

(201)

To: The Licensing Section

Cheshire East Council

27. 1. 13

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: ST Lounge, Grove Street, Wilmslow**

We are writing to express our objections to the presence of a strip club in Grove Street, in the middle of Wilmslow.

The ST Club is not "appropriate to the relevant locality". That is to say, it is situated in the main street of a small local town, next to clothes and shoe shops, opticians, building societies, banks and cafés. This does not provide a relevant locality for a strip club. What is more, there are many residential roads, several churches, schools, nurseries and parks nearby.

The Leisure Centre, too, is a popular venue, not far from the ST Lounge. Apart from the sporting activities, it also hosts the Wilmslow Symphony Orchestra and puts on theatrical productions. Out of choice, many local residents would go through Grove Street, to access the Leisure Centre, but many try to avoid it at the moment, because of the strip club.

According to Home Office guidelines, in the preface, the new legislation was brought in, to empower local authorities to give people a voice. We, the people of Wilmslow do not want a lap-dancing club in the middle of our main street, or indeed anywhere in Wilmslow. We live in a small town, which is not able to accommodate it.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

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202

Licensing Enquiries  
Cheshire East Council

27.1.13

Dear Sir/Madam

Ref: Licensing renewal application for the ST Lounge.

As a long-term resident of Wilmslow, I strongly object to the application for an SEV licence at the ST Lounge.

Wilmslow is a small market-town, with a lively town centre. The ST Lounge has quite a large frontage onto Grove Street, a traffic-free area in the heart of Wilmslow. Grove Street houses a large number of shops, restaurants and cafes, all of which are targeted to a family-based community, unlike the ST Lounge.

The area around Grove Street is residential; Grove Avenue, Water lane, Green Lane and Hawthorn Lane have many shops and houses. Surely the club's existence in their midst just adds to the pressure of the current social environment? Should they wish to sell their houses, the residents might find that having such a venue close by is enough to devalue them. There are already a large number of licensed premises in the immediate area, as well as two licensed retailers. Do we really need the ST Lounge at all, with or without its SEV licence?

Young people congregate in Grove Street every day, on their way to and from school or for longer periods in the summer holidays, often just outside the ST Lounge. How unsuitable the venue is! What message are we giving to our young? Is it that the Council condones the degradation of women for money? There is a definite question of gender inequality here! Not only that, but there are three churches nearby, whose parishioners do not wish to have to walk past the club.

Regarding the kind of customer who is attracted into the club, is this who we want to be attracted into Wilmslow? How long will it be before the customers of the ST Lounge who leave sexually stimulated, but aroused and unsatisfied, prey on vulnerable young women? Does the Council feel that it can abdicate responsibility in this area? I think that the residents of Wilmslow would, indeed, feel that the Council were to blame if anything like that happened! There could indeed be legal action in the offing, if such an attack occurred.

Please take note of our grave concerns that the ST Lounge is in totally the wrong location. Please refuse to renew.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

203

The Licensing Office  
Cheshire East Council

27/1/13

**RE: ST Lounge, 16 Grove Street, Wilmslow**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to register my objections to the application for an SEV licence for the above premises.

The grounds of my objections are as follows:

**The ST Lounge is within a residential area.**

There are many residences within a short distance of the club, in Grove Avenue, in Green Lane and in Hawthorn Lane. Water Lane, with many residential roads off, is close, too.

**The lounge is near to schools, nurseries and the Leisure Centre.**

Grove Street, a pedestrianised area, is probably the most focal part of the town. During term-time, the lounge is passed many times a day, by children making their way to schools and nurseries, such as Wilmslow Prep, Wilmslow High, the nursery near Ten Little Monkeys, the Leisure Centre, which is used regularly by children.

The ST Lounge is near parks and other recreational areas used by children.

Although it is not a designated recreational area, Grove Street is an area where people sit, on the many benches provided, outside the many cafes located there and it is an area where youngsters meet and stay late into the evening. In addition, many children pass the lounge on the way to access facilities in the Carrs.

**The ST Lounge is situated near churches.**

The lounge is probably less than 100 yards from St Teresa's Church, and maybe 200 yards to St Bartholomew's and to Wilmslow Methodist Church. Why should parishioners have to pass the lounge on their way to worship? Grove Street provides the most direct route and the safest route, as it is pedestrianised.

For years, residents have been concerned about anti-social behavior that emanates from the existing licensed premises in the town centre. Surely the fact that the ST Lounge is open until very late will encourage excessive alcohol intake? This, added to the fact that the purpose of the club is to "sexually stimulate" its customers, could cause real problems as far as the level of crime and anti-social behaviour is concerned!

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

204

The Licensing Committee  
East Cheshire Council

27/1/13

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application for a Sex Establishment Licence  
Grove Street, Wilmslow

We object to the application for a Sex Establishment licence, in respect of Grove Street, Wilmslow for the following reasons:

1. The location is in a small market town, in its main street, at the heart of Wilmslow and its shopping area. Seating is provided nearby in this pedestrianised street and it is a social area where people gather, especially children and young people.
2. Grove Street is the venue for community events, including the regular artisan market, fundraising at Christmas by the Rotary Club, with Santa and his sleigh, and the formal switching on of Christmas lights.
3. Wilmslow already attracts large numbers of revellers at night, especially at the weekend. There is frequent late-night noise, rowdy behaviour, criminal damage and there are occasional assaults in the town centre. A sex establishment attracts even more visitors and escalates these problems.
4. The premises are close to private dwelling houses and residential apartments, in Hawthorn Lane, Grove Avenue and Green Lane.
5. There are bus-stops in Green Lane, where many young people wait for public transport, about 50 yards from the ST Lounge, via the passageway from Grove Street to Green Lane.

We submit that the aforementioned reasons make the location in question wholly unsuitable for the activities allowed by the granting of a Sex Establishment Licence. We urge the Council to refuse the application.

Yours sincerely,



To: The Licensing Section

Cheshire East Council

27.1.13

Dear Councillors,

Re: ST Lounge, 16 Grove Street, Wilmslow

We are writing to express our strong objection to the granting of a licence for the strip club in Grove Street.

The Wilmslow Vision document, which was endorsed by the Council, wishes to foster "a vibrant, welcoming and accessible town-centre, with a high-quality environment, to draw people into Wilmslow"; it talks of "a community that is safe and welcoming". The stated purpose of the ST Club is to sexually excite its audience, who might then prey on others; therefore, this contradicts what the Council is seeking to provide for the people of Wilmslow!

Does the Council actually believe that the ST Club is "appropriate to the relevant locality"? That is to say, situated in the main street of a small local town, where the adjacent buildings house clothes and shoe shops, building societies, banks and cafés? In what way do they provide a relevant locality for a strip club? This is quite aside from the fact that there are several churches, schools and parks nearby!

The Leisure Centre is a popular and well-used venue, not far from the ST Club. Apart from its sporting use, it also plays host to the Wilmslow Symphony Orchestra and mounts theatrical productions. Residents from Hawthorn Lane would normally have to pass in front of the ST Lounge, on their way to and from the Leisure Centre, unless they deliberately plan to avoid it. Hawthorn Lane is full of residential properties and is at right angles to Grove Street.

According to Home Office guidelines, in the ministerial foreword, the new regulations are to empower local authorities to give people a voice; please acknowledge that the people of Wilmslow do not want a lap-dancing club in the middle of the main street!

We ask that you take our objections very seriously.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature block]

The Licensing Department

Cheshire East Council

28.1.12

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: The St Lounge's request for a renewal of its licence.

