environment.

There are businesses in the vicinity that provide for children and vulnerable adults. I refer especially to mental health facilities at The Practice Rooms (33 Cambrey Place) and the Counseling Rooms (10 Bath Street).

The establishment at 30 Cambrey Place is almost directly opposite to Cambrey Baptist Church, a place of worship set up over 150 years ago and still active. I believe that "Proximity to a Place of Worship" is stated in your own guidelines as a cause of objection. The Church has activities on weekday evenings, as well as on Sundays, where children and elderly folk are dropped off and collected in Cambrey Place.

I hope you will give this matter careful consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

31.

I would like to object to the granting of this license to Red Apple Associates on a permanent basis on the following bases due to the nature of their business.

It is obvious that the Cheltenham Races bring a large amount of business to our town. The owners of the business intend to run this as a sex entertainment venue (SEV) or a strip club. However, the Home Office guidance says that SEV's are establishments that provide lap dancing, pole dancing, table dancing, strip shows, peep shows and live sex shows, and this is not an exhaustive list. Red Apple Associates are registered to an address in Tewkesbury where another business belonging to a different man is also registered which is based in Gloucester selling adult entertainment. Although the owners are not registered on each other's limited company it is not a stretch to see that they work in synergy given that the guidance from the Home Office about issuing SEV license providing such wide scope.

It is inappropriate that this type of business would be located one minutes' walk from a children's nursery, (Hickory Dickory's Day Nursery) which has been open for 24 years. The venue will be less than 5 minutes from the High Street and the Promenade. Many of the shops on the High Street are geared towards children,

i.e. toy shops, sweet shops and there are numerous residential buildings in Cambray Place. The venue is also directly opposite a place of worship, where there is also a coffee venue which hosts individuals with mental and physical disabilities.

The licensing objectives as stated in the Cheltenham Borough Council licensing policy statement are:

- a) The prevention of crime and disorder;
- b) public safety;
- c) The prevention of public nuisance;
- d) The protection of children from harm.

This license should not be granted on all of the above objectives. Whilst the applicant has asked for limited use for this venue on race days, if the license is granted, an extension of the boundaries can be pushed wider and wider, since there would be no initial objections to the issuing of the SEV licence.

A survey undertaken in 2021 to help understand how safe women are feeling in the evening and at night in Cheltenham's town centre revealed that 72% of respondents do not feel safe at night, rising to 75% not feeling safe during race week.

Our local MP, Alex Chalk, has raised a standing objection to the licensing of SEV's in Cheltenham and would prefer that no licenses at all were granted. The rowdy behaviour and drunkenness that already takes place in Cheltenham during race days, and particularly Gold Cup week, will only be exacerbated by the issuing of this licence.

32.

I am writing to object to the granting of an SEV license to Red Apple Associates (23/01596/SEXA).

Sex work has no place in modern society. It is disrespectful to women, objectifying them. The women are frequently trafficked or vulnerable women who have no alternative. The women and

girls of Cheltenham also suffer the consequences of men visiting the town just to visit venues like this. They feel less safe on their own streets.

Please refuse this licence.

33.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to object to the extended Sexual Entertainment License request made for 30 Cambray Place, Cheltenham.

Firstly, a license of this nature is offensive to the Christian community, of which one active church congregation is in very close proximity (Cambray Baptist Church). The proximity of the proposed venue to a place of worship is highly offensive not just to the individual congregation meeting there but, by extension, all other Christian communities in Cheltenham. It also offends other faith communities located around this area of Cheltenham.

Secondly, children and families and other vulnerable groups are attracted to this area through many businesses and organisations located there, including children's toy shops, local coffee shops and a dance school. The Baptist church includes many families and elderly people in its congregation and attracts children to its activities and groups. It is important that the public and church congregation can be confident that the area will be safe, particularly in evening activities conducted there.

Thirdly, there are two facilities for mental health situated close to the venue; one on Bath Road and one also on Cambray Place only a few doors away. Part of their work is to assist victims of sexual assault including those who have previously been involved in the sex trade, therefore a license of this nature granted where these vulnerable groups are attracted is particularly concerning.

I urge the committee to concur that, due to these many concerns, the correct decision is a rejection of the license request.

34.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing regarding the licensing of a new strip club at 30 Cambray Place, Cheltenham (23/01596/SEXA). As a resident of Cheltenham I have many concerns about these plans as I will outline here.

As a mother of daughters who attend dance classes in Cheltenham, I am aware that this kind of entertainment venue makes women and girls more likely to be attacked. In August 2021, you ran your own survey into women's experiences in Cheltenham, showing that women feel unsafe in Cheltenham at night, particularly in race week. The particular location of this proposed club, makes this all the more alarming: there is a popular dance school in the area and two mental health facilities in the vicinity that specifically care for people who have suffered sexual abuse and/or have come out of the sex trade. These people are particularly vulnerable and should not be put in more danger.

The general location of the club is also largely residential and home to a daycare centre, coffee shops and other places where families socialise. These people should be kept safe from the dangers that a strip club presents. They should also have the right to decide at what age their children should be taught about such places, rather than having the conversation forced upon them at a young age.

Finally, the proposed site of the strip club is directly opposite a place of worship. It is offensive and disrespectful to Christians that you would allow such a controversial venue so close to their church. The church also runs events for children and vulnerable people who are dropped off during the day and the evenings. It is important for these individuals that they can feel safe, secure and respected.

Thank you for your time, I sincerely hope that these plans will be abandoned, for the good of the Cheltenham community.

35.

I object most strongly to the above license application for the following reasons:

The proposed venue is in a residential area.

There are flats above the shops that reach into the Designated Permitted Area. It is a family friendly area, with cafes, and The Entertainer Toy Shop and a sweet shop very close by on the High Street. The Dance School on the High Street has classes into the evening. The Hickory Dickory nursery is 5 doors down from the venue site. The Cambray Place roundabout is a regular drop off point for families transporting children to these locations. A sexual entertainment venue is completely out of character with the family friendly area.

The proposed venue is sited opposite Cambray Baptist Church which is sensitive for religious purposes. The family friendly church, which has provision for children and young people, is open and used most days and in many evenings

When the site was used during Race Week in 2023, the venue cordoned off an area of the street (which is outside the Designated Permitted Area) to queue clients into and out of the property With advertising pictures on the fencing and sited it's staff on the street, outside the Designated Permitted Area , to encourage clients to enter. Their minibuses , with clear markings as to the nature of the business, were parked outside the church and in parts of Cambray Place.

This is against Cheltenham Borough Council's standard conditions in their own Policy Statement, which I state below.

"Cheltenham Borough Council

SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE POLICY STATEMENT
APPENDIX 1

Standard conditions regarding sexual entertainment venues
General Conditions

There shall not be displayed outside the premises, in the immediate vicinity, or elsewhere within the Town any advertisements, photographs or images that indicate or suggest that striptease-type

dancing takes place on the premises." This again shows how inappropriate this location is for a sexual entertainment venue.

Cheltenham Borough Council are aware of the problem of female safety in Cheltenham Town Centre in the evening and at night due to the findings of a survey presented at a council meeting on the 18th October 2021, during it was stated to "develop a pledge for women's safety" and to "incorporate the pledge within our licensing policy".

As a female resident, who lives nearby the proposed venue, and who already does not feel safe and secure in Cheltenham Town Centre in the evening and at night, I am extremely concerned should this proposal be permitted. As the clients to this venue will, in all probability, be male, permitting this proposal will be to the detriment to the safety of females and would be against the Equality Act 2010.

I ask you please to refuse this application.

36. The Nelson Trust

Dear Members of the Licensing Committee,

The Nelson Trust is writing to emphatically oppose the license application submitted by Red Apple Associates Limited for operating a lap dancing venue at Jessop House, 30 Cambray Place, Cheltenham, during the dates of race meets at Cheltenham Racecourse. Our opposition, as stated in the one we submitted on September 11, 2023, against the license variation for an SEV by European Events Consultants Limited, remains steadfast and is rooted in profound concerns over sex equality. The strong opposition echoed in the October 4, 2023, Licensing Committee meeting by numerous groups and local residents only reinforces the community's collective stance against the normalisation of SEVs. Our line of reasoning has not changed since September 2023 and as such we submit our original objection below.

We believe that where Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) operate there are always multiple harms that cannot be mitigated. Our objection to this application is based on years of frontline professional experience supporting women involved in the sex trade.

The Nelson Trust is a gender-responsive and trauma-informed organisation that works with women involved in the sex trade in Gloucestershire to help address their complex and multiple needs. There are strong links between lap dancing and selling sex, with a UK Home Office report finding that the majority of lap dancers also sell sex. The longer a woman has been stripping, the more likely it is she will be selling sex (Prostitution_and_Sex_Work_Report.pdf) . Other research studies also indicate that alcohol and drug abuse is standard in the lap dancing industry, if not integral to the job (The occupational milieu of the nude dancer: Deviant Behavior: Vol 18, No 2 (tandfonline.com)), both by dancers and punters. This places women both in and outside of SEVs at even more risk of assault. Research also indicates considerable use of Class A drugs, initiated after entering the trade.

This published evidence supports our experience on the ground; most women we support have been through adverse childhood experiences, have been involved in domestic abuse relationships and often use drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism. Women often are unable to realise the harms of the sex trade until they are out of it. One of the women we supported to exit wrote her story in her own words, and here is an extract of how someone might end up involved in the sex trade: 'I was forced into selling sex at the age of 17 and it then became a choice I made with an addict's

insane mind that I could fund my habit selling my body. But what I didn't realise is that I was not just selling my body, but I was selling a part of my soul each time I did this. And chipping away at my self-worth, my self-esteem and slowly but surely losing any empowerment as a woman I had or could have.' This woman's story is not uncommon, and it is a voice that does not often get heard, as many women do not have access to support to address their unmet needs and increase their life choices, including the opportunity to exit the sex trade.

The CBC's responsibility to foster good relationships between men and women, in accordance with their Public Sector Equality Duty seems to conflict with the granting of new and/or variation of licenses for SEVs.

After carefully considering the published evidence, the CBC's legal responsibilities, our professional experience, and the voices of women who have exited, The Nelson Trust vehemently opposes the granting of SEV licenses and/or variations to licenses as we believe they are incompatible with women's rights, safety & equality. CBC has an opportunity to show leadership and enforce their Public Sector Equality Duty by rejecting this licence variation application.

We stand with GRASAC, Alex Chalk, MP, and many local people who are objecting to this application. We urge the committee to contribute actively to the council's pledge for women's safety and use its influence and the legal means available to it to close the frequency exemption permitted under UK law. This move would align with the community's aspiration for a safer, more equitable environment.

With kind regards,
The Nelson Trust

This page is intentionally left blank

Your experiences of Race Week

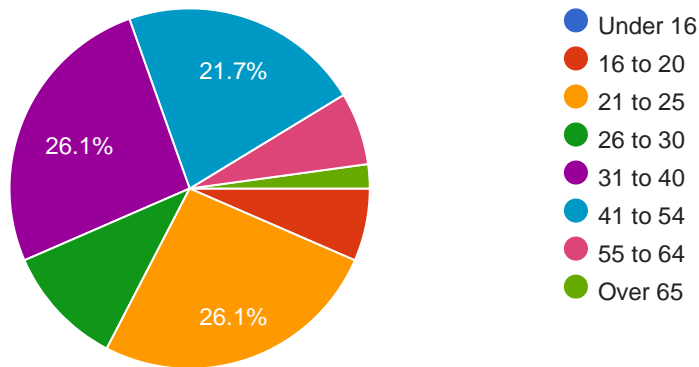
46 responses

[Publish analytics](#)

 Copy

How old are you?

