

351

Cheshire East Council

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 zone, which residents seek to avoid. 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. Why should they have to go the long way round, to get home in the evening?

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 faithfully,

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,

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 The Burinda or Eastern Revive, we avoid walking past the lap-dancing club, as it makes us feel uncomfortable. E.g., last Saturday, we walked along Green Lane instead, even though the route is slightly longer, purely to avoid having to pass the club. Should this be necessary?

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, which could cause them to prey on others when they leave, and, therefore, 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 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, who saw the ST Lounge sign and wanted to know what a 'gentleman's club' was! Surely the club is inappropriately situated? Grove Street houses jewellers, opticians, bakers, banks, clothes and food shops etc, i.e.: places we use in our everyday family lives. Surely the ST Lounge is "inappropriate to the locality"?

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,

7th February 2013,

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed renewal of the licence to the lapdancing club in Grove Street Wilmslow.

Whilst I have not objected morally to adult entertainment, I feel the club is situated too near local amenities, such as schools, shops, etc for it to be a desirable location.

1 Shop and eat in Wilmslow and it is not an asset to the area. Please re-consider extending the licence further.

Yours faithfully

355

The Licensing Office

Cheshire East Council

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 is 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 behaviour 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,

7/2/13

356

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.

We note that in your policy statement, that 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.

Whilst we regret that anyone feels the need for sex establishments, we are realistic enough to know that the sex industry will always exist. Our objection is based on the fact that such places would be better located in larger urban areas, away from residential streets and facilities used by local residents, particularly by young people.

Please help to protect our town.

Yours faithfully,

7/2/13

[Faint, illegible signature or stamp]

357

The Licensing Office
Cheshire East Council

12/02/2013

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,

The Licensing Office

Cheshire East Council

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Licensing application for ST Lounge in Grove Street.

I object to the application. The location of the premises is very close to three residential roads, Grove Avenue, Hawthorn Lane and Green Lane and is also close to churches and schools.

In your own criteria, you seem to be against the juxtaposition of such clubs with housing, shops, schools and places of worship, so how can you consider granting this application?

It is also a pedestrianised road, where Wilmslow residents linger, sitting on the benches, where there are charity shops, shoe shops, banks, restaurants, and gift shops for all members of the family. It is where we have a regular artisan market, selling cheeses, cooked meats, bread, cakes, jewellery, toys, bags etc, as opposed to the ST Lounge which sells sex!

The stated purpose of the ST Lounge is to stimulate its customers sexually. How is it appropriate to grant a licence to a sex establishment, in the heart of Wilmslow's main street, in which our traditional values are represented, in which we put up Christmas decorations and where the rotary Club raises money for charity?

Please reject the application.

Yours sincerely,

28/1/13.

359

The Licensing Office

Cheshire East Council

10-2-13

Dear Sirs

Re: Application for a lap-dancing renewal licence.

I would like to voice my concern about the application for the renewal of the licence for the ST Lounge in Grove Street, Wilmslow.

I have enjoyed living in Wilmslow for quite a few years and it has been a mainly quiet and law-abiding community. Grove Street is where people enjoy sitting on the benches and is a place where young people can congregate in the evenings.....unless they are put off by the ST Lounge!

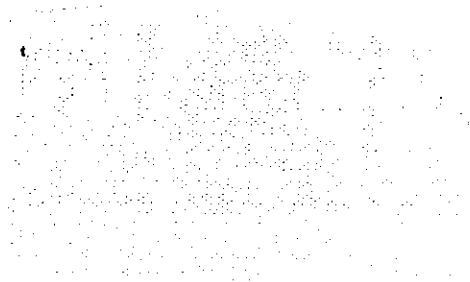
For such a club to be situated in the heart of our community is totally unacceptable and certainly inappropriate for our small market town.

The area is residential with many houses and apartments in the vicinity, as well as commercial businesses, such as Thorntons, Waterstones, Clarks, Boots, as well as various mobile phone shops, jewellers, several banks, building societies, cafes and restaurants in close proximity to the lounge.

I know, from friends who live in Hawthorn Lane, that they have been woken occasionally at night, when alcohol-fuelled revelers leave the lounge; this is totally unacceptable! The stated purpose of the lounge is to sexually stimulate its customers. It is a potent mix, isn't it, alcohol and sexual stimulation? Where will it lead? Will you be held partly responsible for having granted an SEV to a club in such an inappropriate location?