Before you decide to renew the SEV Licence for the ST Lounge, we ask you to consider in detail the effect the existence of such a club is having on Wilmslow's town centre.

On our way home from any of the restaurants off Grove Street, such as The Burinda, or Eastern Revive, we avoid walking past the lap-dancing club, as it makes us feel uneasy. I usually walk along Green Lane instead, simply to avoid having to pass in front of the club, even though the route is slightly longer.

The police has stipulated that the female performers from the club should be escorted to their cars, so as to avoid the attentions of sexually-stimulated customers; it is worrying to think what could happen to other young women, who might be in the vicinity or even leaving the club itself. Are they going to fall prey to the sexually-stimulated? It puts us all at risk! We should feel safe in our small town centre. There is no doubt whatsoever that the ST Lounge is inappropriately situated, particularly as it is surrounded by normal shops and several residential roads.

We look forward to your co-operation and understanding and ask you to refuse to renew the ST Lounge's licence for its outlet in Wilmslow.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

The Licensing Office  
Cheshire East Council

[REDACTED]

27/1/13

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Application for a licence for the ST Lounge in Wilmslow.

I object to the proposed licence for the ST Lounge in Wilmslow. The venue is totally out of character with Wilmslow. It genuinely represents a danger to local men, women and children, due to the sexual stimulation of the customers and their potential alcohol intake, as the venue is open until 3 am or so.

I request that the Council consult carefully its own directives about the characteristics of a locality; it should take particular note of the proximity of the following:

- There are residential areas all around, eg: in Water Lane, Grove Avenue, Green Lane, Hawthorn Lane
- There are schools, nurseries and play groups in the vicinity, eg: Pepperberry Nursery, the nursery near Hullabaloo, Wilmslow Prep School & Nursery, Wilmslow High School, whose students are often to be found sitting on the benches opposite the lounge. Many families have to walk past the lounge several times a day on their way to work and school.
- There are several churches in the vicinity, St Teresa's is very close, also Wilmslow Methodist and St Bartholomew's.
- The Carrs' parkland and playground can be accessed from Hawthorn Lane and the Leisure Centre is not far away and is very popular.

A lap dancing club is simply not in keeping with these! It is in an extremely inappropriate location.

Please consider these views carefully and refuse the application for an SEV licence.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

The Licensing Council

Cheshire East

Dear Sir

Re: the ST Lounge, Wilmslow.

27.1.13

I object to the applicant being given a renewed SEV licence on the following grounds:

The strip club is sited in very close proximity to a residential area, Grove Avenue, Green Lane, Hawthorn Lane being very close; there is a fear of crime, anti-social behaviour noise pollution and disturbance to residents. There is a heightened statistical link to physical, verbal and sexual assaults to women who live or work in the vicinity of such venues. Many local residents must be reluctant to walk through Grove Street, the central hub of Wilmslow, for fear of suffering such abuse.

The premises are located in our main street, with seating provided for young and old, almost directly outside the premises. The location of the club does not fit with the rest of what is in the vicinity.

Cheshire East's policy provides that SEV licences shall be considered with respect to the character of the relevant locality. Wilmslow is a small market town, which is struggling in the present economic climate. The opening of the ST Lounge has not really helped. Having a strip club tarnishes the image of the area by giving it a sleazy image; this counteracts the hardworking efforts of local business people to promote Wilmslow.

The negative economic impact of operators, such as the applicant, will be acutely experienced by other local businesses struggling to survive in the recession, as the sex industry devastates efforts to regenerate the area, by driving away professional and family trade. Very few members of the public want to dine or shop in the vicinity of a strip club, especially those with young children, irrespective of the operational hours of the applicant in question.

The ST Lounge is inappropriate for Wilmslow and is in completely the wrong location. Wilmslow needs to maintain its image as a town which is safe, welcoming and respectable in order to attract a broader segment of the retail market.

Please refuse to renew the ST Lounge's licence.

From a very concerned resident.



To: The Licensing Department  
Cheshire East Council

Dear Sirs,

28.1.13

Re: ST Club in Wilmslow's main street.

We are writing to object to the renewal of the licence for the lap dancing club. We have been living in Wilmslow for over 20 years and have always felt safe here; now, with the lap-dancing club, we feel much more vulnerable and are quite reluctant to walk along Grove Street in the evening. If we do, we make sure that it is before the Club opens.

According to your policy document on the licensing of SEVs, we understand that "relevant entertainment", even "live strip shows" can be provided for the "financial gain of the organiser". Whilst we accept that such "entertainment" takes place, why does the Council feel that such a venue is acceptable in the main street of a small market town, when it is surrounded by normal shops, cafes, restaurants, bakers, jewellers, opticians etc? It is completely at odds with the rest of the town. How can the venue be justified in our local area? It is completely inappropriate, according to your own guidelines.

We look forward to your co-operation and understanding and ask you to refuse to renew the ST Club's licence for its outlet in Wilmslow. To the owners, it seems to be just a means of making money, no matter what the depths of degradation of the women involved. To us, it is a travesty of what Wilmslow represents.

Yours sincerely,

A large, irregular black redaction mark covering the signature area.

The Licensing Section

At Cheshire East Council

*27th January 2013.*

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: The ST Lounge**

We are writing to ask that the Licensing Committee should refuse to grant an SEV licence to the ST Lounge. I, like many people, did not object previously, as I did not even know that an application had been made!

Grove Street is surrounded by residential streets and facilities for the whole community, including children and young adults. Every day, schoolchildren walk past the club, which is next to coffee shops, clothes shops, shoe shops, charity shops and banks. The ST Lounge is in a very inappropriate location, in the middle of a family shopping area. Its very name seems to suggest that it is a strip club!

The police have stated that performers from the club should be safely escorted to their cars, presumably to avoid the attentions of sexually-stimulated customers. It is worrying to think what could happen to young women who might be nearby. Are they going to fall victim to the sexually-stimulated customers from the ST Lounge?

We totally believe that the ST Lounge is in the wrong location, in the heart of the main street of a small town, close to a large number of residents, schools, shops and churches; we feel that it is completely out of character in the area.

Please consider this very carefully. We ask you to refuse the request for a renewal of the ST Lounge's SEV licence.

Yours faithfully,

A block of text that has been completely redacted with black ink, obscuring the signature and any accompanying text.

The Licensing Team,  
Cheshire East Council

26 Jan., 2013

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my strong disapproval of the application made by the ST Lounge for an SEV licence, for its premises in Grove Street, Wilmslow.

The property is central to the town, right in the heart of Wilmslow. No matter how discreet it might be, it changes the character of the town.

The area directly in front of the club has benches, where teenagers and children meet regularly. They should not be exposed to wondering what a "Gentlemen's Club" is for. I am not against the idea, in principle, of this sort of venue coming to a town, as I am sure that, in a large city centre, far from housing, it could be run successfully and bring employment.

However, the location in this case is the issue and, as such, should be enough to make the idea a non-starter. It is situated near shops, cafes, charity shops, restaurants, churches and houses. It is inappropriate in the centre of Wilmslow.

Yours faithfully,

The Licensing Department,  
Cheshire

[REDACTED]

27/1/13

Dear Sirs,

**Application for a sex establishment in Grove Street, Wilmslow.**

We write to express our objection to the above application. We are residents of Wilmslow and use the town centre frequently, both in the daytime, and in the evening, to shop and to frequent restaurants and other facilities.

Although we have no moral objection to sex establishments, such as this lap-dancing club, we do not believe that the site in Grove Street is the right place for its location.

As a general point, Wilmslow has its own identity, as a small market town; having such a club right in the centre is plainly out of keeping with the character of the locality and could be damaging to Wilmslow's attempts to attract greater footfall to the town.