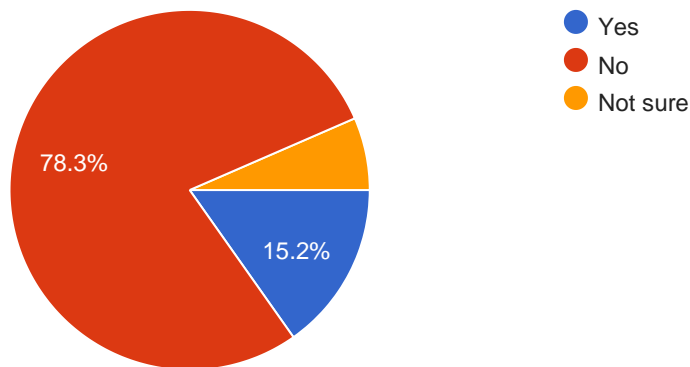
46 responses



 Copy

Do you feel safe in Cheltenham during Race Week?

46 responses





Is this different to how you usually feel?



Page 60



Page 61



Page 62

Intimidated, angry and anti elitism!

Disgusted, unsafe, sad, annoyed

Scared

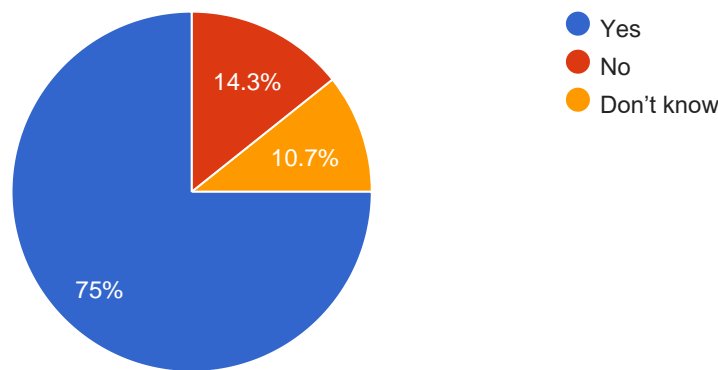
extremely upset and uncomfortable. afraid to go out

Unsurprised, women have always behaved this badly, but as usual they just want to blame men.



If you experienced any of the above behaviour, is this different to your usual experiences in Cheltenham?

28 responses



Do you have any Race Week experiences or comments that you want to share with us?

15 responses

Think it brings in great revenue ... but they need to resolve the traffic issues. But I will not go out into local pubs and bars during race week.

I had no untoward incidents.

It feels like safety of the racegoers takes priority over safety of Cheltenham residents, particularly females, during race week. This should not be the case.

When the town is flooded with unknown , not local men, they feel entitled to do as they please.This also encourages local men to feel empowered and emboldened to treat us women with disrespect. They treat older girls and young women as if we are objects. It's clear the level of misogyny is increasing g and so little education directed at men... to just STOP acting like a porn soaked moron!



Page 63

It's horrible. I worry for my teenage daughters as they get older. The men are drunk by 11am and lairy. Sooner or later there is also going to be a traffic fatality

It feels far far safer and more respectful when the races are on, people look out for each other better - feels like a community. During normal nights in Cheltenham, people aren't united

Tried to drive back from work, hoards of people walk down the middle of the road and walking in front of cars, group of men walked in front of my car as I was driving, one kicked the front bumper and the rest shouted. Parked near my house and more large groups of men followed my route from the walk from car to house shouting things.

It's grubby.

I think there could be more done to pedestrianise the way to the race and reduce the amount of cars. I would like to see more volunteers. And I think I'd just like to see more a more diverse crowd attending Race Week - surely it shouldn't just be for largely white men?

The Honeybourne path and area around the Tesco Express needs much better supervision. Drunk people should not be given access to Tesco or its car park and the police should patrol the Honeybourne path to protect females and also young families using the path or play areas. Race Week is the worst thing about living in Cheltenham!

n/a

Generally feeling like those around have a sense of entitlement to act how they like without fear of consequences. This includes making comments as I pass about everything from why

I'm not working (I work shifts), to snorting to suggest I'm ugly, and urinating openly along the roadside, to walking out into the road without looking. It's a time I feel I need to be very aware of what's around me.

it was fine, nothing really happened to me personally nor any of my friends that I know of

The appalling behaviour of many women, whether alcohol or drugs fuelled, is unacceptable. Instead of addressing this problem, we seek to blame men. The amount of violence, sexual assault and verbal abuse from women is utterly shameful and yet we are rarely held to account. Hen Parties are the absolute worst.

Thank you for sharing your experiences with us

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google. [Report Abuse](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Privacy Policy](#)







postnote

January 2006 Number 256

ÅRHUS CONVENTION

There is currently a perceived lack of trust between people and their governments, especially where environmental matters are concerned. The Århus Convention¹ is seen as an important tool for improving this situation. It is founded on the belief that citizens' involvement can strengthen democracy and environmental protection. Kofi Annan described it as "the most ambitious venture in the area of environmental democracy so far undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations". Furthermore, it is the first Convention that aims to make these rights for enhanced democracy enforceable by the courts. This POSTnote looks at the progress of introducing the Århus principles into national legislation, the successes achieved and the difficulties encountered.

Background and current situation

Named after the Danish city of Århus (or Aarhus) where it was adopted under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE²), the Convention was signed in 1998 by 39 of UNECE's 55 member countries and the European Community. 37 have ratified it; the UK did so in February 2005 (Box 1). The Convention is officially known as the "Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters", and contains – as the title suggests – three broad themes, also called pillars. Legislation resulting from these pillars has already started to take effect in the UK.

The Convention is essentially an elaboration of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration (1992). This defines access to information, public participation and effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings as the basics of an inclusive approach to dealing with environmental issues. Even before Århus, European Union (EU) legislation already endorsed these principles in some areas of its law. With previously unprecedented participation by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), governments then developed these provisions further to form the three pillars of Århus.

Box 1. Implementation of the Convention

The Århus Convention has to be ratified by individual states before it becomes binding on them. It thereby gives its Signatories time to adjust their domestic legislation. This, for example, involves drawing up the legal instruments needed for compliance with the Convention. Once a Signatory is ready to ratify, it deposits its 'instruments of ratification' with the Secretary General of the UN. Typically, a treaty comes into force and becomes legally binding after a certain number of its Signatories have ratified it. Those Signatories then become Parties to the treaty.

Under the Århus Convention, Parties assess their own progress of implementation through national reports. These are regularly submitted to the Århus Convention Secretariat. Another measure to improve compliance by the Parties was introduced through the Compliance Committee. Parties or members of the public may contact this institution in connection with cases of non-compliance by other Parties. The Compliance Committee, which consists of eight independent experts, can then issue recommendations that are subsequently discussed at Meetings of the Parties.

Regional in its approach and scope, the significance of the Århus Convention could be global. Although the public in the UK remains largely unaware of it, the Convention is seen as having strengthened the procedural environmental rights of citizens in Europe and Central Asia^{2,3}. Especially in countries with economies in transition, political leaders and NGOs regard it as a major incentive framework for the development of environmental democracy and civil society in general.

The three pillars of Århus

Access to information

Pillar I gives citizens the right to access environmental information held by public authorities (at national, regional and other levels), private companies providing public services, and institutions of the EU. It thereby aims to make the work and services of governments and public authorities more accountable and to increase transparency.

The definition of “environmental information” is intentionally kept broad. It includes information about elements of the environment (such as air, water, land, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and biological diversity), as well as factors (noise, radiation), activities and measures that might affect them. The state and condition of human life, health and safety have also been classed as environmental information, insofar as they may be affected by any of the above specifications.

Dissemination of information

To improve public access to this information, the Århus Convention has made several provisions for its dissemination. Governments and public authorities are responsible for possessing and updating all information relevant to their functions. Moreover, they are under an obligation to disseminate this information using proactive and passive approaches. Being proactive includes, for example, making environmental information progressively available in electronic format and providing assistance for its use. Here, one of the ultimate aims is to establish nationwide schemes of pollution inventories on structured, computerised and publicly accessible databases (Box 2).

Box 2. Kiev Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)

International conventions usually allow for later additional protocols to amend, supplement or clarify provisions made in the original document. The Kiev Protocol to the Århus Convention, adopted in 2003 and signed by 36 States and the European Community, is an example. It aims to improve public access to information by putting its Parties under an obligation to establish coherent, nationwide PRTRs.

With an user-friendly and easy-to-access format, PRTRs can act as public inventories for a range of pollutants from industrial and other sources. While having a regulatory effect only on pollution information rather than pollution directly, Parties to the Convention envisage PRTRs will increase corporate accountability. The expectation is that PRTRs will ultimately reduce pollution levels as companies will not want to be exposed as significant polluters.

The passive approach requires public authorities to respond to requests for environmental information. These can be made by any person or organisation without having to justify the inquiry. Under the Convention, the request has to be handled within 1 month, unless the volume and complexity of the inquiry justify an extension up to 2 months. A “reasonable amount” may be charged for providing the information. If the authority does not hold the requested information, it has to inform the applicant or redirect the request to the authority which it believes to be appropriate.

Exceptions

Public authorities have a finite set of exceptions to justify refusal of a request. These are similar to those in the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and must be interpreted restrictively. For example, they may be applied only if sensitive issues such as international relations, public security, the confidentiality of commercial and industrial information (excluding

emissions information), or the need to protect the environment, such as breeding sites of rare species, are affected. To prevent authorities from applying these exceptions excessively, they have to take the public interest in disclosure into account and show that they have done so if their decision is appealed.

Legal status

The first pillar has been implemented in EU legislation through Directive 2003/4/EC on Public Access to Environmental Information. This was transposed into UK legislation through the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004, with separate but similar arrangements for Scotland. Enquiries about matters covered by the Regulations are addressed to the relevant public authorities. If citizens feel that their requests for information have been unlawfully declined, they can contact the Information Commissioner (IC) office. The IC office acts as an impartial review body for public authority decisions and has the power to request the release of previously withheld information. Five of the first six decision notices on EIR provisions made by the IC regarded disputes over whether the fees charged by authorities for information were “reasonable”.

Implementation

Friends of the Earth (FoE) has positively commented on the EIRs' success in transposing Århus' first pillar into UK legislation. The far-reaching definition of environmental information in the EIRs is seen as the cause of their effectiveness. Although the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the IC have produced website guidance for the public about its new rights under Århus⁴, FoE still feels that the task of informing the public about these rights is mainly left to NGOs. Countries outside the EU with economies in transition have taken a completely different approach to informing the public. Some governments have been strongly involved in the creation of ‘Århus Centres’ (Box 3), which offer citizens a wide range of information relating to the Convention.

Box 3. Århus Centres in EECCA² region

As part of implementing the Convention in the EECCA region, some Ministries of the Environment have created environmental information centres, also called ‘Århus Centres’. These centres aim to provide a forum for dialogue between NGOs, the public and state officials. Rather than just giving free access to environmental information, their focus also extends to raising public awareness through public hearings on pending legislation, press conferences, and the offering of legal advice. Additionally, they hold environmental education initiatives for children.

