

Dear Members of the Licensing Committee,

As you are aware Cheltenham is very busy at certain periods when the Cheltenham Races are on. Local people understand the reason why, and they are generally happy to go along with this believing that it will benefit the town.

However it is with distress that we have found that we should accept a continuation of the Sex Establishment licence held by The Two Pigs Pub in Church Street, from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.

The activities around these premises make us feel uncomfortable in this area. It is not the best of areas normally, with rubbish and alcohol left around the pathway. The cemetery is often misused and the people who open St Mary's church are doing an amazing job.

To add a sex licence during the period when many people are already suffering from excess drink, makes us feel very uncomfortable. To the point where we will have to avoid coming into Cheltenham and going to The Brewery Cinema or the Bowling Alley.

We would like you to reject this application as we are not given equal access in this area of the town.

Dear Mr. Krog - Licensing Team leader of Cheltenham
Borough Council

I was saddened to hear that the 'Two Pigs
Pub.' near The Minster Church had applied
to renew its ~~sex~~ sex establishment licence.

My concern is the young people with
severe hearing ^{disabilities} who use The Floor at The
Top of the Children's library about 100 yards
from The Pub.

They are very vulnerable. They meet their
Staff Monday to Friday, just for about
an hour. The rest of their day they wander
around the shops and the town.

They do have some visits to the Swimming
Pool and other sport activities, but most
of the time they love to chat, often go in the
Minster where they feel wanted.

My fear is that they may hear about "The
2 Pigs licence" and because of their negativity
want to join in.

Their Staff are very supportive but it is
to difficult to cope, when as these are
the more able of those with hearing disability
are encouraged not to spend all their time
in their Care Home.

My son of 52 has hearing disabilities and has
spent all his life with my husband (who died 3 years
ago) and ^{and} another son who lives in Surrey with his
wife & young family.

We have campaigned for other children & adults
and love their gregarious manner. So I do not
want them to be hurt simply because they've
been encouraged to go in the Pub.

We object to the renewal of the license on the grounds of fear of threat, harassment, discomfort, unwanted sexual advances and therefore prevention of equality of access to the town centre for all. We cannot believe that this is the sort of atmosphere that the Borough Council wishes to encourage during Race Weeks & we urge you to reject the renewal application.

Renewal of Sex Establishment Licence for The Two Pigs

Please find enclosed a petition from a large number of members and users of St Matthews and Cheltenham Minister objecting to the renewal of this licence.

We are objecting under the relevant objection d) the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard: i) to the character of the relevant locality. In particular, we object to the change of character of the area around the Two Pigs during race weeks and the prevention of equality of access to the town centre for all.

Renewal of Sex Establishment Licence for the Two Pigs Pub

"We the undersigned object to the renewal of this licence. We understand that the licence will allow shows with live sexual performances from 8pm to 5 am on every night of race meeting weeks throughout the year, including Sundays.

Anecdotal evidence is that it is common for people to be targeted, propositioned, groped and feel threatened and insulted in the town centre during race weeks. This is exacerbated by the sexual entertainment provided by The Two Pigs and buses with sexually explicit images and loudspeakers collecting clients from all over the town and transporting them to The Two Pigs. Many people avoid the town centre during race weeks as a result. Maggie Stewart (the Director of GRASAC - Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Assault Centre) has provide the Police with statistics showing a rise in sexual harassment and sexual assaults on both women and men during race weeks.

We object to the renewal of the licence on the grounds of fear of threat, harassment, discomfort, unwanted sexual advances and therefore prevention of equality of access to the town centre for all. We cannot believe that this is the sort of atmosphere that the Borough Council wishes to encourage during race weeks and urge you to reject the renewal of the licence."

*** 178 signatories attached to this objection.**

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my objection to the renewal of The sexual entertainment establishment licencing at The Two Pigs in Cheltenham (Reference: 19/02708/SEXR).

In my experience as an Independent Sexual Violence Adviser, I have seen that incidents of women being sexually harassed, groped, cat called and sexually assaulted are commonplace during Cheltenham Race Week. Furthermore, sexist and harmful sexual behaviour is ubiquitous in the town at this time. This has led women to feel unsafe, humiliated, degraded and threatened.

My concern is that the sexual entertainment provided by The Two Pigs will encourage men to view women as objects without emotions and preferences and this in turn can promote the idea that they can be acted upon without consent.

I hope these views can be taken into consideration.

I have copied this representation to my ward councillors for information.