The most important thing about the site is that it could not be closer to the heart of the town, right on the main street, close to a shop where children's shoes are sold, Clark's, and opposite Claire's, a gift shop, frequented mainly by children and teenagers.

It is in an area which has a high footfall of people of all ages, as they go about their daily business. It also has benches for people to sit and enjoy the town. More often than not, the benches are occupied by small groups of young people from Wilmslow High School, on schooldays and at weekends, enjoying the company of their friends.

It is in a prime spot, in the centre of Wilmslow, which should be available for the community as a whole. It is clearly the wrong location for a business of this type.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

The Licensing Team  
Cheshire East Council

27 January 2017

Dear Sirs

Re: Application for a renewal of the licence for the ST Lounge in Wilmslow.

I object to the renewal of the licence for the lap dancing club in Wilmslow; many residents of Wilmslow were unaware of the club's application last December and, as a result, were unable to make their views known but, hopefully, now, they will speak up!

This building is in the heart of our town; everyone passes it on the way to work, nursery or school or to go to the shops. Grove Street is the hub of the town. We have seen Scottish dancing here, we have the artisan market here every month, the Rotary Club collects here at Christmas time, with Santa's sleigh and carols. The street is full of regular shops selling shoes, clothes, jewellery, chocolates, phones, books, sportswear, there are banks and charity shops, restaurants and coffee shops, gift shops, hairdressers, all of which have nothing in common at all with a sex venue! It is inappropriately situated.

The venue is about 100 yards from two residential streets, Grove Avenue and Hawthorn Lane and only about 150 yards from the apartments in Green Lane. Maybe an out of town industrial centre, away from residential streets would be more appropriate? Certainly, the ST Lounge is inappropriate in its present location.

Whilst the Council does not recognize moral issues in this case, it is worth noting that Cheshire East Council has been prepared to allow the sexual exploitation of women for money in this venue. Hopefully, in future, they might no longer allow that when they consider what possible crimes it might provoke, such as prostitution and rape! The club's website advertises "50 nude babes" for hire at private parties. Is this really the way forward?

With great concern, yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

The Licensing Committee  
East Cheshire Council

28 Jan 2013.

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to the ST Lounge in Grove Street, Wilmslow.

We urge you to consider refusing the relicensing of the ST Lounge, as you have the right to do, on the grounds that it is in a totally inappropriate location, close to several residential streets, schools, shops, churches, parks, crèches etc, totally at odds with the rest of the immediate area!

In considering the facts, the Committee should also be aware of the fact that Cheshire East Council has a duty to enforce the Gender Equality Act of 2007, which legally requires councils to promote equality between men and women in everything they do. It has a great relevance to lap dancing clubs, where women become sexual objects in the eyes of men, thereby contradicting all equality between the sexes!

This matter is incredibly serious. Please consider it from every angle and refuse the application.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted text]

Licensing department  
Cheshire East council

27th January 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: ST Lounge's application**

We would like to register our objection to the above application for a renewed SEV licence.

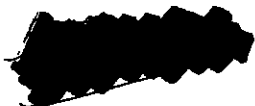
The venue is in the heart of Wilmslow. In our opinion, the club is having a detrimental effect on the town as it undermines our family-based community spirit and values. Since Grove Street is traffic-free, it houses the Artisan Market, every month, and the Rotary Club's efforts to raise money at Christmas, with Santa and the sleigh. The kind of customer the sex venue wants is not the kind of customer who uses all the other venues. Without a doubt, the sex club is at odds with its neighbours! It is in completely the wrong location!

In the vicinity, apart from the bookie's, every other shop is family orientated, with jewellers, clothes shops, shoe shops, opticians, Boots, Clarks, mobile phone shops, cafes and restaurants. The sex establishment is inappropriate in the location and out of sync with all the other businesses.

Also, in the area, within a few hundred metres, we have schools, crèches and churches and several residential roads; this are yet more reasons why the ST Lounge is not correctly situated. A small market town like Wilmslow really has no need of a lap dancing club!

Please take these objections into account and refuse to grant a renewal.

Yours faithfully



The Licensing Team  
Cheshire East Council

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

216

28th January 2013.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: The ST Lounge in Wilmslow's main street.

We are very concerned that the ST Club in Wilmslow has applied to have its licence renewed.

We have been living in Wilmslow for many years and have always felt safe here. Since the lap-dancing club has been given a licence, we feel much more vulnerable. We do not like having to walk along Grove Street in the evening. If we do, we make sure that it is before the Club opens, quite warily. This should not have to be the case! Last week, I returned by train from Manchester. Rather than cutting up through Grove Street, I walked a different way home. Should this be happening?

To me and my family, this is absolutely not an appropriate area for a lap dancing club. In your policy document, it is stated that the aim of the "relevant entertainment" must reasonably be assumed to be "solely for the purpose of 'sexually stimulating' its audience. Is it appropriate to have sexually stimulated people in a busy central area of our town, near houses, schools and churches? My family and I think not!

Grove Avenue, off Grove Street, houses many local residents, particularly quite a few elderly people; Grove Street also leads to Hawthorn Lane, which is 95% residential. The parallel road, Green Lane, linked to Grove Street by a small passageway, has residential apartments, too.

We are very anxious, too, about the general future of Wilmslow; there are two betting shops in our small town, one in Grove Street and one in Grove Avenue. How can this be the right way forward? Economic reports show that a town, which has strip clubs and betting shops, is in decline; is this what we want for the future of our town?

Certainly not!

We ask you to take serious heed of our objections.

Yours worriedly,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



217

The Licensing Office  
Cheshire East Council

27<sup>th</sup> Jan 13

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Application for an SEV licence for the ST Lounge, 16 Grove Street, Wilmslow.

I would like to register my objection to the ST Lounge's application for a renewal of its licence.

Wilmslow is an attractive smallmarket town, which has attracted retailers in the past. I firmly believe that the presence of a lap dancing club deters potential businesses from setting up in wilmslow; indeed, the adjacent shop has been shut for almost two years.

The lounge is in close proximity to three residential roads, Grove Avenue, Green Lane and Hawthorn Lane; Water Lane with residential roads off, is perpendicular to Grove Street.

There are three churches close by, local bus-stops, the Leisure Centre and several schools.

Grove Street is an extremely well-used thoroughfare by all members of the community, young and old. It attracts people in its own right, to its shops, cafés and restaurants but is also a gateway to other areas of the town, being a much safer route than along Green Lane, as it has no traffic.

There is sometimes a disturbance in Wilmslow late at night. I live in Hawthorn Lane and am woken by the noise, at times. I feel that a lap dancing club could potentially attract undesirable, drunken behaviour; its customers, who have been sexually stimulated, are free to wander our streets at night and possibly to prey on innocent women.

Please reject the application before a serious crime is committed! It is worth bearing in mind that the Council could well be held partly responsible, if an attack happened, as Councillors granted the last licence in the full knowledge that the ST Lounge is very close to many residential roads and despite receiving a petition of 500 signatures.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

The Licensing Committee  
Cheshire East Council

27.1.13

Dear Sir

I wish to object to the ST Lounge's application for a licence.

The licence would be inappropriate because:

- The club is near a residential area.
- It is in an area frequented by children going to and from school and visiting local shops.
- It is en route to The Carrs, which houses a playground and a park.
- It is close to three churches, St Teresa's, St Bartholomew's and Wilmslow Methodist Church.
- It is located in the pedestrianised main shopping street of Wilmslow.
- As it opens late, it attracts customers from closing pubs and restaurants in surrounding areas, thus making Grove Street a no-go area for residents.

