

251

28/01/13

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,

[Redacted signature]

252

To: The Licensing Department
Cheshire East Council

27 January 2013.

Dear Sirs,

Re: The ST Lounge in Grove Street.

I wish to object to the renewal of the licence for the lap dancing club. I have been living in Wilmslow for over 20 years and have always felt safe here; now, with the lap-dancing club, I feel much more vulnerable and am quite reluctant to walk along Grove Street in the evening. If I do, I do not linger anywhere near the strip club!

How can it be right to have live strip shows taking place, amongst normal, ordinary family shops, close to residential roads and schools? How can the Council have given permission for such a venue in our main shopping street, when it is surrounded by normal shops, cafes, restaurants, bakers, jewellers, opticians etc? It clashes absolutely with the character of the rest of the town!

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

I look forward to your co-operation and understanding and I exhort you to refuse to grant the application for the ST Lounge's licence in Wilmslow.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

The Licensing Section

Cheshire East Council

Dear Sir,

Re: ST Club in Wilmslow's main street.

We are writing to ask you to deny the renewal of the SEV Licence to Wilmslow's ST Club

The Wilmslow Vision document, which the Council endorsed, 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 purpose of the ST Club is to sexually excite its audience, and contradicts what the Council is seeking to provide for the people of Wilmslow!

To us, this is an inappropriate area for a strip club. In your policy document, you state 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. We do not think so! Grove Avenue, houses many local residents, as do the roads off water lane; Green Lane also leads to Hawthorn Lane, which is 95% residential and to Green Lane, which has residential appartments.

Before his election at the full Council meeting on May 16th, 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?

We would be obliged if you would consider our views when you make your decision about the future of Wilmslow; so much is at stake for the future of the town.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

29/1/13

The Licensing Office

Cheshire East Council

23rd January
2013

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 signature and name]

255

To: The Licensing
Department,
Cheshire East Council

28th January 2013

Re: ST Lounge

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are aware that the St lounge has applied for a renewal of its licence, to our great disappointment, as we believe that the strip club has had a significant negative effect on the centre of Wilmslow.

Since we would have to walk past the ST Lounge, my family and I feel that we are better off avoiding Grove Street at night, even though it is theoretically the safest route, as it is pedestrianised.

It seems quite wrong that we have had to change our behaviour because there is a strip club on our main street, in the middle of safe, ordinary shops. We know that the club exists to sexually stimulate its customers for money, which causes us to worry about the potential consequences for young girls in the area at night! We have heard that the doormen sometimes call out to passers-by, giving them leaflets and inviting them in, which we feel sure is quite illegal!

Please consider the possible negative effects here, both to vulnerable individuals in the area at night, and also to other businesses in the area.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

The Licensing Authority,
Cheshire East Borough Council

1st February 2013

Dear Sirs,

Re: ST Club in Wilmslow's main street

Although I am not a resident in Wilmslow I am a frequent visitor and have been for many years. As such I would ask you to consider, in detail, the effect the existence of such a club is having on Wilmslow's town centre, before you decide to renew the SEV Licence, for the ST Club.

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". However as the stated purpose of the ST Club is to sexually excite its audience, this does not draw me into Wilmslow, and therefore, contradicts what the Council is seeking to provide for the people of Wilmslow and its visitors.

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?

To me this is definitely NOT an appropriate area for a fully nude lap dancing/strip 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 the town, near homes and their families, schools and their pupils, and churches and their congregations? I think not!

Apart from my own personal observations, a female member of staff at the company where I work, after a night out in Wilmslow with her male sales force colleagues was persuaded to visit the club. Against her better judgement she agreed to go but almost immediately upon entering the club regretted her decision. Her first observation was how sticky the floor was, not a good impression, she was then propositioned by another customer who offered her a sizeable amount of money if she would give him a private topless lap dance!! She refused but the same person approached her on several occasions during her time in the club.

This I feel is an indication that the some of the clients at the club obviously think that any female on the premises is 'fair game' and willing to prostitute themselves, and that these clients are persistent even when given a very clear NO to their advances. In the time it took for my colleague to organise a taxi she had to have two of the men from her group with her at all times to keep this person from harassing her.

I ask that you take serious heed of the objections and observations which you have received and been made aware of and therefore ultimately refuse to renew the License to Sexually Entertain on Grove Street in the interests of the people of Wilmslow.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

The Licensing Section
East Cheshire Council

Re: The lap dancing club on Grove Street.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to the existence of the ST Lounge on the grounds that it is absolutely inappropriately situated, in the heart of our main shopping street, adjacent to schools, nurseries, houses and churches.

I am aware that there is a fear amongst councillors that court action might be taken by the lap dancing club, on the grounds that if their application for an SEV is rejected, the club will state that this violates its human rights, under the Human Rights Act 1998; the two rights it will probably threaten to invoke are the right to freedom of expression and the protection of property.

However, it is extremely unlikely that such an appeal would be successful, considering that it is absolutely within the law for councils to set nil policies. Furthermore, the two rights above are qualified, they are not absolute. Philip Kolvin QC, former Chairman of the Institute of Licensing, stated that "where a rational decision has been taken by the licensing authority, in accordance with the principle of the statute, it is most unlikely that the decision will be held to have been a disproportionate interference with human rights."

Indeed, before the Policing and Crime Bill became law (enabling local authorities to licence lap dancing clubs as SEVs, under the LGMPA), the Minister of the Crown, in charge of the Bill, made a written statement that the new law, including the provision to set nil policies, WAS compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

Therefore, the power of local authorities to set a nil policy for Sexual Entertainment Venue licences has been validated in human rights terms.

I urge you to investigate what I have said and dismiss the application for an SEV licence for the ST Lounge in Wilmslow.

Yours faithfully,



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Yours faithfully,



~~Mr. [redacted]~~
~~[redacted]~~
~~[redacted]~~

DEAR SIR OR MADAM

Re: ST Club in Wilmslow's main street.