The Århus Centre in Yerevan, Armenia, established in May 2002 shortly after the country ratified the Convention, became a model for the region. To encourage public participation and increase exposure of environmental issues in the media, the centre involved the public in the preparation of its national report on the Århus Convention and organised events specifically targeted at journalists. Many of the centre's outreach activities aim to extend beyond Armenia's borders, highlighting the cross-border relevance of environmental issues.

The result is a higher level of public awareness of Århus principles in these countries. In addition, many states from the EECCA² region were in the forefront of ratifying the Convention, often before signing up to other regional or international treaties³. While challenges in implementation undoubtedly remain, it appears that in countries with young democratic systems, the Convention has been particularly successful in its aim of promoting both environmental protection and more democratic principles in general.

Public participation in decision-making

Pillar II gives citizens and NGOs promoting environmental protection the right to participate in decision-making processes. To ensure their adequate involvement in these procedures, it provides for the early release and circulation of all “relevant information” before decisions are made. It also obliges governments and public authorities to take “due account” of the outcome of the public participation.

The main areas affected by provisions of the second pillar are proposed activities in the energy, industry, transport, waste and water management sectors. Plans, programmes, the preparation of legal instruments and policies relating to the environment are also included.

Legal status

Directive 2003/35/EC transposes the second pillar of the Århus Convention into Community legislation. First, it amends existing EU legislation by improving public participation provisions in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directives. Second, it introduces provisions for public participation in the preparation of environmental plans and programmes to six existing Directives on waste, air pollution and protection of waters against nitrate pollution. UK legislation translated the amendments to the EIA and IPPC Directives into the draft Town and Country Planning (2005) and the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales, 2005) Regulations, respectively. It is expected that the draft Regulations will come into force early in 2006.

Implementation

Implementing the second pillar has been problematic. Given the many discrete policy areas involved and the need to meet EU time limits, the competence for public participation has been split between different legal instruments and thus different government departments. With public participation legislation mainly focusing on EIA, IPPC and planning, it provides insufficient coverage for other areas affected. For example, breaches of the Habitat or the Birds Directive that are not caused by an EIA or IPPC project are not covered under current legislation⁵. Additionally, no central point of reference in the public participation arena exists (unlike with the IC). Awareness of the Århus provisions is as a result very patchy and few practitioners in the biodiversity and conservation field, and even in planning, know of its existence. Practitioners broadly agree in their concern about a lack of guidance in this matter and have asked

for government guidelines, for example on what would constitute a ‘good’ decision-making process. In the current situation, facilitators and consultants themselves are defining ‘good practice’.

The need for public participation

Society today faces a whole range of high risk decisions, many of which are based on scientific models, for example climate change, biotechnology and GMOs (Box 4). Public participation is essential to give these decisions legitimacy, especially in cases where experts do not agree on risks and benefits. Consequently, there is no need for completely informed views at the onset of participatory processes. Rather, problems have to be highlighted early “when all options are open and effective participation can take place”. At the moment, however, consultations, which do not have to take account of the opinions given, remain the key instrument used by decision makers. Since Directive 2003/35/EC has not achieved any real changes to this established practice, practitioners and FoE see it as a low level interpretation of the Århus principles, and as having failed to translate its ideas into legislation.

Box 4. Århus and genetically modified organisms

Initially, the Århus Convention to a certain extent exempted GMOs from its public participation obligations. It was only at the first Meeting of the Parties that a decision to address this exceptional situation was made. More than 2 years later, a legally binding amendment to the Convention was finally agreed. Parties now have to provide for “early and effective” public participation procedures before decisions on the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment or their placing on the market are made. The amendment will come into force only after three quarters of the Parties ratify it.

Although the amendment goes little if anything beyond requirements under current EU Directives, it initially faced serious resistance by some Member States (MS). It was argued that issues on GMOs were already covered by other more appropriate international agreements, such as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. However, several EECCA² and SEE² countries felt that these agreements did not make sufficient provisions for public participation. The new amendment under Århus is therefore intended to help these countries to upgrade their standards to a level comparable with the EU.

The role of NGOs

NGOs have played a key role throughout the evolution of the Convention. Initially, the very idea for developing such a UNECE treaty was introduced by NGOs themselves³. They were further involved in drawing up the original document and had a significant influence on the outcome of the negotiations. NGOs have since taken part in monitoring the Convention’s implementation and continue to play an integral part in the process itself.

Access to justice in environmental matters

Pillar III aims to guarantee citizens and environmental NGOs the right of access to justice and enhance their involvement in environmental law enforcement. It seeks to achieve this by guaranteeing them access to review procedures when their rights to information, participation or environmental laws in general have been breached.

Environmental justice

Being the first environmental agreement that links environmental and human rights, the Århus Convention also addresses the rather philosophical question of what constitutes environmental justice. As outlined in Article 1 of the Convention, its objective is “to contribute to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and wellbeing”. Academics believe that this touches strongly on issues of environmental equity and sustainability. Research commissioned by Defra to identify key issues and problems in these areas in the UK is underway⁶.

Access to justice

To guarantee citizens the right of access to justice in environmental matters, the Århus Convention makes several provisions on how this may be achieved. Yet, recent studies^{5,7} suggest that some of the difficulties encountered by citizens exercising this right contravene the requirements made by the Convention:

- lack of visible and accessible advice centres for most affected communities;
- restrictions on the legal standing of NGOs before the courts in some Member States (MS);
- lack of civil penalties and interim relief measures (to maintain status quo during a trial);
- risk of high legal costs and lack of public funding for environmental cases serving public interest;
- low level of expertise of magistrates and judges in environmental law issues.

Overall, costs are seen as the most significant barrier to accessing justice. This is despite provisions under Article 9(4) and (5) of the Convention, which require Parties to ensure costs are not prohibitively expensive and to reduce or remove financial and other barriers.

Legal status

Provisions to challenge breaches of access to information and public participation rights have already been made by the two Directives (2003/4/EC, 2003/35/EC) dealing with these subjects. However, these did not address breaches of environmental law in general, covered by Article 9(3) of the Convention. The Århus provisions leave some room for discretion to the Parties as to how far they guarantee their citizens access to justice in this matter. To cover this area and to create a level playing field between MS, a European Directive on Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, backed by NGOs and some lawyers alike, was proposed in 2003. As it touches on sensitive issues concerning national jurisdiction, the proposal has triggered a fair amount of hostility from MS, greatly reducing its chances of adoption.

The UK Government believes that the current proposal merely reiterates the provisions made by the two previous Directives. It also regards any additional issues addressed by the proposal, such as the legal standing of NGOs, as already guaranteed under UK law. Opinions about the necessity of an Access to Justice Directive in general also differ at the UNECE level. While some officials regard its adoption as more a political than a legal requirement,

others consider it a necessity for the EU and its MS to become compliant with the Convention. Normally, EU legislation aims to establish similar EU-wide standards in, for example, the areas of economy, transport and the environment. Some EU officials have argued that it would be paradoxical to uphold the national principle where matters of transboundary relevance, such as legal disputes relating to the environment, are concerned. Without the Access to Justice Directive in place, NGOs are currently debating a referral of the EU and its MS to the Compliance Committee in May 2006. As expressed by the European Eco Forum, a pan-European coalition of environmental NGOs, without effective provisions on access to justice, the Århus Convention “might be seen as consisting of two pillars and a broken stick”.

Overview

- Overall, the Århus Convention has been seen as a big step forward in providing more rights to citizens and NGOs in environmental matters.
- Not surprisingly, the actual implementation of the ambitious aims laid out in the original document created some problems.
- The first pillar of the Århus Convention has been successfully transposed into EU and UK legislation.
- Implementation of the second pillar received some criticism. This centred mainly on the fact that legal provisions on public participation were split between the different areas affected. Practical guidance by the Government, specifically produced for practitioners in the UK, could help to overcome this.
- Opinions about the implementation progress of the third pillar diverge. The prevailing view was that with the EU proposal for an Access to Justice Directive still pending, the public are lacking measures for effective environmental law enforcement.

Endnotes

- 1 <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/>
- 2 The UNECE region includes Europe, Central Asia, Israel, Canada and the United States of America. The EECCA region includes countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and the SEE region South-Eastern Europe.
- 3 Jeremy Wates (2005) “The Århus Convention: a Driving Force for Environmental Democracy.” *Journal for European Environmental & Planning Law* 2(1): 1-11
- 4 <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>
- 5 de Sadeleer N. *et al.* (2002) Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, Final Report ENV.A.3/ETU/2002/0030.
- 6 Lucas K. *et al.* (2004) Environment and Social Justice: Rapid Research and Evidence Review. Policy Studies Institute.
- 7 <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/justice/>

POST is an office of both Houses of Parliament, charged with providing independent and balanced analysis of public policy issues that have a basis in science and technology.

POST is grateful to Dr. Susanne Kadner for researching this briefing and to all contributors and reviewers. For further information on this subject, please contact Dr. Kate Trumper at POST.

Parliamentary Copyright 2006

The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, 7 Millbank, London, SW1P 3JA;
Tel: 020 7219 2840; email: post@parliament.uk

www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_offices/post/pubs2006.cfm

23/01596/SEXA Support Comments

1.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for the license for Jessop house to operate on the dates stated in the notice displayed outside the venue.

As a female resident of Cheltenham I often find nights out during race meets somewhat stressful. With the influx of men in the town and the sheer number of people in the area can be overwhelming but i visited an Eroticats event in march this year and I was impressed by the measures they put in place to stop overcrowding and general sense of security being present was refreshing.

Whilst I understand the moral debate surrounding this kind of entertainment I can also say the women I spoke to there were so professional and welcoming, they made me feel more comfortable than if I was in one of the other establishments in the area.

2.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for the proposed SEV license for Jessop House on the dates stated in the notice displayed outside the venue.

As someone who has been and would like to continue to be a customer of sexual entertainment venues/events, I wholeheartedly believe that the granting of this license will allow myself and other attendees to enjoy a safe and enjoyable experience that is regulated and monitored.

3.

To whom it may concern

I would like to express my support for the license for Jessop house to operate on the dates stated in the notice displayed outside the venue. As a female resident of Cheltenham I often find nights out during race meets somewhat stressful. With the influx of men in the town and the sheer number of people in the area can be overwhelming but i visited an Eroticats event in march this year and I was impressed by the measures they put in place to stop overcrowding and general sense of security being present was refreshing. Whilst I understand the moral debate surrounding this kind of entertainment I can also say the women I spoke to there were so professional and welcoming, they made me feel more comfortable than if I was in one of the other establishments in the area.

4.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for the license for Jessop house to operate on the dates stated in the notice displayed outside the venue.

As a female resident of Cheltenham I often find nights out during race meets somewhat stressful. With the influx of men in the town and the sheer number of people in the area can be overwhelming but i visited an Eroticats event in march this year and I was impressed by the measures they put in place to stop overcrowding and general sense of security being present was refreshing.

Whilst I understand the moral debate surrounding this kind of entertainment I can also say the women I spoke to there were so professional and welcoming, they made me feel more comfortable than if I was in one of the other establishments in the area.

5.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for the license for Jessop house to operate on the dates stated in the notice displayed outside the venue.

As a female resident of Cheltenham I often find nights out during race meets somewhat stressful. With the influx of men in the town and the sheer number of people in the area can be overwhelming but i visited an Eroticats event in march this year and I was impressed by the measures they put in place to stop overcrowding and general sense of security being present was refreshing.