For the future of our town, for its inhabitants and businesses, it is important to conserve the character of Wilmslow. Great care should be taken to ensure that enterprises in Wilmslow help and support the town and its struggling shops and businesses. I firmly believe that the ST Lounge has the opposite effect on Wilmslow!

Yours faithfully,

The Licensing Office  
Cheshire East Council

27/1/13

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Application for the renewal of the SEV licence for the ST Lounge in Wilmslow.

I have a number of concerns:

**Commercial impact:**

Many small businesses and shops are clustered in the centre of Wilmslow; the sex establishment is in the main pedestrianised street. This is off-putting to potential customers and businesses; in fact, I think the shop next to the lounge has been empty for over 18 months. There is a pharmacy close by, a shoe shop, a chocolate shop, charity and gift shops, a teddy-bear shop in the arcade, restaurants, cafes and banks in the same street. In what way can this street be described as an appropriate venue for a lap dancing club, as it has absolutely nothing in common with the shops around it?

**Impact on the environment.**

The visual impact of having shuttered windows throughout the day jars with the rest of Grove Street.

**Impact on residents.**

We live close to the proposed venue, about 100 yards away, and we suffer from the after-effects of late-night drinking in Wilmslow. The police have made a huge effort to work with licence holders to reduce poor behaviour and alcohol-related crime but, because of the late drinking licence and the sexual stimulation, we feel that a crime is waiting to happen, here in Wilmslow.

The venue is very close to many residential properties in Grove Avenue, Green Lane, Hawthorn Lane and various developments off Water Lane; it is close to three churches, to nurseries and schools; the benches opposite it are often populated by residents, particularly teenagers, believing it to be a safe and convenient place to congregate.

My own children walk past it every day; I really do not want to have to explain what goes on behind the shutters, nor to explain what a "Gentlemen's Club" is used for.

**Impact on safety and crime figures.**

We have a duty of care towards the young. We need to know that our children are safe. Recent evidence from other towns about the impact of such establishments, eg: from Henley-on-Thames, indicates that such venues do lead to an increase in crime, particularly sex crimes, such as rape and prostitution. The existence of this club is totally unacceptable in our small residential centre.

I strongly object to the application.

Yours faithfully,



[REDACTED]

**Dear Sirs**

We would urge Cheshire East Council to refuse the application for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment License.

The premises of the ST Lounge is situated in a locality which is highly inappropriate for sexual entertainment given that it is surrounded by residential areas including Hawthorn Lane, Hawthorn Grove, Grove Way and Kennerleys Lane.

It is currently situated metres away from St Theresa's Church, and a short walk to St Bartholomew's, the Methodist and the United Reform Church. These are substantial sized venues for regular worship. They are attended by hundreds, and are also the host of many community, school and family events. A strip club within such close range of important religious and social sites is inappropriate and offensive.

The position of the club is on a busy thoroughfare, used by all members of the community as they walk from the train station and bus stops to the many family facilities such as restaurants, DVD shops, leisure centre and Church and school events.

The club is also in the wrong location as it is literally round the corner from the prestigious Wilmslow Preparatory School for Girls and also children from the other schools in close proximity will use this busy pedestrianized thoroughfare to get home after school, sporting and social events.

The Councillors of Wilmslow Town Council unanimously agreed that the location of the ST Strip Club is detrimental to Wilmslow and inappropriately located. As they are local people concerned for the local community and the future of Wilmslow, I hope the Licensing Committee agree and refuse to renew the application for sexual entertainment on Grove Street.

With Appreciation

[REDACTED]

Dear Sirs

Re: Application for a renewal of the licence for the ST Lounge in Wilmslow.

I object to the renewal of the licence for the lap dancing club in Wilmslow; many residents of Wilmslow were unaware of the club's application last December and, as a result, were unable to make their views known but, hopefully, now, they will speak up!

This building is in the heart of our town; everyone passes it on the way to work, nursery or school or to go to the shops. Grove Street is the hub of the town. We have seen Scottish dancing here, we have the artisan market here every month, the Rotary Club collects here at Christmas time, with Santa's sleigh and carols. The street is full of regular shops selling shoes, clothes, jewellery, chocolates, phones, books, sportswear, there are banks and charity shops, restaurants and coffee shops, gift shops, hairdressers, all of which have nothing in common at all with a sex venue! It is inappropriately situated.

The venue is about 100 yards from two residential streets, Grove Avenue and Hawthorn Lane and only about 150 yards from the apartments in Green Lane. Maybe an out of town industrial centre, away from residential streets would be more appropriate? Certainly, it is inappropriate in its present location.

Whilst the Council does not recognize moral issues in this case, it is worth noting that Cheshire East Council has been prepared to allow the sexual exploitation of women for money in this venue. The club's website advertises "50 nude babes" for hire at private parties. Is this really the way forward?

With great concern, yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature block]

The Licensing Team  
Cheshire East Council

Dear Sir or Madam

Ref: ST Lounge's application for a renewal of the SEV licence.

I would like to register my objection to the application.

The venue has a significant frontage in the town centre, with its shutters down during the day. Wilmslow is a small, family-centred market town; the club is against our ethos and could well deter potential visitors from spending time here, thereby putting established businesses at risk.

Although the hours of opening are after 9pm, to the general public, the website advertises 'private parties' at other times. This could well mean that the club is open in the daytime; 'sexually stimulated' but potentially unfulfilled customers could well be leaving the club at a time when schoolchildren are in the offing. This is very dangerous and could lead to a serious crime being committed!

Many women and girls I know feel uncomfortable at the thought of passing this venue, particularly at night or late in the evening; they avoid Grove Street and take a longer route home. It is wrong to have created a no-go area in the heart of Wilmslow! This is the wrong location for this club, surrounded as it is by family orientated shops and restaurants.

Please reconsider. Do not grant a renewal.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

28.11.2013

*Dear Sir or Madam,*

*I don't live in Wimslow, but used to go there a lot with my elderly mother. She really enjoyed looking round the shops on Grove Street and then having a coffee or lunch there.*

*Because of the sex club that is there I won't take her any more. I would be very embarrassed and she would feel very uncomfortable in the vicinity of the club.*

*I hope that you will consider this when renewing the licence.*

*Yours Faithfully,*

[REDACTED]

224

To: Licensing Section  
Cheshire East council

Dear Councillors,

We are writing to object to the location of the ST Lounge in Wilmslow; we feel that it is totally inappropriate, being so close to residences, schools, churches and parks and having nothing in character with other local businesses.

We also think that the location of the club is having a negative effect on the local area, in that crime is more likely as a result of its presence. Please refuse to renew the SEV licence.

Yours faithfully,

A large, dark, irregular redacted area covering the signature of the sender.

---



Dear Councilors

28:1:2013

Though I do not live in Wilmslow, I do visit the area for shopping, meeting friends and the many family restaurants that are situated there.

I feel strongly that the Council should reconsider the location of a sex club offering sexual entertainment. This club has to be walked past when going to the leisure centre, train station and bus stops, from restaurants such as Pizza Express and Gourmet Burger. The Stolen Lamb, Barinda and Ayo Gurkhali are just a few metres from the club.

Recently, I attended a school event with friends. School facilities and the leisure centre are now open very late in the evening, as are DVD shops, Tesco Express, the BP Garage shop and Morrisons. Also, many Churches have evening Mass and events.

All these events, plus friends simply visiting friends, and children simply visiting other children, often necessitate walking past this club. I feel that situating a club so near Churches, residential areas and parks and leisure centres is totally inappropriate. I hope that you agree.