I understand that an application has been submitted to renew the Sexual Entertainment licence for the premises known as 'The Two Pigs', Church Street GL50 3HA.

I objected to the application to grant this licence when it was made in 2016 (16/01471/SEXA), and on the same grounds I object to this renewal application.

For ease of reference I will repeat below the principal grounds of my objection, now slightly amended:

The Council's own policy statement on sexual entertainment venues was adopted in October 2014. That Policy Statement lists the matters to which the Council should have regard when considering whether, using its discretionary power, it is appropriate to grant an application or a renewal, with further guidance in paragraph 11.4 on sensitive locations.

The address of the Two Pigs is 'Church Street', which itself gives an indication of the location of the venue. The entrance door to the venue opens onto one of the 'Minster Walkways', or 'Minster alleyways'. These have been the subject of proposals to improve their attractiveness and safety as pedestrian walkways into the Minster Churchyard area, and also as part of the Council's overall medium to long term intention to see rejuvenation of the Minster Churchyard as pleasant green amenity space in the heart of the town, around the Grade 1 listed Minster (the oldest building in Cheltenham) itself.

The plan to rejuvenate the Churchyard would see the area increasingly frequented by families and children (see Policy Statement 11.4 (d)) some of whom no doubt would pass the doorway of the proposed venue in order to access the area and to access the Children's library (Policy Statement 11.4 (b)) adjacent to the Churchyard.

Further, it must be manifestly evident that the Minster itself is a property which is 'sensitive for religious purposes' (see Policy Statement 11.4 (c)) It seems quite clear that The Two Pigs (itself on the very edge of the boundary of the 'blue' Central Shopping Area as indicated on the plan in the Policy statement, being on the only area in which the Council is prepared to consider the grant of such licences) is near to both a property with a sensitive use (The Minster, Policy para 11.4 (c)) and to an area which is a sensitive location (the Minster Churchyard, Policy para 11.4 (b) and (d)).

For these reasons I object to the Application to Renew the Licence and ask that it is rejected by the Council.

Dear Sirs

I understand that there has been an application to renew the Sex Establishment licence held by the Two Pigs Pub in Church Street, Cheltenham. There is little information on the CBC web page but I am aware that the current licence for this type of entertainment relates to all the dates on which Racing takes place at Cheltenham Park Racecourse and hours allowed by the licence are from 8 pm to 5 am.

I object to this on the grounds that the activities in the vicinity of these premises generated by the numbers of customers attracted make it uncomfortable and unsafe to access the area. I feel that this leads to a failure in the Council's responsibility to ensure public equality access. The inequality of access is such that I do not feel safe to traverse the High Street or the area around the Minster, meaning that I cannot use the bus services in this area, which is otherwise only pedestrian access. Neither can I get to venues in this part of town during the days when the Two Pigs holds the extended licence without fear of unwanted interaction and insult..

It is not right that I should find areas of this town too intimidating and threatening to access during Race meetings and I look to the Councillors to consider their duty to ensure that there is public quality access within the town when they consider this application.

I am writing to object to the renewal of the sex establishment license for the Two Pigs, Cheltenham.

I object on the grounds of women's safety and gender equality.

We are in the year 2019, why are places still being provided where men treat and view women as disposable sexualised commodities? Why are we still debating if sexually exploiting women is moral? Paying for something doesn't make it moral.

Objectification of women is dehumanising. Dehumanisation is the first step in being able to commit violence against someone. 'Strip clubs' encourage men to treat women like second class citizens, this behaviour and attitude is not 'contained' in the 'sexual entertainment venue', it spills out into our courtrooms, our lawmakers and licencing committees, our classrooms, our workplaces, our families, and attitudes towards rape and sexual abuse victims. It affects how women and girls view themselves and what boys and men think is an acceptable way to treat girls and women.

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/news/society/12377/link-between-sexual-objectification-andaggression>

It is a human right for women to feel safe and be free of violence, that includes the threat of violence and being seen as a person, not an object. This includes women who work in strip clubs as well as women who don't. The men going to these establishments do not differentiate once they come out.

Sexualising women and girls leads to violence. Even 'cat-calling' is scary – being reduced to an object is scary – if you respond you risk escalating the bad behaviour, if you don't respond you are left feeling humiliated. Cat calling is never a compliment. This is the type of behaviour that Cheltenham council are condoning if they allow 'sexual entertainment venues'. Condoning the objectification of women, that women are there for male gratification. I don't want to go to a city that sends that message.