Whilst I understand the moral debate surrounding this kind of entertainment I can also say the women I spoke to there were so professional and welcoming, they made me feel more comfortable than if I was in one of the other establishments in the area.

6.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for the license for Jessop house to operate on the dates stated in the notice displayed outside the venue.

As a resident of Cheltenham I often find nights out during race meets somewhat stressful. With the influx of men in the town and the sheer number of people in the area can be overwhelming but i visited an Eroticats event in march this year and I was impressed by the measures they put in place to stop overcrowding and general sense of security being present was refreshing.

Whilst I understand the moral debate surrounding this kind of entertainment I can also say the women I spoke to there were so professional and welcoming, they made me feel more comfortable than if I was in one of the other establishments in the area.

7.

Cheltenham licensing Dept

I would like to offer mine and my partners support. With our experience in March 2023 during the Cheltenham race festival

I have witnessed lap dancing in Cheltenham during the March & November festivals, which includes the most recent lap dance night hosted March 2023 at the Cheltenham race festival. Meeting up

with my partner towards the end of the night, we both enjoyed the night and without doubt the busiest club in the town that night.

Applying for permission for this activity gives the council knowledge the applicant and club are both responsible with the health and safety toward its patrons. Which helps maintain Cheltenham as a safe town to visit during the Cheltenham festivals uncontrolled lap dance activities could led to the exploitation of women and visitors to Cheltenham taken advantage of.

I whole heartly support this activity with all conditions in place

8.

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to you regarding the SEV to be operational during the race events in Cheltenham.

Many of my friends and I are for the sexual entertainment licence to go through for Red Apple Associates Limited, so that they are able to operate during the race events in Cheltenham.

The reasons we are all for this application is either we are dancers, we are operational staff or we have visited the venue.

We believe there is no reason for this application to be objected by the council.

9.

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to you regarding the SEV to be operational during the race events in Cheltenham.

Many of my friends and I are for the sexual entertainment licence to go through for Red Apple Associates Limited, so that they are able to operate during the race events in Cheltenham

The reasons we are all for this application is either we are dancers, we are operational staff or we have visited the venue.

We believe there is no reason for this application to be objected by the council.

10.

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to you regarding the SEV to be operational during the race events in Cheltenham.

Many of my friends and I are for the sexual entertainment licence to go through for Red Apple Associates Limited, so that they are able to operate during the race events in Cheltenham.

The reasons we are all for this application is either we are dancers, we are operational staff or we have visited the venue.

We believe there is no reason for this application to be objected by the council.

11.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for the license for Jessop house to operate on the dates stated in the notice displayed outside the venue.

As a female resident of Cheltenham I often find nights out during race meets somewhat stressful. With the influx of men in the town and the sheer number of people in the area can be overwhelming but i visited an Eroticats event in march this year and I was impressed by the measures they put in place to stop overcrowding and general sense of security being present was refreshing.

Whilst I understand the moral debate surrounding this kind of entertainment I can also say the women I spoke to there were so professional and welcoming, they made me feel more comfortable than if I was in one of the other establishments in the area.

12.

Committee members

Red Apple Associates, SEL application

I have worked in the hospitality industry in Cheltenham most of my adult working life from the largest venue in Cheltenham and the smaller niche venues in recent years.

More than 14 years ago, [REDACTED], Luminar Leisure, the owner of one club I managed in Cheltenham requested I contact Steven Burrows a former area manager for Luminar Leisure with the possibility of organising a Lap Dancing event with his company during the Cheltenham March festival.

I was very skeptical and questioned myself; Is Cheltenham suitable for lap dancing? After my initial meeting with Steve and members of the Eroticats dancers. My mind was put at ease the planning and procedures and the detailed attention to health and safety, were second to none.

Anti-social behaviour increases during the Cheltenham festivals with the resources of the Gloucestershire constabulary put to the test. A regulated SEV gives the Cheltenham police force a partner to work with that provides a safe working environment for the dancers, all members of staff and the customers who visit Cheltenham.

I would urge this application be given the consideration and the support I believe it deserves during Cheltenham race festivals

13.

To whom this may concern,

Page 73

I travel every year to Cheltenham in March for the Gold Cup and November for the November meeting without fail from Ireland. These Cheltenham race meeting being unmissable for my wife and friends.

We have stayed in Cheltenham at the same hotel and use the same bars and finish at the Erotocats club by choice, a club which is not just full of drunken young men !

My wife and friends and I would all confirm our support with the much needed alternative entertainment which we all enjoy when in Cheltenham especially after a day on the racecourse.

Many thanks

14.

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to you regarding the SEV to be operational during the race events in Cheltenham.

Many of my friends and I are for the sexual entertainment licence to go through for Red Apple Associates Limited, so that they are able to operate during the race events in Cheltenham.

The reasons we are all for this application is either we are dancers, we are operational staff or we have visited the venue.

We believe there is no reason for this application to be objected by the council.

15.

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to you regarding the SEV to be operational during the race events in Cheltenham.

Many of my friends and I are for the sexual entertainment licence to go through for Red Apple Associates Limited, so that they are able to operate during the race events in Cheltenham.

The reasons we are all for this application is either we are dancers, we are operational staff or we have visited the venue.

We believe there is no reason for this application to be objected by the council.

16.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for the license for Jessop house to operate on the dates stated in the notice displayed outside the venue.

As a female resident of Cheltenham I often find nights out during race meets somewhat stressful. With the influx of men in the town and the sheer number of people in the area can be overwhelming

however I visited an Eroticats event in March this year. I was impressed by the measures they put in place to stop overcrowding and general sense of security being present was refreshing.

Whilst I understand the moral debate surrounding this kind of entertainment I can also say the women I spoke to there were so professional and welcoming, they made me feel more comfortable than if I was in one of the other establishments in the area.

17.

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to you regarding the SEV to be operational during the race events in Cheltenham.

Many of my friends and I are for the sexual entertainment licence to go through for Red Apple Associates Limited, so that they are able to operate during the race events in Cheltenham.

The reasons we are all for this application is either we are dancers, we are operational staff or we have visited the venue.

We believe there is no reason for this application to be objected by the council.

18.

Good Afternoon,

An EROTICAT

I have received a message from a fellow lap dancer asking me to support Red Apple Associates on their request for a regulated licence in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

All lap dancers have the right to be safe at work. Working for a company who cooperates with all authorities deserves the respect for conducting themselves in a professional, legal and with a responsible attitude.

I request you grant Red Apple Associates application. Allowing all performers and all staff who work in Cheltenham during the Cheltenham festivals, Including patrons of lap dance clubs the support we all deserve.

I'm making other performers/ dancers and all patrons of lap dancing clubs aware, that we have the right to voice our opinion regarding applications for a SEV each and every year.

The committee hearing not just being for objections.!

19.

Licensing Section Cheltenham

I would like to support UTP application for sexual entertainment for Jessop House 30 Cambrey place as Having worked for Steven Burrows as a courtesy bus driver for a few years providing the safe transportation for the lap dancers and staff.

The courtesy bus service is a much-valued service especially with the lap dancers who travel from all parts of the UK now associated with Cheltenham along with its duty of care shown towards them

20.

To whom my concern I'd like to support the license application of Erotic Cats at the address below. I have always attended when they are in Cheltenham and always welcomed by the staff and the management. This is a fun place and a very diverse place and safe place I would like to support the license on Eroticats, Jessop House, 30 Cambrey Place, Cheltenham,

21.

Cheltenham Licensing Section

I have previously worked in Cheltenham for more than 20 years at various clubs in the town centre. After SIA training as a Close Protection Officer now working in the close protection sector of the security industry. Which has included in recent years for Mr Steven Burrows being contracted to work during March and November festivals.

Regulated Sexual Entertainment provides greater protection for all concerned working or attending all festivals in 2024.

The police knowing the operator and venue and working together creating the reputation for Cheltenham as a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Unregulated Sexual Entertainment provides no protection and the unknown entity operating during the lucrative March festival. Where police resources with the enforcement of the uncontrolled underground could be better utilized

I would urge the benefits of a regulated Sexual entertainment licence to be considered and the granting of the application.

22.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm a local member of the public who attends various social events including Cheltenham racing festivals.

Having visited Eroticats in March 2023, credit should be given to a well-run club.

If organizations and a small number of persons objecting on the safety of women, is it not better for all parties to work with a controlled club operating under the guidelines and the knowledge of "who where when".

I support this licence application.

23.

I would like to express my full support of this licence being granted.

I have worked during race meetings, in Cheltenham in hospitality, for over 40 years.

The volume of customers asking where the lapdancers are, has increased year by year.

I have worked alongside Eroticats and found them to be a very professional company, looking after dancers, staff & customers extremely well, also supporting the police with the security they provide, during these busy race days.

I felt the statement, made by the dancer at the council meeting, reported in the Gloucestershire Echo, was a great insight into how these girls feel, with the negativity shown to them continuously by local groups, that claim to support them, without even speaking to them. They should be supported in their choice of career without prejudice.

24.

Committee members.

I'm a local lady who attends all the Cheltenham racing festivals with my partner. Having visited Eroticats in March 2023 credit should be given to a well-run club.

If organizations and a small number of persons objecting on the safety of women, is it not better for all parties to work with a controlled club operating under the guidelines and the knowledge of WHO WHERE WHEN .

I support this licence application

25.

Dear Licensing committee

I'm in full support the application for a sexual entertainment license during the Cheltenham race meeting.

I have attended male strip shows including shows hosted at Cheltenham town hall.

I would like to ask people the question why is it acceptable for one gender to strip and not another?

Should females not have the same right to strip as males?
Supporting a licenced SEL in Cheltenham

26.

Dear Licensing Section,

I would offer my support on granting of a sexual entertainment licence with all the conditions set by the local licensing section in March. Reduces the possibility of the lap dance going underground, putting the safety of customers and the dancers at risk.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email for the support of the granting of the licence

27.

The Licensing Section

I would like to offer my support on granting of a sexual entertainment licence with all the conditions set by the local licensing section in March. Reduces the possibly of the lap dance going underground, putting the safety of customers and the dancers at risk.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email for the support of the granting of the licence

28.

To whom it may concern, Having worked for Mr Steven Burrows over several years as a receptionist at his lap dancing events including during the March, October and November in Cheltenham. I would like to give my full support for the renewal application 30 Cambray Place, Cheltenham.

Having worked at other venues during the Cheltenham festivals, I would not work for any other club or bar during March after working for Steven at his lap dancing club. The support and care he showed me and all the girls and dancers, not tolerating any bad behaviour from any customers towards any of his staff.

I can honestly say I enjoy working even though it can be a long night. Transport to and from the club, which I had never experienced at any club or bar in Cheltenham before. Waiting for an expensive taxi that might not even turn up. May be some of the other owners of managers should be encouraged to follow his lead, with the care he shows his staff as a responsible employer.

I would appreciate you considering the granting of his application for a well-run club, the alternative is a not so well-run club, by a not so responsible person.

29.

i wish to show my support for the sexual entertainment licensing to go ahead, this is due to my belief that it stops the sexual entertainment industry from being seedy and going underground.

30.

The Licensing Section

SEL application Cambray Place Cheltenham

As Cheltenham resident I would like to express my full support regarding the application of a Sexual Entertainment Venue to operate during the Cheltenham horse racing festivals 2024.

I support this SEL application as it would be run at a responsible venue in partnership with an experience SEL operator. Opposed to the here today gone tomorrow from the badly run one-night venues which have occurred at previous race festivals.