I am writing to ask you to deny the renewal of the SEV Licence to Wilmslow's ST Club

The Wilmslow Vision document, which the Council endorsed, 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 purpose of the ST Club is to sexually excite its audience, and contradicts what the Council is seeking to provide for the people of Wilmslow!

This is an inappropriate area for a strip club. In your policy document, you state 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? I don't think so! Grove Avenue, houses many local residents, as do the roads off water lane; Green Lane also leads to Hawthorn Lane, which is 95% residential and to Green Lane, which has residential apartments

I would be obliged if you would consider my views when you make your decision about the future of Wilmslow; so much is at stake for the future of the town.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

~~[redacted]~~

261

[REDACTED]

The Licensing Section
East Cheshire Council

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262

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Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

263

Dear Sir/Madam,

With regard to the ST Lounge in Wilmslow

I wish to object to the application to renew the SEV licence for 16 Grove Street.

My objection is based on the fact that the premises adversely affect particular parts of the community, such as those listed in your criteria for objections. It would, therefore, be totally inappropriate for Wilmslow.

The lounge is in a residential area, with Grove Avenue, Green Lane and Hawthorn Lane close by.

The lounge is in an area frequented by children under 16, walking to and from schools, nurseries, the playground at The Carrs, the Leisure Centre etc.

The lounge is sited close to three churches.

Wilmslow already has some unruly behavior at night, particularly when the pubs close and there has been heavy drinking. The ST Lounge is open until 3am, so there is even more scope for drinking. What kind of state are the customers in when they leave the lounge, having been drinking and "sexually stimulated"? This is, after all, one of the main aims of the lounge! What kind of character is being enticed into Wilmslow? What kind of crime will eventually be committed?

Please do not approve the application.

Yours faithfully,



264

The Licensing Section

East Cheshire Council

Re: The lap dancing club on Grove Street.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to the existence of the ST Lounge on the grounds that it is absolutely inappropriately situated, in the heart of our main shopping street, adjacent to schools, nurseries, houses and churches.

I am aware that there is a fear amongst councillors that court action might be taken by the lap dancing club, on the grounds that if their application for an SEV is rejected, the club will state that this violates its human rights, under the Human Rights Act 1998; the two rights it will probably threaten to invoke are the right to freedom of expression and the protection of property.

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The lounge is in a residential area, with Grove Avenue, Green Lane and Hawthorn Lane close by.

The lounge is in an area frequented by children under 16, walking to and from schools, nurseries, the playground at The Carrs, the Leisure Centre etc.

The lounge is sited close to three churches.

Wilmslow already has some unruly behavior at night, particularly when the pubs close and there has been heavy drinking. The ST Lounge is open until 3am, so there is even more scope for drinking. What kind of state are the customers in when they leave the lounge, having been drinking and "sexually stimulated"? This is, after all, one of the main aims of the lounge! What kind of character is being enticed into Wilmslow? What kind of crime will eventually be committed?

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266

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Please do not approve the application.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

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Yours faithfully,



**WILMSLOW VISION
DOCUMENT
2011/12
2013/14**

DEAR SIR OR MADAM

Re: ST Club in Wilmslow's main street.

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The Wilmslow Vision document, which the Council endorsed, 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 purpose of the ST Club is to sexually excite its audience, and contradicts what the Council is seeking to provide for the people of Wilmslow!

This is an inappropriate area for a strip club. In your policy document, you state 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? I don't think so! Grove Avenue, houses many local residents, as do the roads off water lane; Green Lane also leads to Hawthorn Lane, which is 95% residential and to Green Lane, which has residential apartments

I would be obliged if you would consider my views when you make your decision about the future of Wilmslow; so much is at stake for the future of the town.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

**WILMSLOW VISION
DOCUMENT
2011/12
2013/14**

**To: The Licensing
Department
Cheshire East Council**

Re: The ST Lounge in Grove Street.

How can it be right to have live strip shows taking place, amongst ordinary family shops, close to residential roads and schools? How can the Council have given permission for such a venue in our main shopping street, when it is surrounded by normal shops, cafes, restaurants, bakers, jewellers, opticians etc?

I look forward to your co-operation and understanding and I exhort you to refuse to grant the application for the ST Lounge's licence in Wilmslow.

~~negotiating interests have~~
~~been... ..~~

To: The Licensing Section

Cheshire East Council

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, Green Lane and Grove Avenue 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.

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,



The Licensing Office
Cheshire East Council

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,




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

DEAR SIR OR MADAM

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Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

To: Licensing Section
Cheshire East council

273

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
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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,

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

274

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,









9/2/2013

The Licensing Section,
Cheshire East Borough Council,
Town Hall,
Market Place,
Macclesfield, SK10 1DX

14th February 2013

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to you as a concerned parent and local primary school Governor to object to the renewal of the licence for the lap dancing club/ST Lounge on Grove Street in Wilmslow because it is not appropriate to the relevant locality. Grove Street is the main shopping thoroughfare in our small town and desperately needs businesses which will make a positive contribution to the retail and community life of our community.

In my opinion, the Council needs to be sensitive to the uses to which Grove Street is principally put. It is an area used by local people young and old alike. It is surrounded by cafés where people meet, by shops and residential streets and facilities for the community in general. Local people make their way to and from schools, shops and churches along Grove Street. Wilmslow Preparatory School is very close by, as are St Teresa's Church and St Bartholomew's Church. Many teenagers from Wilmslow High School walk through town after school and in the evening.


My teenage daughter walks through Grove Street often to attend events and her Youth Group at St Bartholomew's Church and Parish Hall. She also spends much of her leisure time in Grove Street along with her friends who often meet at the local cafes and coffee shops. The ST Lounge club states that through lap and pole dancing and strip shows it seeks to 'sexually stimulate its audience' who I'm presuming will be mostly young men. In this sense I am concerned for the safety of young women like my daughter when the people who frequent the club will inevitably spill out onto the pedestrianised area at night to smoke and come out of the club.