From the website: <http://www.lwa.org.uk/understanding-abuse/statistics.htm>

"It has been estimated that domestic abuse costs the public £23 billion per annum. This includes the cost to the criminal justice system, to the health service, to social care and to housing. It is widely accepted however that this figure is an under-estimate as there are so many costs that can not be measured.

The Home Office estimates that each domestic abuse murder costs the country just over £1 million and totals £112 million per annum."

The ideal would be no 'sexual entertainment' venues, as Iceland have introduced. Why should few profit (eg. the owners of these exploitive 'sexual entertainment' venues) while male sexual violence towards women is still such a problem. Reported rape and sexual assault statistics are at the highest ever, this can change if we change the attitudes towards women and it starts by not having women as objects in 'sexual entertainment venues'.

GRASAC would wish to object to the renewal of the Two Pigs SEV licence.

GRASAC has written evidence from clients and those accessing GRASAC website that there are many cases of respondents experiencing sexual abuse or harassment during race weeks, either in the vicinity of Church Street where the Two Pigs is, or within a wider area of the town. GRASAC's evidence suggests that this is more often not reported to police with one respondent stating 'I have never reported anything on race-week, that behaviour seems to be normalised in Cheltenham' (cat calling, groping, aggression, shouting obscenities were noted by the respondent).

Another respondent stated ' I have worked as a glass collector when a man grabbed my bottom. I was unable to move away due to the crowd and my hands were full of glasses. The group of men with him all cheered and laughed'.

Within the wider area, another respondent note 'I was walking through the centre at around 6.30 having just finished work. Two racegoers came up to me and started telling me they wanted to spend some of their winnings on me, They kept asking how much for both of them, I kept walking and they kept following, there were loads of police so I walked towards one and told them that had happened. The officer just said ' it's race week, they are just having fun. Don't worry'. I decided to try and get a taxi instead of waiting for my bus. They continued to follow me, then they grabbed me and both groped me. I will now refuse to work during race week and this year took some days off on holiday'.

Verbal information from clients of GRASAC and written evidence suggests that there are a number of instances where women and girls do not feel safe and do not have equal access to both the area where the Two Pigs is located and the town centre and GRASAC is therefore objecting to the licence on the grounds of the local authority's Public Sector Equality Duty as it is clear that in both the area of Church Street and the town, women are unable to walk freely and without consequence. In additional, Location of Premises (Section 11) states "In deciding the appropriate number of premises to be licensed, the Council 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'".

Dear Sir/Madam

I write concerning the application by the 2 Pigs establishment in central Cheltenham for a renewal of its Sex Entertainment Licence. I understand that they wish to expand this to include all race meeting dates, not just Gold Cup week in March.

I ask that you seriously consider what sort of town you wish Cheltenham to be.

Is this really in keeping with the town's heritage and ambiance?

I understand that you have been sent a statistical analysis showing how sex related crime rises when such entertainment occurs. As such information becomes more widely available, one can only presume that more people will be repelled from being in central Cheltenham. I suggest that, in time, licenses such as that sought by the 2 Pigs will lead to lower economic outcomes.

I understand there is an application to renew the 'sex establishment licence' during race weeks. If this is allowed it seems that there will be rise in the number of instances of sexual harassment and assault during those times and the town centre will become a place to avoid for most people. I also fear for the safety of the women involved in this activity.

I urge you to reject this application.

Dear Mr Krog

I write to make an objection to the proposed renewal of the above licence for the Two Pigs Pub. The purpose of the licence, the nature of the establishment and the consequences of granting permission for its activities would seem to contradict everything that our modern society is campaigning about. Safety, abuse of both men and women, and intimidation are issues high on our agenda and surely it cannot be right that our own Borough Council could condone this.

I urge you not to renew this licence.

I am writing to you in relation to the Renewal of Sex Establishment Licence for the Two Pigs Pub.

I cannot describe the shock I had this year in March when a friend of mine came to be my guest and she slept in a spare room overlooking the two pigs. I am not complaining about the noise this pub makes, because I have already done that to the relevant authorities. I am making a complaint about the naked women walking through the back court of the pub back and forth (the temperature outside was 5-7 degrees) and up and down through the stairs outside (probably they lead to some room for sexual activity).

Up to that time (March 2019) I had not realised what this pub hides. And because I was astounded I did not think that I could take some photos and to send to you.

Could you, please, stop this abomination in God`s eyes and in the civic society`s eyes as well.

If you did that I would be very grateful to you.