Best wishes,

[Redacted signature]

To: Licensing Section  
Cheshire East council

Dear Councillors,

We are writing to object to the location of the ST Lounge in Wilmslow; we feel that it is totally inappropriate, being so close to residences, schools, churches and parks and having nothing in character with other local businesses.

We also think that the location of the club is having a negative effect on the local area, in that crime is more likely as a result of its presence. Please refuse to renew the SEV licence.

*The premises should be used to meet the needs of the local community.*  
Yours faithfully,



02.02.2013

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2013

Cheshire East Licensing

Dear Sirs,

With Reference: ST Lounge licence renewal

We wish to object to the above renewal.

We find a lap dancing club completely inappropriate in the heart of our family orientated community.

1. The location itself; the club is placed on a pedestrian area, used by young families. a busy shopping town. The area is a meeting-place for people of all ages.
2. The location is close to, Grove Avenue, Hawthorn Lane and Green Lane and is near residential developments on Water Lane.
3. Wilmslow Prep and Monkey Puzzle Nursery School is close by, as is Wilmslow High School and pupils and their families walk past these premises on the way to and from their studies.
4. There are 3 places of worship within a short walk, the Parish Church, the Methodist Church and St Teresa's Church.
5. Performances take place after 9pm, but the Club opens for private parties at other times. This could mean that 'sexually stimulated' men, who have just left the club have the potential to mingle with our schoolchildren.
6. Wilmslow is a small market town of significant character, which is not reflected by the lap dancing establishment.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To: Licensing Section  
Cheshire East council

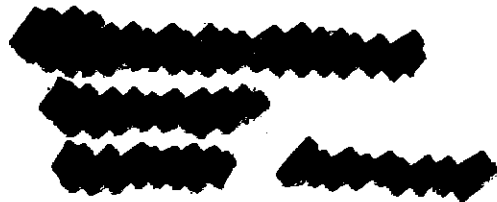
Dear Councillors,

We are writing to object to the location of the ST Lounge in Wilmslow; we feel that it is totally inappropriate, being so close to residences, schools, churches and parks and having nothing in character with other local businesses.

We also think that the location of the club is having a negative effect on the local area, in that crime is more likely as a result of its presence. Please refuse to renew the SEV licence.

Yours faithfully,

3/2/13



The Licensing Committee  
East Cheshire Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

3 | 2 | 13

Application for a Sex Establishment Licence  
Grove Street, Wilmslow

We object to the application for a Sex Establishment licence, in respect of Grove Street, Wilmslow for the following reasons:

1. The location is in a small market town, in its main street, at the heart of Wilmslow and its shopping area. Seating is provided nearby in this pedestrianised street and it is a social area where people gather, especially children and young people.
2. Grove Street is the venue for community events, including the regular artisan market, fundraising by the Rotary Club, with Santa and his sleigh, and the formal switching on of Christmas lights.
3. Wilmslow already attracts large numbers of revellers at night, especially at the weekend. There is frequent late-night noise, rowdy behaviour, criminal damage and there are occasional assaults in the town centre. A sex establishment attracts even more visitors and escalates these problems.
4. The premises are close to private dwelling houses and residential apartments, in Hawthorn Lane, Grove Avenue and Green Lane.
5. There are bus-stops in Green Lane, where many young people wait for public transport, about 50 yards from the ST Lounge, via the passageway from Grove Street to Green Lane.

We submit that the aforementioned reasons make the location in question wholly unsuitable for the activities allowed by the granting of a Sex Establishment Licence. We urge the Council to refuse the application.

Yours sincerely,

A blacked-out redacted signature consisting of two distinct, irregular shapes.

Yours faithfully,

Dear Councillors,

1<sup>st</sup> February 2013

Re: ST Club Grove Street, Wilmslow

We are writing to object to the renewal of the licence for the lap dancing club/ST Club.

We request that you give very serious consideration to refusing to renew the SEV Licence to the St Club in Grove Street, Wilmslow.

We consider that a main family shopping area is the wrong location for a lap dancing club. There is a lovely shoe shop for children next door, a children's accessory shop nearly opposite, monsoon children's shop very near and even an exclusive teddy bear shop, so it does not fit in with the local businesses.

We avoid walking past the lap-dancing club, as it makes us feel uneasy.

The Wilmslow Vision document, which was endorsed by the Council, wishes to foster "a vibrant, welcoming and accessible town-centre, with a high-quality environment, to draw people into Wilmslow"; it talks of "a community that is safe and welcoming". The stated purpose of the ST Club contradicts what the Council is seeking to provide for the people of Wilmslow.

In your 'Discretionary Grounds for Refusal' of an SEV licence, it is stated that the Sexual Entertainment license is "generally considered inappropriate "where there are schools, places of worship, leisure centres and residential areas. On the Council's own website it says that Wilmslow is a residential town. That means that it is located in an inappropriate area according to the Council's own policy. We would ask you to refuse grant on the grounds that it is "inappropriate to the relevant locality".

Does the Council actually believe that the ST Club is "appropriate to the relevant locality"? That is to say, situated in the main street of a small local town, where the adjacent buildings house clothes and shoe shops, building societies, banks and cafés? In what way do they provide a relevant locality for a strip club?

Every day, huge numbers of schoolchildren walk past the club. The ST Club is in a very inappropriate location, in the middle of a family shopping area round the corner from the prestigious Wilmslow preparatory school for Girls and around the other corner is ST Theresa's Church. Two more churches with large congregations are very close by. I thought that strip clubs were not supposed to be near Churches, as it could be seen as being offensive? The Churches were here first.

The bus stops to Schools, universities and colleges are situated metres away on Green lane. Many thousands of women and children use these services, to travel from the many social, and sporting events held in Cheshire, Macclesfield and Manchester. Nearby, the train station transports a million passengers from the Wilmslow area a year, at all times of the day and night.

Before his election at the full Council meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>, Michael Jones stated that he would "maintain the quality of Wilmslow for the people there," as he considered Wilmslow to be "a key town". How, exactly, does a lap dancing club maintain the quality of Wilmslow?

Grove Street should not be a no-go area, which residents avoid; this would be totally against the legislation brought in by the government to give residents a say in the way that their town is run.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

We feel that there are other issues you should be considering, too. The future of Wilmslow town centre is at stake here; we have two betting shops and a strip club in a very small area. Economists' projections show that this kind of development leads to the decline of a town. Shouldn't we all be doing our utmost to protect and enhance our town centre?

We hope that you will realise the depth of feeling and reconsider your decision to allow a strip club to operate on Wilmslow's main street.

We absolutely believe that the ST Club is in the wrong location, in the heart of the main street of a small town, close to residents, schools, shops and churches; we feel that it is completely out of character in the area. We ask you to consider this most carefully, when you are making your decision about whether to grant the licence renewal.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
1 / 2 / 13.



231

The Licensing Officer

Cheshire East

4/02/13

Dear Mr Whiteley and other officers,

Re: ST Club Grove Street, Wilmslow.

We are writing to ask you to refuse to renew the licence for the ST Club in Grove Street. Please consider the effect such a venue is having on Wilmslow's town centre.

We consider that a main family shopping area is the wrong location for a lap dancing club; the ST Lounge is surrounded by ordinary everyday shops used by families and people of all ages. We consider that the ST Lounge is inappropriate to the relevant locality and fail to understand why an SEV licence was granted initially, in such an inappropriate area, completely contrary to your own guidelines!