In our town we have an excellent and very large High School; Grove Street is a place where many of them congregate. It also concerns me greatly that such a club sets an appalling example for young women like her and sets up the model that women are simply sexual objects to be lusted after as opposed to intelligent people to be respected. I understand that recently one of the employees was followed and attacked when walking home after work.

Wilmslow is full of people who are working hard at not only creating a sense of community but in making the town a place where people want to come to live and work. 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". The presence of the ST Lounge in its present location contradicts this worthwhile aspiration.

I would strongly urge you to refuse to renew the ST Club's licence for its outlet in Wilmslow.

Yours sincerely,




Parent and Governor at St Anne's Fulshaw Church School

13th February 2013.

Dear Mr Whiteley,

SI Club, Grove Street, Wilmslow

We are writing to you in regards of the SI Club on Grove St, Wilmslow.

A SI Club in Grove Street, Wilmslow is totally inappropriate for the area, particularly taking into account its locality to the Churches close by, prep school and the fact that the children from Wilmslow High School in particular frequent Grove Street after school and in the evening.

We and many of our friends avoid Grove Street in the evening particularly late evening as we do not consider it to be a safe place.

Our concern is also for Wilmslow the club can only lead to a decline in further businesses establishing themselves on Grove Street. Residents and businesses should feel that Grove Street is a family-oriented pedestrianised area.

Taking into account that Grove Street is the main thoroughfare through Wilmslow where people from the residential areas nearby can ~~potentially~~ walk to the Leisure Centre, the Carrs play area, the shops and bus stops it would appear that the SI Club ~~is~~ would be more suited to a urban environment than the centre of Wilmslow.

We therefore would ask you to review your decision to grant a licence to the ST Club for the future of Wilmslow.

Yours Sincerely.



277

CADMAN, Nikki

From: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Sent: 17 February 2013 16:41
To: CADMAN, Nikki
Subject: FW: ST Lounge's license application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[REDACTED]
Licensing Administrative Officer
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 February 2013 17:15
To: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Subject: ST Lounge's license application

Licensing Authority,
Cheshire East Council,
Westfields,
Sandbach.

15th February 2013

Dear Sirs,

Re: ST Lounge, 16 Grove Street, Wilmslow - SEV locense application

We are writing to **OBJECT** to the granting of a renewal of the license for the above establishment as it is currently situated in the centre of Wilmslow.

The premises is an eyesore on every day in Grove Street. Wilmslow is a small town, one main pedestrianised shopping street, Grove Street, a family street, to walk along there during the day, especially early in the mornings, with the site shutted, surrounded by spent fag ends and other trash associated with ST's night time activities, is a blot on Wilmslow.

At nights it engenders a threatening feeling to passers by, so much so that many ovoid going into that part of town in the evenings.

As long time residents of Wilmslow, we are seeing the utter decline of our town centre into a trashy, gaudy, shuttered up place, not inviting for to attract out of town people to visit. Is this what our Council wish to further turn our town centre into? It is not what the vast majority of townspeople wish it to be. We are currently being asked our views on how the town should evolve and later on how the town centre should be shaped. On this basis, the ST Lounge renewal license application is counter to these aspirations.

Neither Grove Street or the central area of Wilmslow is the right place for such an establishment, In fact it will be more suited to a city or town centre like Manchester or Stockport.

We strongly oppose the granting of a further SEV license and urge the appropriate authority to refuse the granting of such a license.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

14 February 2013

Dear Sir /Madam

I am writing re the renewal of the licence of the lap-dancing club on Grove Street. We know now that the last time this licence was renewed, virtually no one saw the advert alerting the public because it appeared on News Years Eve in the Manchester Evening News, not a local Wilmslow paper. Thus we were denied the opportunity to object to its renewal at that time.

I have twin daughters, now 21, who would like to be able to go out in Wilmslow without having the sort of lewd comments that have been made to them whilst passing this club. They find this "disgusting and pervy". What sort of message is this sending to young women and girls, and indeed young men. My daughters now never walk this way home (to [REDACTED]). They have a right to walk about town without feeling preyed on.

Personally I don't like to walk that way late of night. There are a lot of dubious characters hanging around the doorway when it is open and it makes me feel uncomfortable. I go another way. Nowhere else in the town centre makes me feel not quite safe.

This is not the right location for this sort of business. This is a main shopping street by day and by night many families are out perhaps going to a local restaurant or indeed escorting children from the Leisure Centre after late evening sports activities or attending churches nearby or walking home after using public transport. Grove Street is surrounded by and in close proximity by residential areas. We want Wilmslow to be a place where everyone feels comfortable and safe at all times. We aspire to a high quality environment and this club significantly detracts from that.

This club is adding to the overall shabbiness of Grove Street because of the large shutters on display all day which give a suggestion of dereliction. The location looks grubby with all the cigarette ends and gives an air of general untidiness. There should be a shop or restaurant at this location which is open to everyone, would bring the public into Wilmslow and which would benefit the community.

You have 'Discretionary Grounds for Refusal' of an SEV licence. 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 and this club is in the heart of Wilmslow with its Leisure Centre, places of worship, schools and residential areas. It is therefore located in an inappropriate area according to the Council's own policy. I would urge you to refuse to grant the licence on the grounds that it is "inappropriate to the relevant locality". The policy also states

that: Under s.3.7 of the Council's SEV policy, the Committee "is able to determine the appropriate number of Sexual Entertainment Venues suitable for a locality and is able to determine that the appropriate number for a locality is nil". In light of the sensitive uses in the locality I would ask the Council to determine that the appropriate number of SEV's in the locality is nil. The fact that the Committee granted the SEV licence for ST Lounge in 2012 should not have a bearing on the outcome of the application for renewal. The Committee must consider the application afresh and is entitled to determine on renewal that the grant would be inappropriate having regard to the character of the relevant locality or the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put.

