





**CAMBRAY
BAPTIST CHURCH
CHELTENHAM**

LOVE + GROW + GO

Cambray Place, Cheltenham, GL50 1JS

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The Licencing Section
Cheltenham Borough Council
PO Box 12, Municipal Offices
The Promenade
Cheltenham
GL50 1PP
6th October 2022

Dear Licencing Section,

Objection to Licence Application For Premises Use as Sexual Entertainment Venue

I am writing to you in my capacity as Church Secretary of Cambray Baptist Church, Cheltenham, on behalf of the Trustees of the Church.

Our attention has been drawn to the Public Notice given that Red Apple Associates Limited have made application to use Jessop House, 30 Cambray Place, Cheltenham, GL50 1JP, who wish to use the premises to operate as a Sexual Entertainment venue during the Cheltenham Festival in March 2023. The Public notice provides information as to the dates and times that the venue wishes to operate under the terms of the licence.

As Trustees, we are writing to make objections in the strongest possible terms and state so for the following reasons:

- Cambray Baptist Church are situated directly opposite the proposed venue
- Cambray Baptist Church has 300+ attendees and members all of whom are strongly opposed and object to the application for a licence for Sexual Entertainment venue being situated in Cheltenham.
- Cambray Baptist Church runs numerous groups for children, young adults, adults, and people with learning challenges, all of whom would be vulnerable from a safeguarding perspective and the risks associated with having the Sexual Entertainment venue so close to the Church premises. The times of many of these groups would fall within the operating times of the Sexual Entertainment venue, thus leaving these people in a highly vulnerable situation.
- Cambray Baptist Church is a church founded and functioning on strongly held Christian and Bible-based values, for which The Trustees hold in the highest terms and held accountable for, would strongly object to having a Sexual Entertainment venue so close to a Public Place of Worship.
- As Trustees, and the Church, we believe that Sexual Entertainment venues represent a threat and allow opportunities for exploitation of women and children. This is borne out through the organisation "Not On Our Turf", who in 2019, raised awareness of and campaigned for the eradication of slavery and human trafficking throughout the town of Cheltenham. The suggested premises for a Sexual Entertainment venue would give rise to opportunities for slavery and human trafficking to continue and advance in Cheltenham.

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- Cambray Baptist Church places a high value on being good neighbours to residents and businesses in the immediate vicinity of the church premises. As a church, we are very aware that amongst our neighbours, there are women and children, who would be placed in a vulnerable situation, should the licence be granted for a Sexual Entertainment venue, irrespective of the operating times of the venue.
- Similarly, in being good neighbours, Cambray Baptist Church would seek to encourage legitimate businesses to operate and be profitable in our vicinity, for which the likes of coffee shops and a tanning business have already proven successful in the area. Having a venue which operates as a Sexual Entertainment venue threatens not only the establishment of these successful businesses but could feasibly close these businesses should their customers decide the risks of visiting the legitimate businesses is now too great because of being vulnerable so close to the Sexual Entertainment venue.
- The Trustees of Cambray Baptist Church also strongly believe that having a Sexual Entertainment venue operating very close to the High Street of Cheltenham debases and devalues the other successful types of business who have proven their worth within the town to residents, as well as many visitors from outside of the town.
- As Members of organisations such as the Baptist Union and The Evangelical Alliance, both organisations would be hugely concerned that The Trustees had not been successful in objecting in the strongest possible terms, to a licence being granted for a Sexual Entertainment venue being operated so close to the church.

We therefore would highlight all the above points as being the strongest reasons why a licence should not be granted to Red Apple Associates Limited to operate a Sexual Entertainment venue in Cambray Place, Cheltenham.

Your due consideration of our objections will be appreciated in order that our church community as well as the residents and businesses are protected from such a Sexual Entertainment venue from operating in the vicinity.

On behalf of the Trustees of Cambray Baptist Church,

Yours sincerely,

Alex Luffrum – Church Secretary

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