Grove Street is an area used by all the locals, young and old. They may be making their way to and from school, they may be shopping or just sitting on the benches, or even making their way to the churches in close proximity. St Teresa's Church is very close by, in Green Lane; the Methodist Church and St Bartholomew's Church are close by, as are the Leisure Centre and Wilmslow Prep & Nursery School. Many teenagers from Wilmslow High School are very often to be seen in the street, after school and later, in the evening, meeting friends. The bus-stops to Macclesfield, Manchester and other local areas are in Green lane, linked to Grove Street by an arcade.

We know that many people avoid this area in the evening, particularly after the pubs have closed. People should not have to be wary or fearful of strolling along their main street at night! On the contrary, residents should feel safe in a family-oriented, pedestrianised area. We feel very strongly about this. The Council should be striving to make the town as safe as possible.

We are also concerned about the general future development of Wilmslow; we note that there are also two betting shops in our small town, one in Grove Street and one in Grove Avenue. How can this be the right way forward?

There is economic data available, which shows that a town with strip clubs and betting shops is in decline; is this what you want for the future of our town? It is not what the residents want!

We appeal to you to review your decision to grant a licence to the ST Club.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature block]

The Licensing Section  
Cheshire East Council

27TH JANUARY 2013

Dear Sir



Re: The ST Lounge, Wilmslow

We are asking you to introduce a zero policy for SEVs in Wilmslow, as is allowed for in Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1982 and amended in the Policing and Crime Act 2009, in Section 27.

It is quite justified; Philip Kelvin, when he was Chair of the Institute of Licensing, stated that the "provision gives the authority a high degree of control, even amounting to an embargo" on the granting of SEV licences, within certain areas. He continues: "the width of the discretion is consolidated by the absence of any appeal against a refusal on these grounds". You, the Licensing Team, have the right to cap the number of SEVs in Wilmslow at zero. We urge you to do this.

The legislation allows you to prevent sex establishments from starting up in "sensitive areas", where they might cause concern. We believe that Wilmslow is such a "sensitive area", being a small town, mainly residential, with several churches, schools, nurseries, community facilities, restaurants and shops; it is totally unsuitable for the location of the ST Lounge. Please refuse its application to renew its SEV licence.

Yours faithfully,

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5th Feb 2008

To: The Licensing Section  
Cheshire East Council

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: The ST Lounge in Wilmslow.

We are writing with regard to the renewal of the licence for the ST Lounge. We live in Wilmslow and have always loved the town but now, with the presence of the lap-dancing club, we feel unhappy about walking in Grove Street in the evening. We are sure that there is a greater risk of a sexual attack nowadays, from the customers who have been stimulated by what they have seen in the ST Lounge.

We find it almost impossible to believe that the strip club was ever granted an SEV licence, in such a small town as Wilmslow, a residential area, full of families! This clashes totally with the original idea of the new law, particularly considering the Ministerial forward. It seems only a matter of time before something serious happens!

As intelligent members of the community, Council members must be aware of this. Wilmslow

Town Council is indeed aware and has asked the Council to enforce a policy of zero SEVs.

Will Cheshire East Council be ready to defend its decision to allow the existence of the ST Lounge, with full nudity, in the centre of Wilmslow, when the person who is attacked takes them to court? It is extremely worrying but also completely unnecessary! The St Lounge should not be sited in Wilmslow!

Yours faithfully,



234

To: The Licensing  
Department  
Cheshire East Council

27/1/13

Dear Sirs,

Re: ST Club in Wilmslow's main street.

We are writing to object to the renewal of the licence for the lap dancing club. We have been living in Wilmslow for over 20 years and have always felt safe here; now, with the lap-dancing club, we feel much more vulnerable and are quite reluctant to walk along Grove Street in the evening. If we do, we make sure that it is before the Club opens.

According to your policy document on the licensing of SEVs, we understand that "relevant entertainment", even "live strip shows" can be provided for the "financial gain of the organiser".

Whilst we accept that such "entertainment" takes place, why does the Council feel that such a venue is acceptable in the main street of a small market town, when it is surrounded by normal shops, cafes, restaurants, bakers, jewellers, opticians etc? It is completely at odds with the rest of the town. How can the venue be justified in our local area? It is completely inappropriate, according to your own guidelines.

We feel that there are other issues you should be considering, too. The future of Wilmslow town centre is at stake here; we have two betting shops and a strip club in a very small area.

Economists' projections show that this kind of development leads to the decline of a town. Shouldn't the aim be to protect and enhance our town centre?

We do not want Wilmslow to have a blighted zone, which residents seek to avoid. Walking past the ST Club makes many of us feel uncomfortable and a little frightened. There are many elderly residents in Canterbury Grange, located in Grove Avenue just off Grove Street. Why should they have to go the long way round, to get home in the evening?

We look forward to your co-operation and understanding and

ask you not to renew the ST Club's licence for its outlet in Wilmslow. To the owners, it seems to be just a means of making money; to us, it is a travesty of what Wilmslow represents.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] ( [REDACTED] )

The Licensing Officer  
Cheshire East

28/1/13

Dear Mr Whiteley and other officers,

Re: ST Club Grove Street, Wilmslow.

We are writing to ask you to refuse to renew the licence for the ST Club in Grove Street. Please consider the effect such a venue is having on Wilmslow's town centre.

We consider that a main family shopping area is the wrong location for a lap dancing club; the ST Lounge is surrounded by ordinary everyday shops used by families and people of all ages. We consider that the ST Lounge is inappropriate to the relevant locality and fail to understand why an SEV licence was granted initially, in such an inappropriate area.

Grove Street is an area used by all the locals, young and old. They may be making their way to and from school, they may be shopping or just sitting on the benches, or even making their way to the churches in close proximity. Saint Teresa's Church is very close by, in Green Lane; the Methodist Church and St Bartholomew's Church are close by, as is the Leisure Centre and Wilmslow Prep & Nursery School, which is in Grove Avenue. Many teenagers from Wilmslow High School are very often to be seen in the street, after school and later, in the evening, meeting friends. The bus-stops to Macclesfield, Manchester and other local areas are in Green lane, linked to Grove Street by an arcade.

We know that many people avoid this area in the evening, particularly after the pubs have closed. Why should people be wary or fearful of strolling along their main street at night? On the contrary, residents should feel safe in a family-oriented, pedestrianised area. We feel very strongly about this. The Council should be striving to make the town as safe as possible.

We are also concerned about the general future development of Wilmslow; we note that there are also two betting shops in our small town, one in Grove Street and one in Grove Avenue. How can this be the right way forward? There is economic data available, which shows that a town with strip clubs and betting shops is in decline; is this what you want for the future of our town? It is not what the residents want!

We appeal to you to review your decision to grant a licence to the ST Club.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

The Licensing Office

Cheshire East Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Application for an SEV licence for the ST Lounge in Wilmslow.

We wish to object to the above application for a sex establishment venue licence, because, in our view, it will adversely affect the future of Wilmslow; it will not be in the interests of local residents; it will give an inappropriate message both to visitors to the town and to the large numbers of families with children of school age, who regularly use the town for commercial and entertainment purposes. No-one I speak to about the ST Lounge can quite believe where it is situated!

We note that in your policy statement you make conditions about granting an SEV licence. In Wilmslow, we have the following sensitive uses in the location of the lounge: there are play areas not far away; there are three places of worship within 200 metres; there is a prep school, a nursery and a high school not far away; there is a huge amount of residential accommodation, in Hawthorn Lane, Green Lane and Grove Avenue and much more off Water Lane; there is a well-used Leisure Centre.

We are realistic enough to know that the sex industry will always exist, because it brings in huge profits. Our objection is based on the fact that such a place would be better located in a larger urban area, away from residential streets and facilities used by local residents, particularly by young people.

Please help to protect our town.