Wilmslow town centre is an inappropriate location for this type of business and the licence should be refused.

279

CADMAN, Nikki

From: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Sent: 15 February 2013 16:52
To: CADMAN, Nikki
Subject: FW: Lap Dancing Club Grove St Wilmslow

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 February 2013 17:24
To: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Subject: Lap Dancing Club Grove St Wilmslow

This is a completely inappropriate location, being near to a school and a church!

[REDACTED]

CADMAN, Nikki

From: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Sent: 17 February 2013 16:41
To: CADMAN, Nikki
Subject: FW: ST Lounge, 16 Grove Street, Wilmslow

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[REDACTED]
Licensing Administrative Officer
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 February 2013 16:55
To: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Subject: Re: ST Lounge, 16 Grove Street, Wilmslow

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear Sir/Madam

We wish to register our objection to the application for an SEV licence for the above mentioned premises.

The grounds for our objection are that the ST Lounge is within a residential area and totally inappropriate to be positioned in Grove Street which is regularly passed by children. Children are naturally inquisitive and are well aware of the purpose of the ST Lounge. I think we are all aware of the early sexualisation of our children and this makes a parents job so much more difficult when our children regularly pass it. I feel it is everyone's responsibility to protect our children and young people and that includes Cheshire East Council in adopting a responsible attitude to issuing licenses.

Grove St in Wilmslow is both an important shopping and social area for residents of Wilmslow to meet and visit cafes. Why therefore do residents need to have this club so high profile as to offend its residents. It has a negative effect on the town centre .

Please do not renew the SEV Licence.

Yours Faithfully
[REDACTED]

281

CADMAN, Nikki

From: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Sent: 17 February 2013 16:42
To: CADMAN, Nikki
Subject: FW: ST lounge

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[REDACTED]
Licensing Administrative Officer
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 February 2013 18:24
To: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Subject: ST lounge

Dear Sir / Madam

I am the mother of 2 boys & live in Wilmslow.

I feel the presence of the ST lounge is not appropriate in our main town centre shopping street.

When my eldest boy was in infants they did a geography project about each type of shop in the town centre, they can't do that now because the teachers cannot be expected to explain what a "gentleman's club" is to children!

The club does not promote for our 1800 Wilmslow High school children that women are to be viewed as equals & not merely as sexual objects.

I also know of a recent sexual assault on a worker at the club, this typifies the type of client who uses the club.

Yours Sincerely
[REDACTED]

Date: 16th of February 2013

To: The Licensing Department,
Cheshire East Council
Westfields,
Middlewich Road,
Sandbach, CW11 1HZ
Email: licensing@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Dear Sir,

Re: ST Lounge Grove Street Wilmslow
Application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence – Written Objection

I am writing to express my strong objection to the Council granting a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence for adult entertainment at the premises mentioned above. The premises have been operating as a lap dancing club since 2009 in what is a totally inappropriate location and venue.

The Cheshire East Council policy for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence states as follows:

"Whilst each application will be determined on its own individual merits, the grant of a licence will generally be considered inappropriate where the characteristics of the locality include the following sensitive uses:

- (a) an area predominantly comprising residential accommodation;
- (b) parks and children's play areas;
- (c) schools and youth centres;
- (d) places of worship; and
- (e) community facilities."

I would request that the Committee refuse the application on the grounds that a sexual entertainment venue at the premises would be inappropriate, having regard to the character of the relevant locality and the use to which other premises in the vicinity are put.

The premises are located on Grove Street in the heart of the centre of Wilmslow and are therefore in an inappropriate place in accordance with the above characteristics of the locality.

Whilst I do not live in Wilmslow it is part of Cheshire East and does have an impact.

For example, I recently emailed a Senior Democratic Officer of Cheshire East who has consulted upon potential venues for future Council meetings, to make the following comment

"In relation to the recent member consultation on venues for future council meetings.

I note that it has been suggested that *Consideration should be given to earlier start times for Council meetings and they should not end very late in the evening.*

In addition Wilmslow Leisure Centre has been suggested as a venue.

A recent council meeting in Congleton finished around midnight and I felt uncomfortable walking to my car alone at that time of night even though it was parked only a short distance away.

Wilmslow has a sexual entertainment venue in the centre of town on Grove Street called ST Lounge.

I understand from looking at the map of the centre of Wilmslow that the Leisure Centre and station are fairly close by and the ST Lounge is in the heart of Wilmslow.

<http://www.wilmslow.co.uk/assets/wilmslow/files/07045-wilmslow-map.pdf>

<http://www.stlounge.com/>

It means that by using the Wilmslow Leisure Centre late at night allows for the possibility of encountering stag parties and/ or men who may be under the influence of either or both alcohol and sexual stimulation. The ST Lounge is only a few minutes walk to or from the Leisure Centre which is close to the station.

Lap dancing is currently licensed from Monday to Thursday from 2130 to 0330 at the ST Lounge at Grove Street, Wilmslow, so leaving a late Council meeting would coincide with their times of opening.

For the female lap dancing entertainers the police added the licence condition that:

"Where performers who are not being collected from the door of the premises by taxi or other transport, they will be chaperoned back to their vehicle by escorts provided by the licence holder. This is necessary as there is no car park within sight of the premises and for the safety of persons performing in the premises".

It is bad enough feeling uncomfortable/unsafe walking alone at night to your car without the added threat from this type of entertainment as there will always be some distance to walk from the building.

I would therefore request that Wilmslow Leisure Centre is not used as a future venue for Council meetings as I consider that this type of premises located in the centre of Wilmslow acts as a no go area for the centre of Wilmslow for females alone who like me feel uncomfortable with the prospect of being near the town centre late at night and impacts upon therefore impacts upon the potential use of other premises in the vicinity.

