

Our ref: CD/12/2021

23 December 2021

To whom it may concern,

Application 21/02047/SEXR The Two Pigs: application to vary conditions

Whilst I continue to find it abhorrent that the Council renewed the 'sexual entertainment' licence at the Two Pigs pub regarding the race weeks, I now understand that the Two Pigs are applying to vary the licence to allow them to distribute fliers not only advertising the sexual entertainment but also a 'courtesy vehicle' which will pick men up in Cheltenham and transport them to the premises.

Whilst I know it is not permissible for me to object on moral grounds, as Bishop of Gloucester and as a member of the House of Lords I am strongly committed not only to issues affecting women and girls, but also to the flourishing of all people and the well-being of communities. I therefore wish to object to this application, based on three points below:

Firstly, the Code of Conduct for the 'Night Safe Scheme' clearly states that 'Printed matter ... should contain nothing that is likely to cause serious or widespread offence' (PN17 Code of practice for the distribution of printed matter such as promotional flyers). I would be grateful to hear how the distribution of such obnoxious material can claim not to cause widespread offence.

Secondly, this variation in the licence would not comply with the Standard Conditions contained in the Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Policy Statement (adopted in July 2020). This clearly prohibits the advertising of Sexual Entertainment and its promotion by means of personal solicitation, anywhere in the Town (including the area of the Racecourse).

Thirdly, this application flies in the face of the Government's 'Tacking Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy' which promotes making streets and towns safer for women and girls. This application blatantly objectifies women and will exacerbate women and girls feeling unsafe as well as increasing the possibility of women and girls being abused. This year the issue of violence against women and girls in England has been highlighted by some headline cases and the Council would be acting irresponsibly if this application is agreed.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

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