I fully support this locally run business and consider the granting of this licence beneficial towards the health and safety of all visitors to Cheltenham when the town centre nightlife increases tenfold

31.

Cheltenham borough licensing Section

I run a nationwide promotions company based in Bristol. Every year I supply promotional staff to venues in Cheltenham Spa and during festival times for Mr Steven Burrows @ Red Apple Associates Ltd and his Eroticcat dancers.

I have found Mr Steve Burrows as an organized and very professional operator with his proactive approach regarding health & safety towards customers and members of staff. Which includes a training program in partnership with GRASAC prior to the March festival 2023 with my staff in attendance. On numerous occasions Griffin promotional staff have assisted with lone females calling the Eroticcats courtesy bus returning them to their accommodation, contacting the police and allowing access to the use of their phones assisting with giving directions in and around Cheltenham.

Mr Steven Burrows having worked with yourselves, and the Gloucestershire police appears to be a successful approach to providing a partnership that benefits Cheltenham nighttime during festivals. All parties should receive credit for the professional and proactive attitude towards SEL Management in Cheltenham, with Mr Steven Burrows increasingly popular club with both males and females. I'm supportive of the granting of the Cambray Place SEL 2024 application.

32.

Committee members

Ref; Red Apple Associates Ltd

Sexual Entertainment Licence renewal

A Sexual entertainment licence renewal granted over the Cheltenham during any racing festivals, with all the restrictions & conditions imposed by the committee provides visitors who chose to attend entertainment of this nature and all performers the protection from exploitation and the safe working environment they rightly deserve.

I would urge the health and safety of all performers and members of the public attending a sexual entertainment venue be considered with the granting of this licence renewal application

33.

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to confirm my support for the "Eroticat application for Jessop House, 30 Cambray House", during the November race meet. These events attract an audience looking for this form of entertainment. The application accommodates this type of entertainment to an area but it also generates new business for the neighbouring business who may not typically have that level of access to the race audience. Eroticats have always ran a professional and well managed approach, working closely with the local authorities and local businesses during their events. I support their application.

34.

I was informed by a friend who is employed by Steven Burrows Red Apple aka Eroticats dancers. For the recent application for the renewal of the lap dancing license Cambray Place, Cheltenham to include the Cheltenham race festivals dates 2024.

Having on occasions worked for Steven Burrows, found him a very responsible person. My husband and I attend many of the race festival held at Cheltenham, along with a mixed group of friends the highlight being the Cheltenham Gold Cup March meeting. Over the years it has become noticeable with the change of the clientele attending Cheltenham festivals especially the Gold Cup festival, with large groups males socialising in Cheltenham after a day at the races.

My group of mixed friends and myself-have witness incidents traveling to and from the racecourse during the day. I don't believe that refusing a licence of a well-run club offering lap dancing would solve any problem during festivals March/ November either during the day or evening and benefit Cheltenham in its effort to combating anti-social behaviour. Using lap a dancing club as the reason for the anti-social behaviour is totally absurd. Individuals and groups searching for evidence to support the claims as the main reason for anti-social behaviour, time and effort would be better invested working together with Steven and other venues the racecourse included.

My friends and I all enjoy the lap dancing club, as a sanctuary a club that is not just full of males greatly under the influence of alcohol.

I urge you to consider this application from my experiences as employee and a customer.

35.

I would like to register my support with the application for Red Apple Ltd, Cambray Place, Cheltenham GL50 1JP to be used as a venue for sexual entertainment during the Cheltenham race festivals.

Having worked for Steven on many occasions as a cashier/receptionist during the Cheltenham March and November race festivals. I have always found Steven and the Eroticats dancers a very professional company.

I do value the employment on the race events and rely on the extra monies and would like to continue working for a rare employer who takes responsibility towards health & safety and procedures which this year organizing training by GRASAC for safety of females in Cheltenham's nighttime busiest period of the year.

Which includes the safe transportation to and from my home address. Taxi's being few and far between and very overpriced March.

36.

Cheltenham council committee

As a local Cheltenham person who always attends the Cheltenham March festival. My wife and myself spend the evenings in Cheltenham town centre. Always visiting Eroticats club, myself, and my wife both have found them to be a friendly and relax club.

We have always recommended a visit to our friends. As not just a bar / club full of men who have drunk to much alcohol which seems to be the normal practice during Cheltenham in March.

A well-run club regulated club in Cheltenham is a vast improvement of the unregulated lap dance clubs of yesteryear.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email of support.

37.

Sexual entertainment license support

Having worked in the security industry for many years which includes Cheltenham through the year and especially during race festivals holding a full SIA license.

A sexual entertainment licence with all the license restrictions & conditions put in place by the licensing section during the March and November 2024 race festivals. Highly reduces the risk to customers and the dancers alike.

Regulated + Positive action

Unregulated + Negative action

38.

March for the Gold Cup 2024 and Lap dancing in Cheltenham.

I visit Cheltenham for the March gold Cup and go into Cheltenham City centre visiting a restaurant and then book the courtesy bus with my party to the Eroticats, avoiding the busy City streets.

A licensed club gives a me the knowledge being a properly run club, any problems the police know the owners and the dancers are vetted.

Supporting the application

39.

Lap dancing in Cheltenham has taken place in Cheltenham for a long time, with the Blue Rooms St Margaret Rd, Fantasy Club, Old Bath Rd. Operating 52 weeks of the year, both failing.

Red Apple recognizing the market for lap dancing only during race festival dates in Cheltenham and now operating successfully for more than 14 years and now with more than 7/8 years with an SEL. Forming a working relationship with the local authorities and the Gloucestershire police providing safe working conditions for all employees and the Eroticats dancers.

With Cheltenham town awarded the purple flag since 2016, something must be working. The refusal of a licence could open the underground clubs and the pop ups clubs, offering no restrictions and run by?

Could result with the purple flag award at risk, which the council has worked hard to achieve and maintain.

Keep up the good work and grant the SEL.

40.

To whom it may concern,

I have worked for Eroticats for many years both as a performer and as my current position which is senior house mother.

I completely support any event or license that Mr Burrows hosts and can say my experiences have been nothing but positive. I've worked all over the country and would say that Eroticats is the most organised, safe and enjoyable company to work with - second to none. Performers are well looked after by myself and all of the team which is why they continue to return year after year.

Allowing this license would mean the dancers can return to a place they know and like. Without licensed venues it removes that added layer of safety and reassurance that everything is above board and regulated.

I would like to say that as dancers we are often judged and portrayed in and by the media, we are being spoken for and not to enough and we feel like our voices don't matter when ultimately - when it comes to welfare, our safety, our choices in how we earn our income - ours should be the only ones that matter.

In the early days of Eroticats I remember moving from venue to venue each night - having to navigate a different space each night is stressful. Granting this license would only be positive for the dancers and staff in my opinion.

41.

To whom it may concern,

I'm an SIA licence holder who works in Cheltenham during March and November festivals, which includes a licensed lap dancing club.

I have read many objections to lap dancing during the Cheltenham March and November festivals, In my first-hand personal experience, I have witnessed more incidents of violence anti-social behaviour within normal bars & clubs around Cheltenham in March Gold Cup Week with the police having to attend.

On my experience working within the night-club industry would like to support the granting of this licence.

42.

I have listened to both sides of SEL in Cheltenham 2024 the pros and the cons and sending you this email confirming that I'm in full agreement and support for a license during the March festival 2024, However, I do not believe Cheltenham would be a suitable town for a SEL club 52 weeks of the year. "Horses for courses" is the expression that fits this application.

43.

A regulated SEL being a positive and unregulated a negative during the Cheltenham Festival dates in 2024 Most Cheltenham residents avoid the town centre in March GCW With the behaviour that the festival attendees bring to the town .Any measure that assists the Cheltenham police with control of Cheltenham town centre and safety of all is positive The requested application for the SEL should be approved.

44.

To whom it may concern,

I have previously worked for Eroticats on several occasions as a performer.

I am fully in support of any event requiring a licence that Mr Burrows hosts.

Having worked at many similar events in different places throughout the UK, I can confirm that Eroticats is well run and provides a safe environment for all its workers. The other performers and I have always been taken care of and always have someone on hand should they need.

Allowing events like these a licence, means that performers, like myself, can earn a safe living to provide for our families, along with the money it brings into the Cheltenham economy. Not only do performers want to work somewhere enjoyable with a good reputation, but granting the licence ensures we are all kept safe, and the event is regulated.

As dancers, we often aren't considered in such discussions, as these. Not granting the licence would mean that many women may not be able to provide for their families that month due to daytime childcare costs etc, this is so often overlooked due to stigma around the adult industry. This line of work is so precious & beneficial to so many.

Please take this email in to consideration when making this decision.

45.

To whom it may concern,

I have been working with Eroticats during the march festival. I have worked quite a few places in my 11 years of dancing and will say that the event is very well run and organised. I had a good time, and it was a profitable week for me. I felt safe and well looked after by both management and security staff. Dancing gives me the freedom and financial security that I need in my life in the current climate. I support this license and any other events that they will run in future. To not grant it would take away my, and many other performers ability to earn during the race meets. Many of us travel to work this event because it is so organised, and we know we can work in a safe space.

46.

I am a female resident of Cheltenham I would like to express my full support for the proposed sexual entertainment licence of 30 cambray place.

47.

As a Cheltenham resident I would like to express support regarding the application for a Sexual Entertainment licence renewal.

Not listening to the smear campaign gossip circulated by some individuals I have taken the time to read the licence application dates. Clearly stating Cheltenham Festival dates only, not a strip club open all year round.

A business that contributes to the Cheltenham night-time economy throughout the year. One that chooses to diversify for the duration of the festivals and applies for a licence, to me indicates a responsible attitude towards adult entertainment. Opposed to the here today and gone tomorrow-promoters using the exemption ruling.

48.

There must be a need for lap dancing in the town at festivals when Cheltenham is overwelled with the tweed & trilby hat brigade.

It is far safer to licence a premises for everyone concerned dancers & customers police included. Only if the applicant reaches the criteria and standards set by the committee.

Sexual entertainment can take place without notice given to the police at anytime, anywhere, how can any sane person with the knowledge of this consider this being a solution for the safety and welfare for Cheltenham!

I would support a licensed club, to a no rules club which could set up wherever in the town for a twenty-four hours.

49.

SEL for Cheltenham 2024,

Sexual entertainment is lawful.

Alex Chalk MP for Cheltenham needs to be reminded Sexual entertainment is lawful activity. The article in Cheltenham free post urging the committee members on the banning of all sexual entertainment licences in Cheltenham.

Being a person in a position of power to make changes to legislation, instead of using social media as a point scoring exercise for his own political gain. He should be supporting the Cheltenham borough council committee members in favour of regulated and controlled sexual entertainment opposed to uncontrolled and unregulated.

I would like to add I have visited a licenced sexual entertainment club with my partner in previous years, our choice, if this entertainment is not for you, then don't go!

I trust that you will grant this application.

50.

I am writing to broadly support the application for the renewal of the Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) license detailed in application 23/01596/SEXA. As this is a renewal of a license already granted, with extended dates for the operation of the SEV, I can't see anything that has changed in terms of licensing conditions that would mean that this subsequent application should be refused.

I welcome the applicant's commitment to pursuing a license, and the costs, objections and scrutiny that invites, when the option is there to hold these events under the exemption. As far as I am aware the applicant has kept to any licensing conditions agreed for all previous licenses and has indeed worked voluntarily with local women's groups.