I hope you will rectify this worrying situation.

Yours faithfully,



11th February 2013

Re: The ST Lounge in Grove Street

Dear Councillors

I am writing to ask you not to grant a licence to the St Lounge in Wilmslow's main pedestrianised street. Its very location there does not seem in line with the Council's own guidelines, as it is located near a great many residences, schools, churches and parks and is totally out of character with the surrounding businesses.

Section 27 of the Policing & Crime Act 2009 give Councils the right to regulate lap dancing clubs as sex establishments under Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. This new legislation came into effect in England in 2010 and, fortunately, was later adopted by Cheshire East. It gives you the right, I think, to make fresh decisions.

The purpose of these reforms, according to the Ministerial Foreword, was to empower local communities, to give them a greater say over where and how many lap dancing clubs would open and operate in their area. It seems that Cheshire East Council was very wise to adopt this legislation, and not to continue with the status quo.

Please listen to the local people, most of whom are worried about where the ST Lounge is located. The club seems to be having a negative effect on that end of Grove Street, with its shutters down all day, its litter, urine and vomit in the evenings and early mornings.

Unfortunately, we have heard many tales about the club, including the fact that most locals prefer to avoid Grove Street in the evenings because of it; we have heard that men walking past are actively encouraged to enter and some are even given discount vouchers; we have heard that under 18s are allowed in on a regular basis. Many of us find this truly disturbing.

I really worry about the potential danger to young women in or near that area at night, from men who have been sexually stimulated, and who may be drunk, who might possibly attack a young girl on her way home. There are very many houses close to the ST Lounge, in Green lane, Grove Avenue, Hawthorn Lane, and, off Water Lane. I know that the club targets stag parties as part of its audiences; stag parties are well known for their binge drinking and extreme behaviour. It really seems that the ST Lounge is located in the wrong place.

Please examine the new legislation very carefully. Please consider the impact that the ST Lounge is having on the local community. It concerns me that some businesses are refusing to come to Wilmslow, because they do not wish to open in the vicinity of a strip club. Economically, as I am sure you agree, this is not good for the town.

Interestingly, Local Government Association findings have shown that in towns where there are strip clubs and betting shops, there is a definite economic decline. 76% of Council officers believe this to be the case, apparently.

I am very worried about the future of Wilmslow. I ask you all to reflect on these issues and to refuse the licence to the ST Lounge. I rely on your good judgement.

I wish you to withhold my name and address.

Yours faithfully,

I am happy for Cllr Fitzgerald to speak on my behalf at the forthcoming hearing.

361

To: The Licensing Section

Cheshire East Council

15/02/13

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, 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,

362

The Licensing Officer

Cheshire East

Dear Mr Whiteley and other officers,

Re: ST Club Grove Street, Wilmslow.

15/02/13

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,

The Licensing Council,
Cheshire East.

12th February 2013

Dear Sir.

Ref: The ST Lounge, Grove St., Wilmslow

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

The Lap Dancing Club is sited in very close proximity to a residential area, Grove Ave., Grove Lane, Hawthorn Lane. There is a fear of crime, anti-social behaviour, noise pollution and disturbance to residents. Furthermore, there is a heightened statistical link to physical, verbal and sexual assaults on women who live or work in the vicinity of such venues. Many local residents must be reluctant to work through Grove St. which is the hub of Wilmslow town centre, for fear of such abuse.

The premises are located in our main shopping street, where seating is provided for young and old, almost directly outside the premises. The location of the club does not fit with other premises 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 town, which is struggling in the current economic climate. The opening of the ST Lounge has not helped at all, having such a club tarnishes the image of the area by giving it a sleazy appearance, thus counteracting 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 the recession, as they see industry devastated 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 such a club, especially those with young children, regardless of the opening hours of the applicant.

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

I urge you to refuse the ST Lounge's application for licence renewal.
Yours faithfully

364

The Licensing Committee,
Cheshire East Council

12/02/2013

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,

365

Dear Mr Whiteley

Please do not renew the license to perform sexual entertainment on Grove Street, Wilmslow. Its current position is neither acceptable nor appropriate to the local community.