Yours faithfully



3.02.13

The Licensing Office  
Cheshire East Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Application for an SEV licence for the ST Lounge, 16 Grove Street, Wilmslow.

I would like to register my objection to the ST Lounge's application for a renewal of its licence.

Wilmslow is a characterful market town, which has attracted retailers in the past. I firmly believe that the presence of a lap dancing club deters potential businesses from setting up in Wilmslow; indeed, the adjacent shop has been shut for almost two years.

The lounge is in close proximity to three residential roads, Grove Avenue, Green Lane and Hawthorn Lane; Water Lane with residential roads off, is perpendicular to Grove Street.

There are three churches close by, local bus-stops, the Leisure Centre and several schools.

Grove Street is an extremely well-used thoroughfare by all members of the community, young and old. It attracts people in its own right, to its shops, cafés and restaurants but is also a gateway to other areas of the town, being a much safer route than along Green Lane, as it has no traffic.

There is sometimes a disturbance in Wilmslow late at night. I live in Hawthorn Lane and am woken by the noise, at times. I feel that a lap dancing club could potentially attract undesirable, perhaps drunken, behaviour; its customers, who have been sexually stimulated, are free to wander our streets at night and possibly to prey on innocent women.

Please reject the application before a serious crime is committed!

Yours sincerely,



3.2/3



238

The Licensing Committee  
East Cheshire Council

3.2.13

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to the ST Lounge in Grove Street, Wilmslow.

We urge you to consider refusing the relicensing of the ST Lounge, as you have the right to do, on the grounds that it is in a totally inappropriate location, close to several residential streets, schools, shops, churches, parks, crèches etc, totally at odds with the rest of the immediate area!

In considering the facts, the Committee should also be aware of the fact that Cheshire East Council has a duty to enforce the Gender Equality Act of 2007, which legally requires councils to promote equality between men and women in everything they do. It has a great relevance to lap dancing clubs, where women become sexual objects in the eyes of men, thereby contradicting all equality between the sexes!

This matter is incredibly serious. Please consider it from every angle and refuse the application.

Yours faithfully,



The Licensing Committee  
East Cheshire Council

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
3<sup>rd</sup> February 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to the ST Lounge in Grove Street, Wilmslow.

We urge you to consider refusing the relicensing of the ST Lounge, as you have the right to do, on the grounds that it is in a totally inappropriate location, close to several residential streets, schools, shops, churches, parks, crèches etc, totally at odds with the rest of the immediate area!

In considering the facts, the Committee should also be aware of the fact that Cheshire East Council has a duty to enforce the Gender Equality Act of 2007, which legally requires councils to promote equality between men and women in everything they do. It has a great relevance to lap dancing clubs, where women become sexual objects in the eyes of men, thereby contradicting all equality between the sexes!

This matter is incredibly serious. Please consider it from every angle and refuse the application.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

3/2/2013

240

The Licensing Council

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to object to the application for a sexual entertainment venue in Grove Street, Wilmslow.

I object on the following grounds:

1. The proposed venue is in the centre of our main street.
2. Wilmslow is too small for this type of business.
3. Such a business is unsuitable within a main shopping area.
4. Such a business is unsuitable in a residential area.
5. Youngster under the age of 16 gather in Wilmslow in the evenings, particularly at weekends.
6. Such a business will devalue our town.
7. It will make groups of women or women on their own feel vulnerable, which they will be!
8. It may encourage illegal behaviour such as prostitution in the town.

I feel that Wilmslow is completely unsuitable for this type of business. What we want to encourage is a good, safe family spirit and community!

Yours faithfully,


241

The Licensing Committee,  
Cheshire East Council

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
3rd February 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: the lap dancing club in Wilmslow.

My family and I are disturbed by the presence of the ST Lounge in Grove Street and feel that its location is totally inappropriate, considering that it is surrounded by what we consider to be much more normal shops and businesses, mainly for family use.

A measure was introduced to give Councils the right to have no SEVs in their area; indeed the ministerial foreword emphasises that particular freedom of choice, without fear of reprisal or court action. I urge the Council to revisit the legislation and see!

Please help to restore the true nature of Wilmslow's character, by refusing to allow the planning application for the renewal of the ST Lounge's SEV licence.

Yours Sincerely,

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~

242

The Licensing Office  
Cheshire East Council

3rd February 2013

**RE: ST Lounge, 16 Grove Street, Wilmslow**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to register my objections to the application for an SEV licence for the above premises.

The grounds of my objections are as follows:

**The ST Lounge is within a residential area.**

There are many residences within a short distance of the club, in Grove Avenue, in Green Lane and in Hawthorn Lane. Water Lane, with many residential roads off, is close, too.

**The lounge is near to schools, nurseries and the Leisure Centre.**

Grove Street, a pedestrianised area, is probably the most focal part of the town. During term-time, the lounge is passed many times a day, by children making their way to schools and nurseries, such as Wilmslow Prep, Wilmslow High, the nursery near Ten Little Monkeys, the Leisure Centre, which is used regularly by children.

The ST Lounge is near parks and other recreational areas used by children.

Although it is not a designated recreational area, Grove Street is an area where people sit, on the many benches provided, outside the many cafes located there and it is an area where youngsters meet and stay late into the evening. In addition, many children pass the lounge on the way to access facilities in the Carrs.

**The ST Lounge is situated near churches.**

The lounge is probably less than 100 yards from St Teresa's Church, and maybe 200 yards to St Bartholomew's and to Wilmslow Methodist Church. Why should parishioners have to pass the lounge on their way to worship? Grove Street provides the most direct route and the safest route, as it is pedestrianised.

For years, residents have been concerned about anti-social behavior that emanates from the existing licensed premises in the town centre. Surely the fact that the ST Lounge is open until very late will encourage excessive alcohol intake? This, added to the fact that the purpose of the club is to "sexually stimulate" its customers, could cause real problems as far as the level of crime and anti-social behaviour is concerned!

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

243

The Licensing Office  
Cheshire East Council

4<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Application for an SEV licence for the ST Lounge in Grove Street, Wilmslow.

The premises are inappropriately situated in the centre of the town, in a pedestrianised street, used regularly by families and children. Such an establishment would be better situated in a large urban area, away from the residential streets of Wilmslow; Grove Avenue, Grove Street, Hawthorn Lane and residential streets off Water Lane are all very close by.

The lounge makes no positive contribution to the town at all, and tends to drive away other potential businesses. It is an eyesore during the day, with its shutters down.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

244

03<sup>rd</sup> February

The Licensing Committee,  
Cheshire East Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: the lap dancing club in Wilmslow.

My family and I are disturbed by the presence of the ST Lounge in Grove Street and feel that its location is totally inappropriate, considering that it is surrounded by what we consider to be much more normal shops and businesses, mainly for family use.

A measure was introduced to give Councils the right to have no SEVs in their area; indeed the ministerial foreword emphasises that particular freedom of choice, without fear of reprisal or court action. I urge the Council to revisit the legislation and see!


Please help to restore the true nature of Wilmslow's character, by refusing to allow the planning application for the renewal of the ST Lounge's SEV licence.

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

245

The Licensing Office  
Cheshire East Council

  
27<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Application for an SEV licence for the ST Lounge at 16 Grove Street, Wilmslow.

I would like to formally object to the renewal of the licence for the ST Lounge.

There are already many licensed premises in Wilmslow, to name but a few: The Swan, Miller and Carter, The Bollin Fee, The Samuel Finney, etc. This causes sufficient disruption to town-centre life, as it is, because of poor behaviour, fuelled by drinking too much alcohol.