The safety of all women is better served by licensed and inspected venues while this is deemed a lawful activity. A more permanent venue should mean nicer conditions for the women who choose to perform there.

Research on how safe women feel in the area of SEVs focuses on areas with a high concentration of these venues, which this is not. Gender discrimination is also often cited as an objection however this is not a men only venue and feelings of safety or not are not limited to women and girls in areas of high concentrations of sexual entertainment venues, again, which this is not.

The applicant committed to making sure the venue is discreet with none of the activities visible from the outside. In terms of the location, it is in a much more open and better lit space than other venues in the town. As a woman, I know I could walk past some distance from any queue and it feels much less intimidating than passing the dark lanes and alleys of some other venues.

I can imagine that there will be objections under section d) as the venue is close to a church. During the meeting where the previous license was granted a representative of the church mentioned that the church recommended the rear entrance on Fridays so this could be utilised on the other dates when opening of the venue clashes with church activities.

Opening the venue at 8pm on dates other than the 4 days of the Gold Cup festival also avoids disturbance of retail units in the area and may also encourage footfall to other night time economy businesses in the area for those hours between the last race and the opening of this venue.

I am fortunate that I can choose to avoid the area for the 17 dates requested, but I have always been reassured as a woman walking around town during race meetings, and actually feel safer as there are more people in town, more police and more door staff who I could call on if I was threatened.

If this entertainment is going to happen, and it is, I'd much rather see it licensed, inspected and monitored for the protection of everyone involved.

This page is intentionally left blank

Designated Permitted Area (shaded)

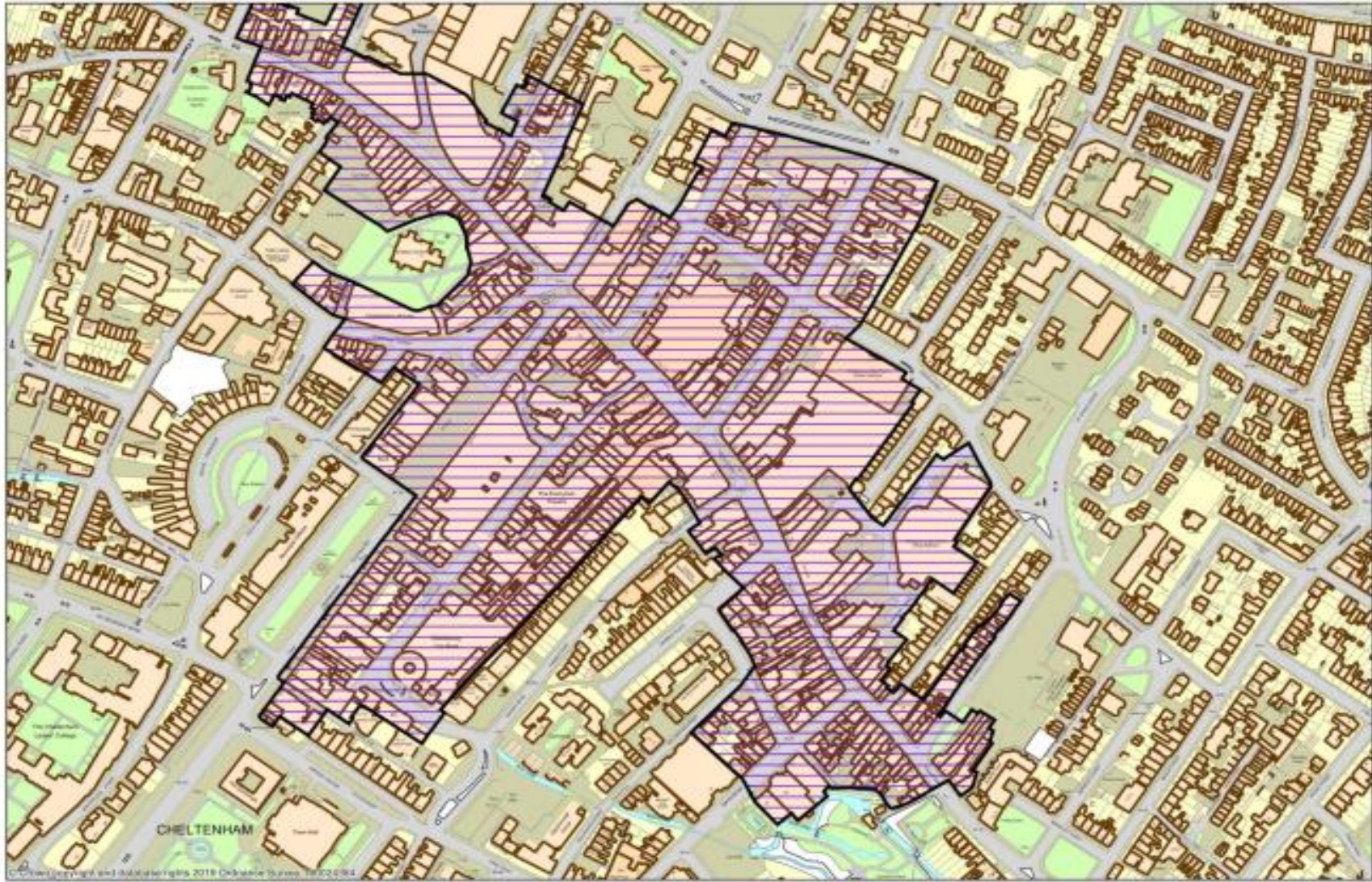


Fig 1 – Designated Permitted Area (shaded)

This page is intentionally left blank



Equality Act 2010

2010 CHAPTER 15

PART 11

ADVANCEMENT OF EQUALITY

CHAPTER 1

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

149 Public sector equality duty

- (1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (2) A person who is not a public authority but who exercises public functions must, in the exercise of those functions, have due regard to the matters mentioned in subsection (1).
- (3) Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to—
 - (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
 - (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
 - (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Equality Act 2010, Section 149. (See end of Document for details)

- (4) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- (5) Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to—
 - (a) tackle prejudice, and
 - (b) promote understanding.
- (6) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act.
- (7) The relevant protected characteristics are—
 - age;
 - disability;
 - gender reassignment;
 - pregnancy and maternity;
 - race;
 - religion or belief;
 - sex;
 - sexual orientation.
- (8) A reference to conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act includes a reference to—
 - (a) a breach of an equality clause or rule;
 - (b) a breach of a non-discrimination rule.
- (9) Schedule 18 (exceptions) has effect.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Equality Act 2010, Section 149.

This page is intentionally left blank

Application Information and supporting documents

This is an application to renew the Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) Licence 22/01366/SEXA issued on 29 January 2023 in respect of Eroticats, Jessop House, Cambray Place, Cheltenham, GL50 1JP.

The application is to renew the SEV licence on same terms as the existing SEV licence **(except for a variation in respect of the days and hours, please see details below)** including the varied standard condition 6 :

“There shall not be displayed outside the premises, in the immediate vicinity, or elsewhere within the Town any advertisements that indicate or suggest that any form of Relevant Entertainment takes place on the premises. This includes the display of any advertisement, word, letter, model, sign, light, placard, board, notice, device, representation, drawing, writing or any matter or thing (where illuminated or not) by means of externally displayed advertisement (such as on billboards or posters) within the councils administrative area.

1. The Applicant is allowed to solicit individuals to attend the premises during the hours the licence is in operation, provided that no solicitation takes place to anyone who appears to be under the age of 25.

2. The Applicant is allowed to operate a courtesy vehicle to transport dancers and clientele to and from the venue at all times. Further to be allowed to advertise, including by way of leaflets, the courtesy vehicle at all times during the permitted licence hours. No music will be played that can be heard from outside the vehicle. The use of the name ‘Eroticats’ is permitted.

The reason for the disapplication of this condition is permit a vehicle to transport clientele to and from the venue at all times and for staff to be permitted to give out leaflets for the courtesy bus in the Town.”

Please see the supporting documents which detail example images of the leaflets and example image of the minibus.

Days and Hours

The days and hours applied for in respect of the renewal are as follows:

“SEV to be operational for the following race events at Cheltenham Racecourse, dates to be confirmed in writing to the Police and Licensing at least 1 month prior to each event:

October - The Showcase Friday 8pm to 5am the day following

- The Showcase Saturday 8pm to 5am the day following

- November - The November meeting – Friday 8pm to 5am the day following
 - The November meeting – Saturday 8pm to 5am the day following

- December
 - The Christmas meeting Friday 8pm to 5am the day following
 - The Christmas meeting Saturday 8pm to 5am the day following

- January
 - The New Years Day meeting 1st January each year 8pm to 5am the day following
 - Festive Trials Saturday 8pm to 5am the day following

- March
 - Cheltenham Festival Monday 8pm to 5am the day following
 - Cheltenham Festival Tuesday 6pm to 5am the day following
 - Cheltenham Festival Wednesday 6pm to 5am the day following
 - Cheltenham Festival Thursday 6pm to 5am the day following
 - Cheltenham Festival Friday 6pm to 5am the day following
 - Cheltenham Festival Saturday 8pm to 5am the day following

- April
 - April Meeting Wednesday 8pm to 5am the day following
 - April meeting Thursday 8pm to 5am the day following

- May
 - Hunters Showcase Friday 8pm to 5am the day following”

Further supporting documents:

The following supporting documents are included to provide further information:

1. General Management Document – This is to provide some background detail in respect of the operation of the venue.
2. Elevation Plan – Detailing the exterior view of the venue and the discreet banner at the venue.
3. Courtesy Bus Flyer 1
4. Courtesy Bus Flyer 2
5. Example image of minibus
6. House Rules
7. Refusal entry log
8. Customer Rules
9. Copy of existing SEV licence conditions

General Management Document

Performers Application

Performers complete an application via a website providing information below.

- Full name
- Date of Birth
- Postal address
- Contact details: Telephone / Email address
- Upload copies of ID documentation

All information must be supported by Photographic I.D such as passport or driving licence which includes prove of address.

Once various checks have been completed, including right to work checks (with original copies of ID to be provided before performers are permitted to begin work), performers receive an email to confirm the application has been approved.

Events

Registered performers receive an email regarding up-and coming event/s offering them the opportunity to request to work a venue/event.

Only emails with the registered email addresses are considered, all performers when applying to register agree to update any changes to their details.

Confirmation on working

If after checking suitability of the applicant the performer is accepted for an event/venue, an email is sent offering night/s with information including the venue, dates, times and a copy of the house rules.

A copy of the house rules is made available in writing and verbally upon the performer checking in. It is made clear they will be expected to comply with the house rules, if they do not comply with the house rules their contract can be terminated.

Performers check-in

The venue opens up to 2 hours before event itself is open to customers.

SIA security are on duty from the time the venue opens.

The two-hour period prior to the event starting is to process performers details. Performers details are confirmed and checked against the records and copies of original photographic ID are taken. Performers then sign their contract and are issued with a unique numbered wristband.

The wristband confirms they are registered to work at the specific event, that they have completed all checks, contracts, house rules have been signed, and ID proof has been provided on check in.

No performer can work without a unique numbered wristband.

Any new performers will receive a guided tour of the venue with an introduction regarding how the system operates from one of the house mothers.