This club is very close to residences on Hawthorn Lane. These houses were built over 100 years ago. It is close to Hawthorn Grove, Grove Way and the apartments and houses situated on Green Lane and Kennerlys Lane.

The club's present position is on a busy pedestrianized thoroughfare, used by family members of all ages to shop, visit restaurants and gain access to bus stops on Green Lane (metres away from the club), and the train station on Station Road. The buses and trains are used well into the night. The bus services which operate from Green Lane, and the trains, carry a high volume of female students and workers attending the University of Manchester, Stockport College, Altrincham Grammar School and Loreto Grammar School. There are a high number of minors who congregate near the bus station, train station and indeed Grove Street, Wilmslow, and this alone is a legitimate reason for the refusal of a Sexual Entertainment License which allows nude pole dancing and lap dancing most nights of the week. I am concerned about female commuters, who have to pass the club and its patrons, as Grove Street is the main pedestrian route in the town.

Please reconsider the club's location. It is inappropriately positioned, extremely close to St Theresa's Church, and around the corner from Wilmslow Preparatory School. Many of the 2,000 students from Wilmslow High School also use Grove Street to walk home after school, sporting and social events. Furthermore, there are more Churches and schools just a short walk away.

Businesses are also affected. That end of Grove Street now looks seedy due to the two empty shops next to the club. The club's shutters are down all day long, so the club looks like a failed business. Laudable efforts by a number of store holders to upgrade the area by attracting family trade are being thwarted by a sex club in the centre of Wilmslow's high street.

Wilmslow Town Council voted unanimously that this area is inappropriate for the location of sex clubs, so please listen to your Councilors and residents by refusing to renew the Sexual Entertainment Venue License.

Yours Sincerely,

366

Dear Licensing,

Wilmslow residents are extremely concerned that a club has been granted a Licence to perform fully nude Sexual Entertainment. The Council have allowed it to operate all year in Grove Street. Residents are especially worried because a dancer from the club was attacked in the residential area of Racecourse Road.

This area is totally inappropriate, because it is so near residential areas, shops, schools and churches. Also, it is known that the ladies who work in this industry are vulnerable and there appears to be insufficient safeguarding for them.

Yours truly

367

The Licensing Authority,
Cheshire East Borough Council

15 February 2013

By hand & fax: 01270 529889

Dear Sirs,

Re: ST Lounge, Grove Street, Wilmslow

I WRITE WITH REFERENCE TO THE ABOVE PLANNING APPLICATION AS A BOROUGH COUNCILLOR WHO REPRESENTED WILMSLOW TOWN CENTRE FROM 1985 – 1997.

As a Councillor I was responsible for the promotion of Grove Street as a Pedestrian Area thereby creating a "family friendly heart" to our town.

I also strongly supported the change of premises to the A4 use thereby allowing the town to provide coffee shops and well managed Bar Restaurants for the enjoyment of local residents and visitors. With some exceptions this policy has worked well with the Police and local government ensuring such premises are well managed without causing any concern to "local residents".

I WRITE THEREFORE TO EXPRESS MY STRONG OBJECTION TO THE RENEWAL OF A SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE FOR "A STRIP CLUB" ON GROVE STREET AND ASK YOU TO CONSIDER IN DETAIL THE AFFECT SUCH A CLUB IS HAVING ON THE TOWN CENTRE, WHERE IT IS SITUATED ON THE MAIN SHOPPING CENTRE AND HEART OF OUR TOWN.

If such a club is considered "desirable" by the applicants then ask them to seek a site more private and appropriate with suitable car parking.

Yours faithfully,

14.2.2013

Dear Sirs

re: The ST Club, Grove St, Wilmslow

I write to object to the granting of a licence for this strip club in Grove Street, Wilmslow.

I ask that the Licensing Committee reconsider the issue of granting a licence to this Club. Very few people saw the original advert. I believe it was placed just once at first, in the MEN Newspaper at the end of last 2011. Many people did not object as they did not even know that an application had been made.

The applicants may indeed have followed the Letter of the Law, but the way they did this suggests a clear intention to avoid public knowledge & their rightful input.