I am not sure whether or not there will be any changes in venue but I am emailing to request that the suggestion of Wilmslow Leisure Centre is not used as I prefer not to be near Wilmslow town centre late at night.

Please could these views be taken into consideration if there are any future venue changes for Council meetings."

I understand that the Leisure centre is open till 10.15 for sports most nights. I am concerned that there is an overlap where under 18s may be in the vicinity of The Stag Night trade.

http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/leisure_culture_and_tourism/leisure_facilities/my_nearest_centre/wilmslow_leisure_centre.aspx

The situation has substantially changed in Wilmslow since the last application for a licence was granted as Cheshire East has now published a Cheshire East Local Plan Wilmslow Town Strategy. A sexual entertainment venue within the heart of the town centre of Wilmslow is contrary to that vision including the objectives for realising the vision. It certainly cannot even be a welcoming town when there is an area of town where residents and visitors alike may well seek to avoid particularly after 930pm at night, because of having a sexual entertainment venue in the town centre of Wilmslow.

<http://www.wilmslow-tc.org.uk/userfiles/files/Wilmslow%20Town%20Strategy%20Final%20Document.pdf>

Lap dancing licences have been refused elsewhere including one in Lambeth which has been operating for 6 years.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-16869029>

<http://www.brixtonblog.com/residents-celebrate-as-brixton-road-strip-club-application-refused/8956>

<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventrytimes/2011/06/29/lap-dance-club-licence-refused-92746-28963828/>

I would request that the Licensing Committee refuse the application on the grounds that a sexual entertainment venue at the premises would be inappropriate, having regard to the character of the relevant locality and the use to which other premises in the vicinity are put.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Dr Louise Brown
Broken Cross and Upton Ward
Macclesfield

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

15 February 2013

To The Licensing Authority, Cheshire East Borough Council

Dear Sir/Sirs/Councillors/

Re: ST Lounge Wilmslow

I am writing to object to the renewal of the licence for the lap dancing club. Very few people saw the original advert, placed just once, in the Manchester Evening News the day before New Year's Eve! Many people did not object, as they did not even know that an application had been made.

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. The shutters down all day makes it look like it is a failed business. There are always cigarette ends and cigarette packets in the doorway.

According to your policy document on the licensing of SEVs, I understand that "relevant entertainment", even "live strip shows" can be provided for the "financial gain of the organiser". Whilst I 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? How can this be justified in our local area?

The Council needs to be sensitive to the uses to which Grove Street is principally put. It is an area used by all the locals, young and old, 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.

I feel that there are other issues you should be also considering. There are now 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. How can this be the right way forward? Shouldn't we all be doing our utmost to protect and enhance our town centre?

Please, refuse to renew the License to the ST Lounge.

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]

284

CADMAN, Nikki

From: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Sent: 18 February 2013 09:25
To: CADMAN, Nikki
Subject: FW: ST Lounge Willmslow

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[REDACTED]
Licensing Administrative Officer
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2013 09:17
To: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Subject: ST Lounge Willmslow

Dear Councillors

As a Wilmslow resident, I wish to object to the location of the ST Lounge in Grove St, Wilmslow as being inappropriate with regards to its close proximity to churches, schools and parks and is totally out of character with other local businesses.

The location of the club has a negative effect on the local area. I ask you to refuse the renewal of the SEV license.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

CADMAN, Nikki

From: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Sent: 17 February 2013 19:47
To: CADMAN, Nikki
Subject: FW: ST Lounge in Wilmslow

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[REDACTED]
Licensing Administrative Officer
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 February 2013 18:04
To: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Subject: ST Lounge in Wilmslow

To whom it may concern

We would like to lodge an appeal against the renewal of the licence for the sexual entertainment venue 'ST Lounge' on Grove Street in Wilmslow. A club of this nature should not be situated on a shopping street adjacent to a residential area. We have objected to this establishment from the outset and are dismayed to find that it continues to exist here in Wilmslow with the approval of our council. Please listen to the residents of Wilmslow. We do not want sex clubs in the town.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CADMAN, Nikki

From: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Sent: 17 February 2013 19:47
To: CADMAN, Nikki
Subject: FW: objection to renew the licence for the ST Club in Grove Street.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[REDACTED]
Licensing Administrative Officer
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ
[REDACTED]

From: **[REDACTED]**
Sent: 17 February 2013 19:27
To: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Subject: objection to renew the licence for the ST Club in Grove Street.

Dear Committee

RE: renew the licence for the ST Club in Grove Street.

My wife, family and I are writing you to in the hope that you will consider refusing the sexual entertainment venue licence for ST Lounge, Grove Street, Wilmslow

We would have refused the first time but they hid their application by having the notification come out during the Christmas holidays.

This club is located in the wrong area situated as it is in a family shopping area.

During the day at the best of times it is an ugly shuttered unmarked eyesore that is difficult to explain to my children.

At night it makes me uncomfortable allowing my teenage daughter into Grove Street, knowing the kind of people that this club attracts.

I find it hard to see how the committee can find a location next to a children shoe shop a suitable location in accordance with the "appropriate to the relevant locality" test.

Since this club has been allowed to open some of the shops near it have closed and the landlord has been unable to rent these premises.

This in contrast to most other areas in Wilmslow that are constantly opening new business. This is in my opinion not a coincidence.

Please act now before what was once a lovely and lively street becomes a dead eyesore.

We ask that you serious consider the our objects which we where unable to provide last time.

[REDACTED]

Make Wilmslow Matter
makewilmslowmatter@gmail.com

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
15.2.2013

**Letter of objection to the renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Licence
for the ST Lounge, Grove Street, Wilmslow, Cheshire**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We write on behalf of 'Make Wilmslow Matter', an independent group of Wilmslow residents. Last year we submitted our objections to the SEV application by the ST Lounge too late, and the applicant was not afforded the time to verify our petition. We understated the details of our objections. However, over the past year, these objections have grown and we feel it our civic duty as local people to bring our serious concerns to your attention.

