

Update for Licensing Sub – Committee (Miscellaneous) 16th January 2023

SEV Renewal Under the Prom

2 further emails of support were received by the council. These were not shared previously as we had requested address details for both individuals. These were not forthcoming until after the report had been published.

1.

I have been made aware by Gloucestershire Live that the SEL at Under the Prom is due a renewal application, I would like the same courtesy shown to objectors of notifications of any SEL applications in Cheltenham.

The recent application for the renewal of the lap dancing license Under the Prom, Cheltenham. Reference to the Cheltenham race festivals dates 2024.

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 in March. 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/October/November either during the day or evening and benefit Cheltenham in its effort to combating anti-social behaviour.

Using lap dancing club as the reason for the anti-social behaviour is totally absurd.

Individuals searching for any reason to ban sexual entertainment, which clearly not in the interest of women's safety!

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 experience.

The Licensing team replied...

Thank you for your email.

We do give notification to one body that promotes women and young girls' safety, this body works with the police and other agencies to help promote the safety of women and young girls. It seems appropriate to notify them of such applications, which they may be likely to miss if not so informed.

We notify the BID Team, as we consult with them on many applications that affect the town centre, and due to the partnership relationship, that we have with them.

We have refused further requests to notify other persons and/ or groups for the following reasons: -

- We believe that notifying the above groups is sufficient to allow both local businesses and representatives of groups that promote women and young girl's safety to be informed of such applications, without an undue burden on the authority.
- We do not believe that there is a similar need to notify those persons/ bodies that might support an application, as the number of letters/ emails of support suggests that the level of awareness of such applications being made is already very high. We regularly receive a high number of such comments from performers, workers at the venues, customers and others known to the applicant which suggests that it is not necessary for us to do this.
- We do not consult with or notify any individuals of an application, aside from local councillors who have a very specific and representative role.

We will not notify you of such applications being made.

2.

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.