I have read on their FaceBook site that they are at times on the streets of Wilmslow offering "free tickets" for the ST Lounge strip club. They are already stating they are open at different times to their license application!

The Wilmslow Vision document, which was endorsed by many in the Council wishes to foster "a vibrant, welcoming and accessible town-centre, with a high-quality environment, to draw people into Wilmslow"; it even talks of "a community that is safe and welcoming".

According to the Wilmslow Express Advertiser, in Aug 2012 the Wilmslow Town Council voted in favour of Wilmslow being designated a "zero locality" for sexual entertainment venues. The presence of the ST Lounge is clearly at odds with this.

This strip club is situated next to houses & residences, Churches & schools. All of these communities were there before the ST club.

The stated purpose of the ST Club is to sexually excite its audience, that does not draw me into Wilmslow, and therefore, contradicts what the Council is claiming to seek to provide for the people of Wilmslow.

As it' is such an important issue, we would ask that the matter be dealt with by the full Licensing Committee.

Surely a lap-dancing club is inappropriate in any small town centre, but, particularly in Wilmslow, where so many residents live close by these premises.

I urge you to accept our views, which I believe are held by a majority of Wilmslow residents.

Yours faithfully

369

15.2.2013

Dear Sirs

The ST Club, Grove St, Wilmslow

I am writing to object to the granting of a licence for this strip club in Grove Street, Wilmslow.

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According to the Wilmslow Express Advertiser, in Aug 2012 the Wilmslow Town Council voted in favour of Wilmslow being designated a "zero locality" for sexual entertainment venues. The presence of the ST Lounge is clearly at odds with this.

This strip club is situated next to houses & residences, Churches & schools. All of these communities were there well before the ST club.

In addition to the obvious offence this club causes to many local people, there is the wider issue involved. Research clearly shows that the sex trade is linked to human trafficking, as well as to the drugs trade.

I note that Peter Tapper claims in this week's Express Advertiser that the "blue rinse brigade" or the "moral minority" are trying to close this club down. But conversations I have had with local people indicate there is widespread resistance to this type of club from parents with young families.

The stated purpose of the ST Club is to sexually excite its audience, that does not draw me into Wilmslow, and therefore, contradicts what the Council is claiming to seek to provide for the people of Wilmslow.

As it' is such an important issue, we would ask that the matter be dealt with by the full Licensing Committee.

Surely a lap-dancing club is inappropriate in any small town centre, but, particularly in Wilmslow, where so many residents live close by these premises.

I urge you to accept our views, which I believe are held by a majority of Wilmslow residents.

Yours faithfully

15th February 2013

Dear Licensing,

RE: ST Lounge

[REDACTED] has been in business for seven years, as a specialist for children's hairdressing and children's parties.

I feel strongly that such a business as the ST Lounge should not be in prime view of the high traffic of children who frequent Grove Street. As such, I am writing to object to the ST Lounge being granted a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence.

Yours faithfully,

2 February 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

I don't live in Wilmslow, but my mum really enjoyed looking round the shops on Grove Street and then having a coffee or lunch there. When the sex club opened, I won't take her any more. I would be very embarrassed and she would feel very uncomfortable having a drink nearby, it puts people off.

I hope that you will consider this and don't renew the licence.

Yours sincerely

372

4th February

Dear Sir

We are all disgusted that a sex club has been allowed to open down the main shopping street where I come into Wilmslow to meet my friends. They have paid a lot for their houses so they can live in a nice area. Children go to the childrens shops there, everyone used to go out to drinks and dinner. Then you have to walk right past a club where there are stag parties. I would hate to be the mother of a girls walking home.

It is time to do the right thing and stop this business.

Regards,

373

Dear Licensing

My friends and family members have been shocked and really concerned that you granted a License to perform fully nude strip shows and lap dances most evenings in the heart of Wilmslow.

The location is completely wrong, and inappropriate as it is so near schools, churches and in the heart of Wilmslow, a residential town according to the Councils web site. What residential area has a Sex club in its centre?

Please refuse to renew the Sexual Entertainment License you gave to the ST Lounge, and make Wilmslow a better place for people to live, work and socialize.

Yours truly,

374

14th February 2013

The Licensing Department
Cheshire East Council.