The fact that the Committee granted the SEV licence for ST Lounge in 2012 should not have a bearing on the outcome of the application for renewal. The Licensing Committee must now consider the application afresh and is entitled to determine on renewal that the grant would be inappropriate having regard to the character of the relevant locality or the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put.

Wilmslow Town Council has unanimously voted for and made representation to Cheshire East, that Wilmslow should have a nil policy for Sexual Entertainment venues as is possible under Council Policy. Furthermore, Cheshire East councilors, Wesley Fitzgerald, Gary Barton and Rod Menlove, local people with local knowledge, have all publicly stated that Grove Street is a wholly inappropriate location for premises having an SEV licence.

Our objections can be summarized under a number of headings:

1) Sexual Entertainment Venue Licences – new measures

As the Licensing Committee will be aware, section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 gives local authorities the right to control sexual entertainment venues under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The ministerial forward to the act explains that this measure was specifically intended to empower local communities, giving local people greater say over the number and location of lap dancing clubs in their area. Cheshire East Council adopted these new provisions with effect from April 4th 2011.

Under s.3.7 of the Council's SEV policy, the Committee is able to determine the appropriate number of Sexual Entertainment Venues suitable for a locality and to set the appropriate number for a locality as nil. In light of the sensitive uses in the locality we would ask the Council to determine that the appropriate number of SEV's in the locality is nil.

We are aware that when considering an application for a sexual entertainment venue licence from an existing operator the Committee must be mindful of paragraph 4.19 of the Home Office Guidance and take into account

the operator's rights under Articles 1 and 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (concerning peaceful enjoyment of their possessions and freedom of expression). However we consider that provided the licensing authority's decision is reached on a rational basis the refusal of a license would not contravene an applicants' Convention rights. We think it highly unlikely that any appeal against a rational licence refusal on these grounds would be successful, as it is totally lawful for councils to set 'nil' policies. Furthermore, the two rights above are qualified and not absolute. Philip Kolvin QC, former Chairman of the Institute of Licensing, has stated that "where a rational decision has been taken by the licensing authority, in accordance with the principle of the statute, it is most unlikely that the decision will be held to have been a disproportionate interference with human rights."

2) Grove Street, families and young people (see appendices 2, 3 and 4)

Cheshire East Council's policy on the licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues (3.8) clearly states:-

"...a licence will generally be considered inappropriate where the characteristics of the locality include the following sensitive uses:

- a) an area comprising predominantly residential accommodation
- b) parks and children's play areas
- c) schools and youth centres
- d) places of worship; and
- e) community facilities

The ST Lounge is set within a pedestrian shopping area, near to residential streets, public green space, several schools, three churches and community facilities. This location directly exposes residents, shoppers and commuters to the inappropriate presence of a sexual entertainment venue in the town centre.

Grove Street is a family shopping street designed to appeal to pedestrians of all ages, especially mothers with prams and buggies. It offers public seating areas as well as cafes with outdoor tables. The shops include a wide range of national chains alongside up-market hairdressers and exclusive jewellers. There is a children's shoe shop next door to the ST Lounge and a shop appealing to teenagers and young adults directly opposite the club.

Grove Street is frequently used by people walking to bus stops on Green Lane or the train station on Station Road. Wilmslow train station services nearly a million commuters a year, and the buses and trains are used well into the night. Many travelers are young people attending educational facilities such as the universities in Manchester, Stockport College, Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, and Kings School, Macclesfield.

Grove Street has benches and open areas where children and young people congregate at different times of the day and night. They also gather at Tesco Express, Morrison's and Wilmslow Leisure Centre which are often open after 10.15p.m. The police were called to an incident involving about 15 young teenagers at Subway, near Grove Street, at 10 pm on Saturday 3rd November 2012. A further 10 young people were near Tesco's. This disproves the ST Lounge's contention that their premises are only open after young people are no longer on the street.

In the case of Vimax Leisure and Durham City Council the factor of local transport hubs was cited as a legitimate ground for the refusal of a premises license with attached adult entertainment provisions, given the numbers of minors congregating in the region of a local bus and railway station. We contend that the same concerns apply to central Wilmslow.

3) Proximity to places of Worship (see appendices 2, 3 and 4)

The applicant's premises are very close to St Theresa's Catholic Church and St Bartholomew's Parish Church, with Wilmslow Methodist Church a short distance away on Water Lane. These churches have large congregations who regularly attend services and evening meetings. These substantially sized venues also host School events, Harvest Festivals, Easter celebrations and festivities during the Christmas period. Many family and children's events take place in these churches throughout the year including meetings of scouts, guides, cubs, brownies, beavers and rainbows. Adults and young people attending evening meetings on foot in these places of worship are highly likely to find themselves passing the open premises of the club on Grove Street.

4) Proximity to schools and youth centres (see appendices 2, 3 and 4)

The applicant's premises are near to several schools. Wilmslow Preparatory School for Girls' headmaster, [REDACTED], has already objected to this application. Wilmslow High School head, [REDACTED], has objected to the ST Lounge location. Staff and parents have also written to Licensing expressing their concerns. Many of the 2000 students from Wilmslow High School walk along Grove Street on their way to and from school, sporting and social events. Whilst formal education is usually between 8.30am and 4.p.m, preschool and after school clubs offer a host of facilities and sporting events to children up to 18 years of age. School premises are also used for a wide range of after school activities from sporting events to the end of school disco and leavers ball. Many school children and their families will walk past this club, which offers live sexual entertainment each evening. This club is inappropriate to the character of its surrounding locality. Pupils, parents, support staff and teachers are entitled to be in a safe community environment which is not situated in the locality of the sex industry.