Changing Rooms:

- The changing rooms will have facilities provided and at no point can a customer gain access to the changing room area which is only open outside of the operating hours of the event (i.e when there are no customers within the venue).
- A refuge area is available to performers at all times during the evening which can also be used as a changing room. At no point can a customer gain access to the refuge area and it is manned by an SIA member of door staff.
- Within the refuge area and/or the changing room area, literature and contact details of organisations that provide advice and counselling on matters relating to:
 - (a) Modern slavery,
 - (b) Domestic abuse,
 - (c) Coercive control,
 - (d) Rape and sexual assault,is made available to performers free of charge.
- There is also a secure separate bag area/ cloakroom where performers can stow their belongings and their wrist band number matches the number assigned to their bags so no one else has access to their belongings. This area is staffed at all times.

Private Performer only Smoking Area:

- A member of door staff is stood at the exit to the garden with dressing gowns and performers are not permitted out into the smoking area unless they are wearing a dressing gown or suitably covered up.

Transactions

Performers will take the customer to the booth payment reception area, where payment is taken, and which is recorded on video. The receptionist receives payment, by cash or card from the customer directly

- The performer does not take any cash payment.
- The performer does not touch the customers card at any time.
- The performer does not touch the PDQ machine or enter the customer's pin.
- All larger than normal payments must be signed off by manager on duty.

- Receptionist will contact duty manager about any concerns regarding unusual customer spending.

Approved transactions

- A Chip/token is given to the performer for a cash payment, made by customer.
- A voucher/cheque is given to performer for PDQ payment made by customer .
- The customer and performer are shown to a numbered booth, the computer timing system sets the time allocated for the performance which is monitored by SIA security staff.

Performances

The booth area is patrolled by SIA registered booth walkers for the entirety of the event.

The booths themselves are of a steel frame structure with curtains to the back and sides. At the front of the booth there are net style curtains which are see-through, always giving a clear view into the booth.

The curtains have large gaps at the top and the bottom of the booths.

Within the booths there is one chair set at the back of the booth.

The dimensions of the booths are calculated so that the operator is able to be compliant with the licence condition that there must be no physical contact between the performer and any member of the viewing public. These calculations take account of the specific dimensions of the rooms within which the booths are constructed.

There are no solid doors or locks or mechanisms of any kind on the booths.

Booth walkers' duties include monitoring the timing screen located in the booth areas and ensuring the safety of both performers and customers. At the end of the allotted performance time, the booth walker directs the customer to the exit while performer dresses.

Cashing Up

At the end of the night all the performers go to the office to cash in the tokens/vouchers received for performances. For the safety of the performer, they are paid via cheque so they are not carrying large amounts of cash.

Courtesy bus service

The courtesy bus service allows performers and indeed any member of staff, female or male the opportunity to use this service.

This is not only at the end of the night leaving the venue , but also travelling to the venue. For example:

- To and from train/bus station, their hotel, accommodation and safe transportation to and from parked cars.
- Performers and staff are made aware of this service and are encouraged by management to make use of this service.

Signage on vehicle/s allows:

- Performers able to identify the vehicle.
- Local authorities and police to identify vehicle
- Taxi drivers to identify this is not an illegal taxi service

Courtesy bus history

The service has been in operation for over 12 years and was created initially for the safety of the performers visiting Cheltenham. See below list of reasons for developing the courtesy bus service:

- No available taxis
- Unlicensed taxis operating in and around Cheltenham
- Long waits for a taxi
- Taxis not turning up
- Expensive charge out rates
- Peoples safety within the town – safe travel to and from venue.

Customer courtesy bus service

During Cheltenham race festivals this service became more and more popular each year with customers.

- Both visiting the venue and when leaving venue.
- Customers wishing to avoid antisocial behavior in and around the town.
- We are experiencing more women using the courtesy bus service also.
- Assists with customer dispersal.

Leaflets

Promotional Staff in the Town handing out the courtesy bus printed material are briefed at the beginning of the shift on how to approach people and to pick up all disregarded printed material.

They are all briefed on how to identify intoxicated people and any vulnerable people that may need assistance. They also undergo bystander training. If an individual needs assistance, the promotional staff can phone the promotional manager with the incident which is relayed to the front door of the venue where door staff then inform the police over the radio of the incident.

NOTES

The accuracy of this drawing cannot be guaranteed and all critical dimensions must be taken on site.

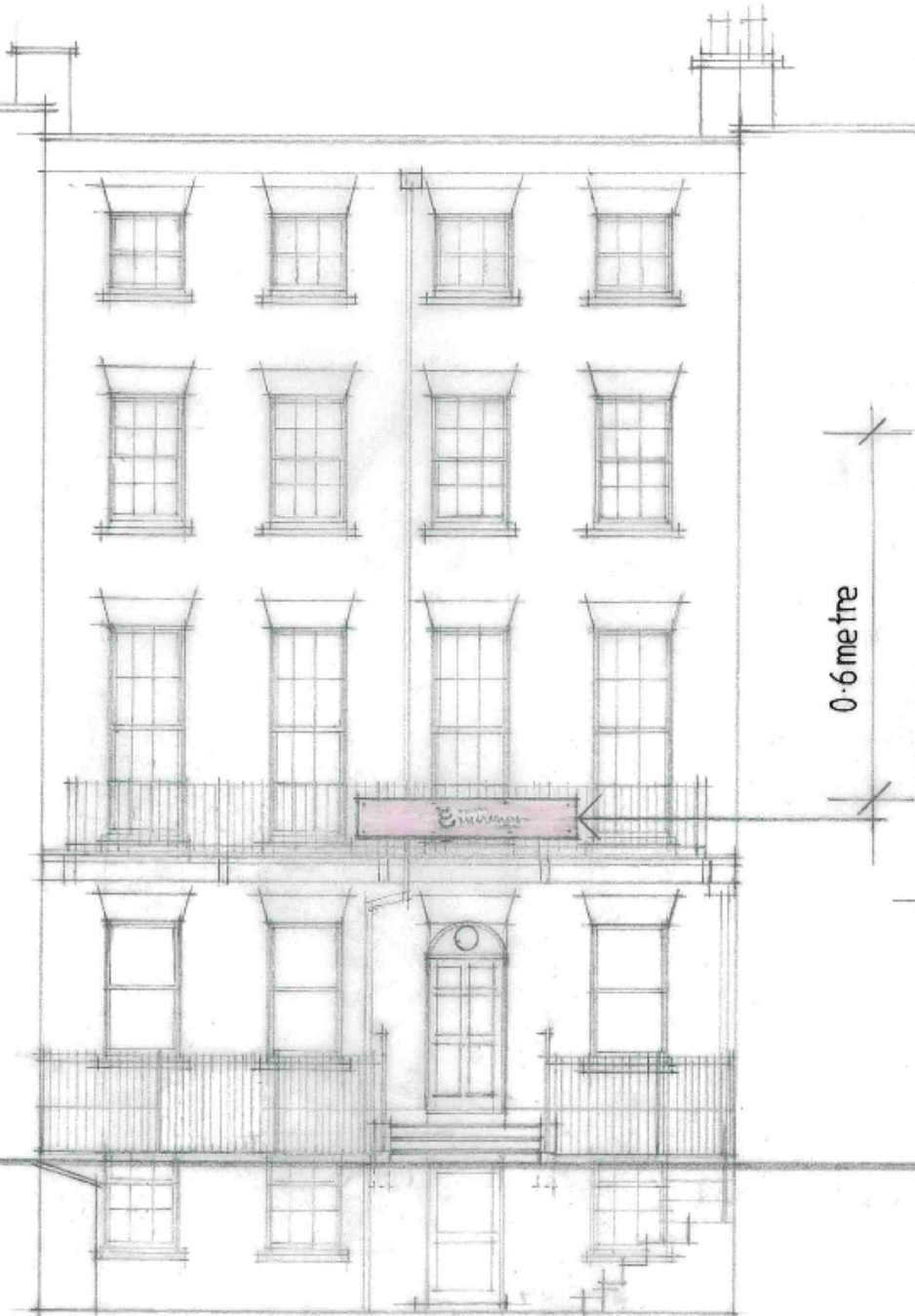
REVISIONS

2022/09 : Banner Sign, Jessop House, 30 Cambray Place, Cheltenham, GL50 1JP

BANNER SIGN

Size 3metre long x 0.6metre high
 Material PVC banner
 Colour Pink background with black lettering
 Position First floor front metal railings centred over entrance door
 Fixings Metal rings on banner and black plastic cable ties to railings

Signage
 EROTICAT 320mm wide x 420mm high uppercase Cat letter 'E' with 160mm high uppercase
 CLUB 80mm high uppercase
 CHELTENHAM 50mm high uppercase



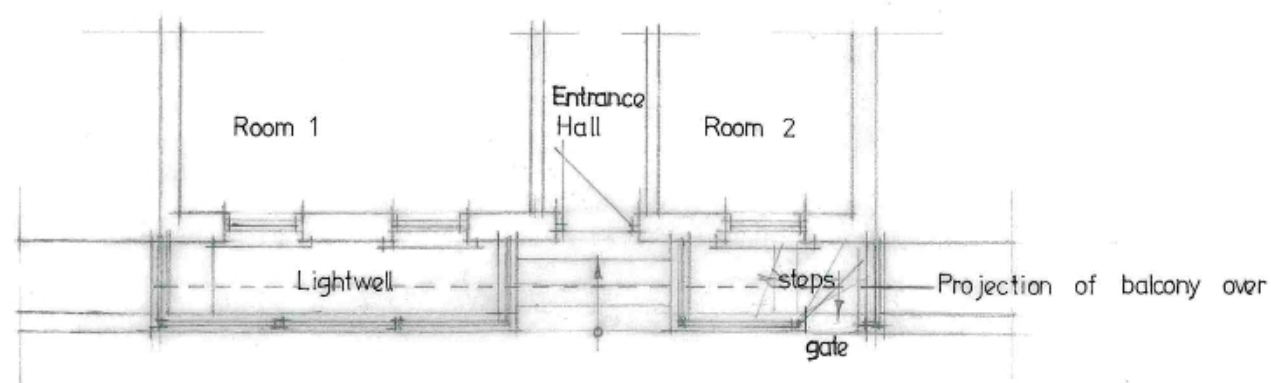
FRONT ELEVATION TO CAMBRAY PLACE
 Scale 1:100 at A3



BANNER

3metre

0.6metre



PAVEMENT PLAN TO CAMBRAY PLACE
 Scale 1:100 at A3

Page 101

This page is intentionally left blank



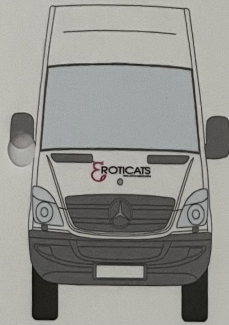
This page is intentionally left blank

EROTICATS
info@eroticats.co.uk

**CALL
FOR FREE BUS**

**FREE COURTESY BUS:
07977 436 395**

This page is intentionally left blank



This page is intentionally left blank

House Rules

1. All personal information details submitted to Eroticats are correct and up to date of signing Eroticats contract.
2. 48 hours' notice is needed for cancellations of booked shifts
3. Late arrival, late check-in fee may be charged. Unless agreed.
4. Early check-out fee may be charged, unless agreed.
5. House Mother must be informed if leaving venue, eg breaks.
6. Signing in and out your name and dance number must be recorded upon leaving and returning to the venue with door-staff.
7. No cash payments to be requested or received from customers.
8. No use of PDQ machines on customers behalf.
9. All payments received from customers must be cashed in on the date received.
10. During any performance there must be no physical contact between the performer and any member of the viewing public.
11. No performances shall include any sexual act with other performers.
12. No performances shall include any sexual act with objects.
13. There shall be no nudity by performers in public areas of the premises, unless the authority has agreed in writing that the area may be used for performances of sexual entertainment.
14. At the completion of the Relevant Entertainment the performers shall dress themselves immediately and leave the designated performance area.
15. Performers not engaged in performing shall not remain in any area in a state of undress.
16. Performers are not to solicit, exchange addresses, telephone numbers or social media contact details with customers, liaise with customers of the premises, or incite customers to purchase alcoholic drinks.
17. Any bodily contact between entertainers or performers or any movement that indicates sexual activity or simulated sex between entertainers or performers is strictly forbidden.