RE: The ST Lounge

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been in business for 30 years, on Grove Street, in Wilmslow. I am writing to express my concerns about the ST Lounge being given a sexual entertainment licence.

I feel that this is most inappropriate, as Grove Street is a family High street venue.

We have invested in a second premises, specialising in baby and children's clothing and feel that the ST Lounge is completely out of character with the rest of the local shops.

I would like my name and address withheld from the applicant.

Yours faithfully,

2 / 2 / 13

Dear Licensing Committee,

When I have been to Wilmslow, to visit the theatre or leisure centre, or to watch a show at a friends school sporting event we often walk and catch the train home together. No more! It's a car door to door or nothing.

I feel strongly that Sexual Entertainment should not be situated in a family area next to all the amenities which made Wilmslow so popular. In Manchester, I believe such clubs are situated down side streets and in down-market areas. se.

Please consider the effect the existence of such a club is having on Wilmslow's town centre and deny the renewal of the Sex License to Wilmslow's ST Club.

Many thanks

To East Cheshire Council

Can I urge the council to consider the facts when thinking of renewing a license to the ST Club? This is a residential area; the club is very near to housing on Hawthorn Lane. The situation of the club is in the middle of a busy shopping street where vehicles are not allowed. Also there is a Private School and its nursery nearby. Does the council really believe that the location of this club is appropriate? There are much bigger towns not far away where the club would be better placed.

It is time to consider the views of the local people and shop owners when this comes up for review. I know lots of friends are putting their views in writing; if people are prepared to make the effort of writing a letter then it is time for the council to start listening.

Yours Faithfully

377

2nd February 2013

Dear Sir,

I visit Wilmslow to meet relatives and friends. We meet at the wide range of eateries and bars in the town centre. When an Adult Entertainment License was awarded to a club on Grove Street, Wilmslow, many residents and businesses were shocked and deeply concerned. As I was! We now do not take our business to Wilmslow, and you must agree that this type of business is offputting to the majority and deters many.

Thanks to Cheshire East's introduction of the Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Act, the local community and Councilors now have the opportunity to object and the Licensing Department now have the opportunity to do the right thing for Wilmslow.

Looking at a map, everyone can see that:

- i The club on Grove Street is surrounded by residential areas.
- ii The club is metres from a school and nursery and the main pedestrian hub to the others.
- iii The club is very close to St Theresa's and just a short walk from the Methodist and St Bartholomew's Church. These have a large congregation, many of whom will have to walk past the club to attend, which is most inappropriate.

Please do the right thing for Wilmslow and refuse this license.

Yours faithfully,

378

2. Feb 2013

TO THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR LICENSING

Please do not award a Sexual Entertainment License to the S T Club on Grove Street. Wilmslow is a lovely market town, filled with up-market shops, Churches and wonderful schools.

I believe that the new law, S.E.V. , gives the Licensing Department the opportunity to refuse a license where the location is deemed inappropriate. I am sure you will agree that being surrounded by residential accommodation, round the corner from Churches, nurseries and the prestigious Wilmslow Preparatory School makes the club's proposed location totally unacceptable.

Thankyou

4th February 2013

379

Dear Licensing,

Please do not renew the license to perform sexual entertainment on Grove Street, Wilmslow. Its current position is neither acceptable nor appropriate to the community.

Although I do not live in Wilmslow, my friends do, and we used to arrange to meet there. This has now changed. This club is very close to residences over 60 houses on Hawthorn Lane, and 40 houses on Hawthorn Grove. These houses were built over 100 years ago. It is close to the lovely residences and apartments on Grove Way including the Canterbury grange retirement Apartments. There was a time I envied my friends who lived in Wilmslow. No more. They are the receiver of many jokes about their town, and we just do not feel comfortable meeting there. Obviously we have taken our business elsewhere.

Also, the buses and trains are used well into the night. The bus services which operate from Green Lane, and the trains, carry many female students and workers attending the many businesses in the area. Plus, the University of Manchester, Stockport College, Altrincham Grammar Schools. There are a large number of minors who congregate near the bus station, train station and indeed Grove Street, Wilmslow, and this alone is a legitimate reason for the refusal of a Sexual Entertainment License which allows nude pole dancing and lap dancing most nights of the week. I am concerned about female commuters, who have to pass the club and its patrons, as Grove Street is the main pedestrian route in the town.