5) Proximity to residential accommodation (see appendix 6)

The club is near to Hawthorn Lane, which leads to Hawthorn Grove, Broadwalk, Carrwood Road, Gorsey Road and the prestigious Pownall Park. The centre of Grove Street leads onto Grove Way which is the site of Wilmslow Preparatory School and also has a wide range of luxury apartments, houses and retirement apartments. Many elderly local residents no longer want to walk in this vicinity because of the presence of the club. Many have signed a petition regarding the location of the strip club. Some residents now have concerns about walking home past this club and prefer not to go out in the evening.

6) Proximity to parks and play areas (see appendices 2, 3 and 4)

Rectory Fields, a large public green space used by cricketers and families of all ages for games and picnics, is a short walk from Grove Street. Within these grounds is Wilmslow Leisure Centre, which is usually open till 10.15pm, although much later when there are concerts and shows. Grove Street leads to Church Street and St Bartholomew's Church. Another beautiful area nearby, called The Carrs, consists of 71 acres of picturesque parkland with children's play areas, multi use football, tennis and picnic areas.

7) Adverse impact on local businesses

The Local Government Association has surveyed local councils all over the UK and has reported 76% of council officers blamed strip clubs for undermining the vibrancy of High Streets. This information was requested by the Government and has been reported back to Councils.

The sex industry often has a negative effect on efforts to regenerate areas by driving away the couple, professional and family trade. This is now happening in Wilmslow. Business people have stated that the area

around the club looks seedy, particularly as its shutters are down all day, implying a failed business. The Chinese herbal shop next to the ST Club closed two years ago and the premises remained empty until Christmas 2012. We understand the Licensing Committee will have received a letter of objection from [REDACTED], a business man who decided not to invest in Wilmslow. He felt that the clients attracted to this sort of club would not be in keeping with his hope of building a family friendly business. [REDACTED], owner for 30 years of [REDACTED] Hair salon on Grove Street, has objected in writing that the SEV license cheapens the street and the town.

Residents have complained that they now avoid walking in this area in the evening. You have received letters stating that some local people now choose not to eat and drink in Wilmslow in the evening and take their custom to other places. Women in particular may prefer not to visit the centre of Wilmslow to avoid the risk of being in the vicinity of sexually stimulated men. The application granted by Cheshire East allows performers to lap dance for up to 60 minutes, with the rules to dancers..." knickers MUST be removed!"

You have received a letter from another local hair salon which states that the club serves as a late night drinking venue for locals, but is attracting the wrong crowd into Wilmslow, so lowering the tone of the area. Certainly the Stag Night trade that these premises attract deters locals from the area.

The Wilmslow Vision document states that it aims to foster "a vibrant, welcoming and accessible town centre with a high quality environment that will draw people to Wilmslow". The town should be "community that is safe and welcoming" and the town centre should be enhanced "to achieve Wilmslow's aspirations". Please ask yourselves if granting a Sexual Entertainment Licence to the ST club achieves these aims?

8) Safety, accountability and ST Lounge (see appendix 5)

The ST Lounge was granted the SEV License, with conditions.

Condition 10. "The Licence Holder or any other person concerned in the conduct or management of the premises shall not seek to obtain custom by means of personal solicitation or touting from the premises, immediately outside the premises or in the vicinity of the premises, nor allow the premises to be used by prostitutes. Solicitation shall be taken to include the distribution of leaflets."

In the document provided at the 2012 hearing, prepared by the council for the Licensing committee and attendees, there is a "Start of the night checklist" supplied by the applicant, which states "2 people to go flyering". The ST lounge states on Facebook that people can collect free flyers from reception or "Watch out for one of our flyer team who will be giving out flyers on the street near you.....". Clearly the Club is distributing leaflets. Many residents are extremely disturbed by this activity, particularly as the card contains a salacious photograph with the club's details. You have received a letter from a male resident of Hawthorn Lane objecting because he was approached by staff from the ST Lounge, who gave him the promotional information. We consider that the club has knowingly broken condition 10 of their license.

Condition 34. The Police representative at the March 2012 hearing said that condition 34 had been added in order to protect performers leaving the premises with their takings and chaperone them to their cars, if they were not in a taxi. In November 2012 a performer from the ST Lounge left the club with a customer and was subjected to a vicious attack and theft. After this incident she was seen screaming, banging on a shop window begging to be let in before the police were called and an ambulance came. This incident demonstrates that either the club is not abiding by the rules of the license or the conditions are insufficient to protect the performers. Can Cheshire East

Council provide more protection for these vulnerable performers? Had a gentleman not assisted this lady she could have faced more serious injuries. Who would then have been responsible?

Arcangel Initiative On September 1st 2012 the ST Lounge entered into a contract with Cheshire Constabulary and partners as part of the Arcangel Initiative. All premises agreed not to promote binge drinking by no longer offering fixed price and unlimited drinks promotions. The St Lounge still advertises "shots for a pound" and drinks for "just" 0.99p". This happens despite the manager assuring Vilma Robson, Senior Licensing Officer, and Cheshire Police in November 2012, that they had no idea that this was on their website and agreeing to remove the information. This is a sign of poor management as the club should be aware of the information on their website.

Litter and poor maintenance Management should have an effective cleaning and maintenance policy. The frontage has a range of detritus including cigarette ends and packets. Neighbouring shopholders complain of having to clean vomit from the vicinity and the upstairs window has been broken for months.

Opening times At the hearing in March 2012, the ST Lounge was given a license to open on Monday to Thursday till 3.30am, however the hours of opening they have advertised all year are till 4am on Thursday. Furthermore they state on their website they can open for hire *"even when they are closed to the public."*

No Go area Many residents think that Grove Street is now unsuitable to walk in during the evenings and avoid the area. The Article 8 Human Rights of residents are affected because people feel unable to go about their normal business in the way they usually would. Parents are unwilling to let children walk home from a pizza restaurant, leisure centre, youth club or visit to friends in the evening because of the Stag Night trade attracted to the ST Lounge.

The applicant has repeatedly broken their agreements with Cheshire Constabulary and the Licensing Department.