18. Entertainers or performers not performing must not be in a licensed area in a state of undress.

19. Any abusive or violent behaviour towards performers or staff is not tolerated and must be reported immediately.

20. Failure to comply with the Eroticats code of conduct house rules could lead to the termination of the contract and jeopardise any future work.

This page is intentionally left blank

PLEASE BEHAVE LIKE A GENTLEMAN

- KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF
DURING A PERFORMANCE
- REMAIN FULLY DRESSED DURING A PERFORMANCE
- NO PHONES TO BE USED DURING A PERFORMANCE
- NO PHOTOGRAPHY AT ANY TIME
- ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE AT THE CASHIERS
RECEPTION AND EXCHANGED FOR EROTICATS
TOKEN CHIPS

Please show the ladies respect and behave like a gentleman. Any abusive or violent behaviour towards any member of staff will result in you escorted from the venue and police will be called.

This page is intentionally left blank

Days/ Hours to be applied for:

SEV to be operational for the following race events at Cheltenham Racecourse, dates to be confirmed in writing to the Police and Licensing at least 1 month prior to each event:

- October - The Showcase Friday 8pm to 5am the day following
 - The Showcase Saturday 8pm to 5am the day following

- November - The November meeting – Friday 8pm to 5am the day following
 - The November meeting – Saturday 8pm to 5am the day following

- December - The Christmas meeting Friday 8pm to 5am the day following
 - The Christmas meeting Saturday 8pm to 5am the day following

- January following - The New Years Day meeting 1st January each year 8pm to 5am the day following
 - Festive Trials Saturday 8pm to 5am the day following

- March – Cheltenham Festival Monday 8pm to 5am the day following
 - Cheltenham Festival Tuesday 6pm to 5am the day following
 - Cheltenham Festival Wednesday 6pm to 5am the day following
 - Cheltenham Festival Thursday 6pm to 5am the day following
 - Cheltenham Festival Friday 6pm to 5am the day following
 - Cheltenham Festival Saturday 8pm to 5am the day following

- April - April Meeting Wednesday 8pm to 5am the day following
 - April meeting Thursday 8pm to 5am the day following

- May - Hunters Showcase Friday 8pm to 5am the day following

Second Schedule

STANDARD CONDITIONS REGARDING SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

Variation of Standard Condition 6

As part of the new Sexual Entertainment Licence the applicant was granted permission to vary standard condition 6 regarding advertisements, solicitations and displays which reads as follows:-

“6. There shall not be displayed outside the premises, in the immediate vicinity, or elsewhere with the Town and advertisements that indicate or suggest that any form of Relevant Entertainment takes place on the premises. This includes the display of any advertisement, word, letter, model, sign, light, placard, board, notice, device, representation, drawing, writing or any matter or thing (where illuminated or not) including any of the following ways;

- a) by means of personal solicitation in the locality of the licensed premises
- b) by means of leafleting in the locality
- c) by means of externally displayed advertisement (such as on billboards or posters) in any parts of the Council’s administrative area
- d) by means of cruising vehicles or use of any other form of solicitation to invite people into the premises.”

The varied condition 6 now reads as follows:-

There shall not be displayed outside the premises, in the immediate vicinity, or elsewhere within the Town any advertisements that indicate or suggest that any form of Relevant Entertainment takes place on the premises. This includes the display of any advertisement, word, letter, model, sign, light, placard, board, notice, device, representation, drawing, writing or any matter or thing (where illuminated or not) by means of externally displayed advertisement (such as on billboards or posters) within the councils administrative area.

1. The Applicant is allowed to solicit individuals to attend the premises during the hours the licence is in operation, provided that no solicitation takes place to anyone who appears to be under the age of 25.
2. The Applicant is allowed to operate a courtesy vehicle to transport dancers and clientele to and from the venue at all times. Further to be allowed to advertise, including by way of leaflets, the courtesy vehicle at all times during the permitted licence hours. No music will be played that can be heard from outside the vehicle. The use of the name 'Eroticats' is permitted.

The reason for the disapplication of this condition is permit a vehicle to transport clientele to and from the venue at all times and for staff to be permitted to give out leaflets for the courtesy bus in the Town.

Second Schedule

STANDARD CONDITIONS REGARDING SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

In these conditions:

'Relevant Entertainment' means any live performance or any 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 the audience (whether by verbal or other means).

'Authority' means Cheltenham Borough Council.

'Town' means Cheltenham and refers to it in its entirety.

'Premises' means any vessel, vehicle, stall, building, forecourt yard, place of storage or any part of any of these where Relevant Entertainment takes place and is the subject of a licence.

In the event of a conflict between the prescribed conditions and special conditions contained in a SEV licence the special conditions shall prevail.

General Conditions:

1. The premises shall only permit adult entertainment between the hours detailed in this licence as determined by the licensing committee.
2. Only activities which have previously been agreed in writing by the Authority shall take place.
3. The agreed activities shall take place only in designated areas approved by the Authority.
4. There shall not be displayed outside the premises, in the immediate vicinity, or elsewhere within the Town any advertisements, photographs or images that indicate or suggest that striptease-type dancing takes place on the premises.
5. Rules shall be produced by the licensee for customers indicating conduct that is deemed acceptable. These rules shall be prominently displayed at all tables and at other appropriate locations within the club.

Advertisements, solicitation and displays

See above

Premises

7. Alterations or additions, either internal or external and whether permanent or temporary, to the structures, lighting or layout of the premises as shown on the plan, including any change in the permitted signs on display shall not be made except with the prior approval of the Council.
8. A clear Notice shall be displayed inside the entrance to the premises in the following terms:
9. "Striptease-style entertainment takes place on these premises. No persons under 18 shall be permitted in the premises."
10. The performance must not be visible from the street, and any person who can be observed from the outside of the premises must be properly and decently dressed. Scantily-clad individuals employed in the premises must not exhibit themselves in the entrance or in the vicinity of the premises.
11. When the premises are open for Relevant Entertainment no person under the age of 18 shall be permitted to be on the premises. Anyone appearing to be under the age of 25 years

shall be asked to produce valid photographic identification. If this is not produced the individual shall be refused access.

Management and licensee

12. Where the licensee is a body corporate or an unincorporated body any change of director, company secretary or other person responsible for the management of the body is to be notified in writing to the Authority within 14 days of such change.

13. The premises shall maintain a refusals log whereby any occasion a person is refused entry shall be recorded and available upon request by the Police or an authorised officer of the Authority.

Conditions regarding performers

14. Relevant Entertainment may only take place in 'designated areas' that are marked on the plan of the premises.

15. The audience must at all times remain fully-clothed.

16. Performers shall be aged not less than 18 years and the licence holder (or his nominated deputy who is authorised in writing) shall satisfy him/herself that this is the case by requesting valid photographic ID, if necessary, prior to the performance.

17. A 'Signing-in' Register shall be kept at the premises that records the time that the performer starts and finishes at the premises. This shall be made available for immediate inspection by a Police Officer or authorised officers of the Authority.

18. During any performance there must be no physical contact between the performer and any member of the viewing public.

19. No performances shall include any sexual act with other performers.

20. No performances shall include any sexual act with objects.

21. There shall be no nudity by performers in public areas of the premises, unless the Authority has agreed in writing that the area may be used for performances of sexual entertainment.

22. At the completion of the Relevant Entertainment the performers shall dress themselves immediately and leave the designated performance area. Performers not engaged in performing shall not remain in any area in a state of undress.

23. Performers are not to solicit, exchange addresses, telephone numbers or social media contact details with customers, liaise with customers of the premises, or incite customers to purchase alcoholic drinks.

24. An appropriate room shall be set aside to provide a changing and rest area for performers. Access to this room shall be restricted to performers only, whilst the performers are on the premises and shall be marked on the plan of the premises.

25. Any bodily contact between entertainers or performers or any movement that indicates sexual activity or simulated sex between entertainers or performers is strictly forbidden.

26. Entertainers or performers not performing must not be in a licensed area in a state of undress.

27. There shall be prominently and legibly displayed a comprehensive tariff of all charges and prices in respect of relevant entertainment, including any charge for the company of any person working at the premises, which shall be placed in such a position that it can at all times be easily and conveniently read by persons inside the premises.

28. Literature and contact details of organisations that provide advice and counselling on matters relating to:

- (a) Modern slavery,
- (b) Domestic abuse,
- (c) Coercive control,
- (d) Rape and sexual assault,

shall be made available to performers free of charge in their changing area.

Briefing

29. Prior to performers carrying out any activity on the premises, they shall be briefed (verbally or in writing) by the licence holder or his nominated deputy who is authorised in writing as to the conditions that pertain to these particular premises, including the fact that their activities will be recorded on CCTV. The performer(s) shall sign in the Register that they have been briefed.

Door-Supervisors

30. Subject to a minimum of two, SIA-registered door-supervisors shall be employed at a minimum ratio of 1:50 customers on the premises whilst Relevant Entertainment is taking place.

31. The licence holder, or his nominated deputy who is authorised in writing, or

Door supervisors, shall carry out regular monitoring of all areas of the premises to which the public have access, and shall intervene promptly, if necessary, to ensure compliance with licence conditions by customers and performers.

32. Door-supervisors shall regularly monitor the area immediately outside the premises for a distance of 30 metres in all directions and shall take steps to deal with (by alerting the Police if appropriate) any unsavoury activity that may be attracted to the vicinity due to the nature of the business.

33. A dedicated SIA-registered door supervisor shall remain at all times in any 'private' performance area where performers are performing nude, and shall intervene promptly, if necessary, to ensure compliance with the Licence conditions.

34. When performers leave the premises they are to be escorted to their cars or taxi by a door- supervisor or member of staff.

CCTV System

35. A digital CCTV system shall be installed and be maintained in good working order, shall record at all times the premises are open, and recordings shall be kept for 14 days.

The CCTV system is to be installed in all areas as recommended by the Police Crime Reduction Officer

36. The CCTV recording device, controls and recordings shall be kept under suitable security to prevent unauthorised access/tampering. Access shall be restricted to the licence holder or his nominated deputy who will be authorised in writing and no more than two designated persons.

37. Unaltered CCTV recordings shall be provided on request (as soon as possible and in any event within 24 hours) to the Police or authorised Officers of the Cheltenham Borough Authority (who will carry identification).

38. No CCTV footage is to be copied, given away or sold (except as required by Police/Authority for investigation/enforcement purposes).

39. Except in accordance with the requirements for CCTV as described above, no photographs, films or video recordings shall be taken of the performances. Nor shall electronic transmissions of performances take place.

40. Notices shall be displayed informing customers of the presence of CCTV.

Special Condition(s)

None

Plan

Attached.

This page is intentionally left blank