Yours sincerely,

Dear Sirs

I now avoid visiting Wilmslow now so I am writing to object to a Sexual Entertainment License being awarded to the S T Lounge in Street. This is a pedestrianized shopping area near to schools, the leisure centre and shops that children use, such as Claires, DVD shops, and a toddlers' shoe shop. Children and older people alike should feel safe and secure as they go about their daily activities.

This is a residential market town, and has always been known as a family friendly place. It is completely the wrong location for fully nude strip shows every night of the week,

Please do not renew this licence.

Yours faithfully

4th February 2013 .


To license department.

I used to go to Wilmslow and it was a nice place to go and meet friends or shop.

Because of the strip club in the high street,, shops are closing, and that part of the town looks seedy, and run down.

I now go to different shopping areas like Altrincham and Manchester to meet people and do my shopping. I used to spend a lot of money in Wilmslow, but don't any more. I hope something will be done about this situation,

Best wishes,



382

Dear Licensing

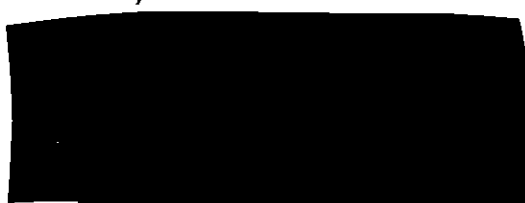
I hope you will agree not to grant the licence for the ST Lounge.

Grove Street, with its shops, coffee shops and restaurants there and nearby, used to be a place for children to meet their friends, and parents were relaxed in the knowledge that they were in a safe environment.

If the licence is granted this will no longer be the case, and Wilmslow's reputation as a family friendly, desirable place to live and/or visit, will be tarnished.

Please do not grant the licence.

Yours truly



CADMAN, Nikki

From: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Sent: 18 February 2013 14:44
To: CADMAN, Nikki
Subject: FW: ST Lounge Gentlemen's Club and Champagne Bar, Wilmslow

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

From: BARTON, Gary (Councillor)
Sent: 18 February 2013 14:38
To: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Cc: FITZGERALD, Wesley (Councillor); MENLOVE, Rod (Councillor)
Subject: re: ST Lounge Gentlemen's Club and Champagne Bar, Wilmslow

Regarding the notice of application for the renewal of a sexual entertainment venue licence for the ST Lounge Gentlemen's Club and Champagne Bar, Wilmslow:

I am writing to registed to objection to this application. Below is a joint statement from myself and Cllrs Fitzgerald and Menlove.

Regards,

Gary

'We believe that the renewal of a sexual entertainment license for the ST Lounge on Grove Street, Wilmslow should be refused. This is not an objection relating to the specific applicant, nor purely a moral objection to such establishments. We believe that Grove Street is a wholly inappropriate location for sexual entertain venues. Grove Street is at the heart of our shopping centre and the presence of a strip club is significantly harmful and a blight on the character of the locality. We are desperately seeking ways to support our struggling shops whilst also encouraging the development of a thriving café and restaurant culture – a process damaged by this application.

The location itself is close to four of the Wilmslow's major churches and almost on the doorstep of Wilmslow Prep as well as being on the route home for a number of Wilmslow High School's pupils. Furthermore, the relatively compact nature of Wilmslow town centre means that the location of this application all but backs on to the primarily residential roads of Hawthorn Street and Grove Avenue. The level of public opposition to this application is significant and we wholeheartedly support our local residents and Wilmslow Town Council in recommending that this application be denied.'

Councillors Gary Barton, Wesley Fitzgerald and Rod Menlove.

To: Licensing Section
Cheshire East council

14/2/13

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,

We have nothing against these sort of clip joints in city centres where they are geared up for dealing with litter / late night noise / late night drunks, but it is a really stupid place to put it. Unless of course the council have decided in the long term that is what they want Wilmslow to become.

Y From [REDACTED], [REDACTED],
[REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Sorry this is a bit late but our Email has been down.