In conclusion, it is the firm view of Make Wilmslow Matter that for all the reasons outlined above Cheshire East Council should now refuse the renewal of a sexual entertainment licence for the ST Lounge and declare a 'nil' policy for Wilmslow town centre. We are sure the strength of local opposition to this club in this locality will be evident from the letters of local residents, schools and business people. We urge the members of the Licensing Committee to listen to these voices and act accordingly.

   
Chair of Make Wilmslow Matter

Appendices of additional information provided with this letter:

- 1) **Appendix 1** A summary of the club's previous development and licence applications
- 2) **Appendix 2** Sensitive site location map
- 3) **Appendix 3** Location Map
- 4) **Appendix 4** Photograph file
- 5) **Appendix 5** Information from ST Lounge website
- 6) **Appendix 6** Petition file

We are members of Make Wilmslow Matter Board.

We are in agreement with the letter of objection to the renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Licence for the ST Lounge, Grove Street, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Licensing Committee

East Cheshire Council

[REDACTED]

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]

The Licensing Committee

Cheshire East

Dear Committee

Re: St Lounge

I am writing to object to the application for a renewal of the licence for the ST Lounge in Grove Street.

The location, right in the centre of town is not suitable; it is the main focus of many community events, such as the Artisan Market and the fundraising by Rotary at Christmas.

Wilmslow is family oriented, with churches, clothes shops, jewellers, flower shops, opticians, banks, building societies, shoe shops, a department store, cafes and restaurants, not in keeping with a sex establishment at all! It is amazing that the licence was ever granted, as the location is entirely contradictory to your stipulations of where such a business can be sited.

The benches just outside the club are used regularly by teenagers going to and from Wilmslow High School; the club is only about 200 yards from Wilmslow Prep School and Nursery; it is about 200 yards from Kiddy Creche on Alderley Road and the little Teddy Bear shop in Wilmslow Arcade. The club is set in a particularly inappropriate location!

Who, in our community, is going to benefit from the club? House prices could easily suffer. Wouldn't it be more suitable to encourage retail outlets, instead? The shop next to it has been vacant for over a year now, probably as it is off-putting to normal businesses. Will drunk or aroused customers threaten the safety of women locally? Unfortunately, it is all too possible! This is the wrong location for a sex establishment. Please reconsider.

Yours faithfully,



The Licensing Department
Cheshire East Council

Dear Mr Whiteley,

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, Trevi's or Eastern Revive, we avoid walking past the lap-dancing club, as it makes us feel uneasy. Eg, Last Saturday, I had to walk along Green Lane instead, simply to avoid having to pass in front of the club, even though the route is slightly longer, and more dangerous at night.

The police have stipulated that the female 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 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. Surely the ST Lounge is inappropriately situated here?

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. To the owners, it seems to be just a means of making money, no matter what. To us, it is a travesty of what Wilmslow represents.

Yours sincerely,



To: The Licensing Section

Cheshire East Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: The ST Lounge 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 quite a while and have always felt safe here; now, with the lap-dancing club, we dread having to walk along Grove Street in the evening.

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. This venue is not justified in our local area, with its many residential streets.

We feel that there are other issues you should be considering, too. The future of Wilmslow town centre is at risk 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 for your understanding and ask you to refuse to renew the ST Lounge's licence in Wilmslow.

Yours sincerely,



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,



To: The Licensing Department
Cheshire East Council

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: The ST Lounge.

I am writing to object to the application for the renewal of the licence for the ST Lounge. As far as I am concerned, it is appalling that such a place exists in the midst of a small town, quite contrary to the ministerial forward, written when the legislation was introduced!

Cheshire East Council has granted a licence to the strip club, situated as it is in Wilmslow's main shopping street, close to several churches, schools and nurseries, the Leisure Centre, the train station and surrounded by normal family shops, very close to several residential roads where hundreds of people live. It is completely in the wrong location!

Are you not fearful of the consequences? Your decision to grant the application could lead to a very serious attack on local residents.

I urge you to think again, carefully, and refuse to renew the SEV licence.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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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 in the ministerial forward, it 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]

The Licensing Section

Cheshire East Council

Dear Sir,

Re: ST Club in Wilmslow's main street.

We are writing to ask you to deny the renewal of the SEV Licence to Wilmslow's ST Club

The Wilmslow Vision document, which the Council endorsed, 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 purpose of the ST Club is to sexually excite its audience, and contradicts what the Council is seeking to provide for the people of Wilmslow!

To us, this is an inappropriate area for a strip club. In your policy document, you state 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. We do not think so! Grove Avenue, houses many local residents, as do the roads off water lane; Green Lane also leads to Hawthorn Lane, which is 95% residential and to Green Lane, which has residential apartments.

Before his election at the full Council meeting on May 16th, 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?

We would be obliged if you would consider our views when you make your decision about the future of Wilmslow; so much is at stake for the future of the town.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

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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, e.g.: 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 Bart'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 inappropriate location.

Please consider these views carefully.

Kindest Regards,



Licensing Enquiries
Cheshire East Council

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]

Licensing department
Cheshire East council

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

XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX

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The Licensing Officer
Cheshire East

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]

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The Licensing Team
East Cheshire Council

RE: The ST Lounge in Grove Street

Dear all

I am writing to ask that the Council might consider granting no SEVs in Wilmslow; we have one, the ST Lounge, inappropriately situated, in the heart of our small town. I have to ask you why such an inappropriate business, totally out of character with all the existing businesses, has been allowed to settle in Wilmslow.

When I am out with my family in the evening, I deliberately avoid going along Grove Street, purely to avoid any potential trouble; I often think wonder what kind of physical state of arousal the lap dancing club's customers might be in! This makes me, and my family feel quite vulnerable- this is totally wrong. I should feel safe in my own town!

Please take our views into account and refuse the ST Lounge's application for a renewal of its SEV licence.

Yours faithfully,

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