These premises, with a late licence and an SEV licence make Grove Street a no-go area at night for many locals, particularly for young girls and women, who feel vulnerable and rightly so!

The pedestrianised street, where the lap dancing club is located, is used regularly by all members of the community, from the very young to the old. The artisan market takes place there on a monthly basis, when the street is literally full of families enjoying the day. The street is full of 'normal' shops, jewellers, bakers, shoe shops, clothes shops, banks, charity shop, phone shops, a children's teddy bear shop in the arcade and then....it has the ST lounge. How inappropriate! It is completely at odds with all the other facilities there.

Grove Street itself runs parallel to Green Lane, which is residential, it is at right angles to residential Grove Avenue and to Water Lane, which has many housing developments off it; the ST Lounge is about 50 yards from Hawthorn Lane, which is a very long road and primarily residential. How can it be right to allow a sex establishment to exist so close to all these houses?

Please give these objections the fullest consideration possible,




24p

The Licensing Department

Cheshire East Council

Re: ST Lounge Wilmslow

Dear Sir,

We request that you give very serious consideration to refusing to renew the SEV Licence to the St Club in Grove Street, Wilmslow.

On our way home from a night out in Wilmslow, we avoid walking past the lap-dancing club, as it makes us feel uncomfortable. Last Saturday, we walked along Green Lane instead, even though the route is slightly longer, purely to avoid having to pass the ST Lounge. Should this be necessary?

In your 'Discretionary Grounds for Refusal' of an SEV licence, it is stated that the licence could be refused on the grounds that it is "inappropriate to the relevant locality". Did the Council seriously consider this issue when it granted the licence initially?

My friend was shopping in Foot Asylum, opposite the ST Club, with her son, when he saw the ST Lounge sign and wanted to know what a 'gentleman's club' was! Surely the club is inappropriately situated? Grove Street has jewellers, opticians, bakers, banks, clothes and food shops etc, places we use in our everyday family lives. Surely the ST Lounge is absolutely inappropriate to the locality, as it has nothing whatsoever in common with the rest of the shops?

Do the many residents who live nearby, in Grove Avenue, Green Lane and Hawthorn Lane really have to dread that some awful crime will be committed before the Council acknowledges that the location of this club is inappropriate?

We appeal to you to review your decision to grant a licence to the ST Club.

Yours faithfully,

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The Licensing Team

At Cheshire East Council

27-1-13

Dear Councillors,

Re: ST Lounge

We ask that the Licensing Committee reconsider the issue of granting a licence to the ST Club; very few people saw the original advert in the Manchester Evening News last December. Many people did not object, as they did not even know that an application had been made!

The Wilmslow Vision document, which was supported by the Council, wishes to engender "a vibrant, welcoming and accessible town-centre, with a high-quality environment, to draw people into Wilmslow"; it talks of "a community that is safe and welcoming". The stated purpose of the ST Club is to sexually excite its audience, which in turn might provoke them to prey on others, particularly young women, and, therefore, contradicts what the Council is seeking to provide for Wilmslow.

The police have stipulated that performers from the club should be safely escorted to their cars, presumably to avoid the attentions of sexually-stimulated customers; it is worrying to think what could happen to other young women, who might be in the vicinity. Are they going to fall prey to the sexually-stimulated?

In our opinion, the Council needs to be sensitive to the uses to which Grove Street is principally put; it is surrounded by residential streets and facilities for the community in general, including children and young adults. Every day, huge numbers of schoolchildren walk past the club, which is adjacent to coffee shops, clothes shops, shoe shops, charity shops and banks. The ST Club is in a very inappropriate location, in the middle of a family shopping area.

We do not want Grove Street to be a blighted area, avoided by residents. Walking past the ST Lounge makes many of us feel uncomfortable. There are quite a few elderly residents in Canterbury Grange, just off Grove Street. Is it right that they should have to make a detour, to avoid the ST Lounge?

We totally believe that the ST Club is in the wrong location, in the heart of the main street of a small town, close to residents, schools, shops and churches; we feel that it is completely out of character in the area. We ask you to consider this most carefully, when you are making your decision about whether to grant the licence renewal.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

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To: The Licensing  
Department  
Cheshire East Council

February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013

Dear Sirs,

Re: ST Club in Wilmslow's main  
street.

With regard to the application for an SEV licence for the ST Lounge, we are very worried about the effects on the town centre, for various reasons.

In particular, we quite firmly believe that the ST Lounge is inappropriately situated, especially according to East Cheshire Guidelines and to the original purpose of the legislation, as expressed in the ministerial foreward.

The club's official opening hours may generally be restricted to the times when the majority of other businesses have closed but its website promises that the club is available for private hire when it is closed to the public. That effectively means that it can open at any time!

This is a very grave cause for concern. At many points during the day, making their way to schools and nurseries, we have young people, who might then be preyed upon by sexually excited customers, who are presumably unfulfilled! We feel that there is a very real danger that young girls might be attacked in the area.

Do you really want Wilmslow to degenerate into crime and seediness? I am sure that you are fully aware of the terms of the new legislation, specifically introduced to make town centres safer and to give local people a voice; it gives you the right to deny strip clubs in inappropriate locations – please do not grant the licence!

Yours faithfully,



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Licensing Officers

Cheshire East Council

28.1.13

Dear Licensing Team,

Re: SEV at the ST Lounge, Grove Street

We are strongly opposed to the renewing the licence at 16 Grove Street.

To renew the licence would be inappropriate, considering:

- The character of the vicinity; Grove Street houses many family oriented shops, cafes and restaurants.
- The premises are in the heart of our town, with a large frontage, so they are hard to miss, not at all subtle, especially with the name **ST Lounge**!
- Grove Street is a popular community space, used by the Artisan Market every month, the Rotary Club at Christmas to raise money for charity. It is an ideal road for public gatherings, as it is traffic-free.
- The police has worked hard to reduce anti-social behaviour in Wilmslow. Sexually stimulated adults, who have drunk alcohol, will find it hard to control themselves; this could lead to a serious attack and makes local women feel quite vulnerable, at night in particular.
- The Council should be taking every step to make us as safe as possible; they could also find themselves open to serious legal action if such an attack occurred, as they have been made aware of the danger!

Yours faithfully,

250

The Licensing Team

Cheshire East Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: The ST Lounge in Wilmslow's main street.

We are very concerned that the ST Club in Wilmslow has applied to have its licence renewed.

We have been living in Wilmslow for 10 years and I have always felt safe here. Since the lap-dancing club has been given a licence, we feel much more vulnerable. We do not like having to walk along Grove Street in the evening. If we do, we make sure that it is before the Club opens, quite warily. This should not have to be the case!

Last week, I returned by train from Manchester. Rather than cutting up through Grove Street, I walked a different way home. Should this be happening?

To me and my family, this is absolutely not an appropriate area for a lap dancing club. In your policy document, it is stated that the aim of the "relevant entertainment" must reasonably be assumed to be "solely for the purpose of 'sexually stimulating' its audience. Is it appropriate to have sexually stimulated people in a busy central area of our town, near houses, schools and churches? My family and I think not!

Grove Avenue, off Grove Street, houses many local residents, particularly quite a few elderly people; Green Lane also leads to Hawthorn Lane, which is 95% residential. The parallel road, linked to Grove Street by a small passageway, has residential apartments, too.

We are very anxious, too, about the general future of Wilmslow; there are two betting shops in our small town, one in Grove Street and one in Grove Avenue. How can this be the right way forward? Economic data shows that a town, which has strip clubs and betting shops, is on the decline; is this what we want for the future of our town? Certainly not!

We ask you to take serious heed of our objections.

Yours worriedly,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]