CADMAN, Nikki

From: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Sent: 18 February 2013 13:04
To: CADMAN, Nikki
Subject: FW: Objection to ST Lounge Gentlemen's Club and Champagne Bar, Wilmslow
Attachments: image.jpeg; ATT00001.txt

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

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2013 12:56
To: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Subject: Objection to ST Lounge Gentlemen's Club and Champagne Bar, Wilmslow

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a Wilmslow family we would like to make our objections known in relation to this application.

ATT00001

we feel it is inappropriate to have such a venue in the centre of town on the pedestrian street and in such close proximity to local schools.

According to the Wilmslow Express in August 2012 Wilmslow Town Council voted in favour of Wilmslow being designated a "zero locality" for sexual entertainment venues by the licensing authority, Cheshire East Council. Surely to renew the licence at all let alone include Strip Shows and Full Nudity is the complete opposite of Wilmslow Town Council vote!

To promote sexual dancing whilst dressed is bad enough but to allow Strip Shows and Full Nudity is ridiculous for the town centre location.

As a family we have discussed the licence above in an open and non biased way with our two teenage daughters and they were both appalled that the venue was on our doorstep. They were both aware of the shutters during the day. As they grow older they now feel they would no longer feel safe walking in to town to meet friends in the evening as customers of the lounge having had their appetite wetted in the lounge may enter out onto the street and become suggestive to people passing by.

We feel strongly that the venue does not portray the family friendly environment that Wilmslow is trying to portray with the Artisan Market, Scarecrow Festivals, Children's Treasure Hunt, Car Show, etc and that the licence should not be renewed.

Yours Faithfully,


Wilmslow Residents

CADMAN, Nikki

From: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Sent: 18 February 2013 16:13
To: CADMAN, Nikki
Subject: FW: lap-dancing club

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2013 16:05
To: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Subject: lap-dancing club

To whom it may concern:

I would like to add my name to those who oppose the renewal of the licence for the lap-dancing club in Wilmslow. I was born in Chester and I remember Wilmslow from my childhood. I was shocked to hear that a lap-dancing club exists on the High St there now, and it would put me off visiting the town centre. Such places are no-go areas for me as a woman, they make me feel degraded and uncomfortable. It doesn't feel safe. I'm not a prude, I just think sex entertainment should not be on the High St, which should be for all of us, not just the lads. They are sleazy places no matter what the owners would have us believe, not places that women, children and decent men should have to walk past and accept.

It gives Wilmslow a seedy image, and I just thought you might like to know the view of a potential visitor to the town. I am therefore fully in support of the council.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CADMAN, Nikki

From: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Sent: 18 February 2013 15:43
To: CADMAN, Nikki
Subject: FW: Renewal of SEV licence for ST Lounge in Wilmslow

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2013 15:32
To: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Subject: Renewal of SEV licence for ST Lounge in Wilmslow

Dear Councillors,

I am 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.

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

Yours faithfully,

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


CADMAN, Nikki

From: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Sent: 19 February 2013 08:42
To: CADMAN, Nikki
Subject: FW: Lap dancing club

[REDACTED]
 Licensing Administration Officer
 Cheshire East Council
 Westfields
 Middlewich Road
 Sandbach
 CW11 1HZ
 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2013 20:11
To: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Subject: FW: Lap dancing club

> Subject: Lap dancing club
 > CC: [REDACTED]
 > From: [REDACTED]
 > Date: Mon, 18 Feb 2013 20:06:08 +0000
 > To: [REDACTED]
 >
 > To the licensing authority, Cheshire East Borough Council
 >
 >
 > Dear Councillors,
 >
 > Re: ST Lounge in Wilmslow's main street
 >
 > My family and I are writing to object to the renewal of the ST Club.
 >
 > We are requesting that you deny the renewal of the SEV Licence to Wilmslow's STClub.
 >
 > We consider a high street to be the wrong location for a lap dancing club. It does not fit in with local family friendly businesses.
 >
 > The Wilmslow Vision document, endorsed by the Council, wishes to foster "a vibrant welcoming and accessible town centre, with a HIGH QUALITY environment...". It talks of a community "that is safe and welcoming". The stated purpose of the lap dancing club is to, "sexually excite its audience". This contradicts what the council is seeking to provide it's Wilmslow residents.
 >
 > In your 'Discretionary Grounds for Refusal' of an SEV licence, it is stated that the Sexual Entertainment Licence is generally considered inappropriate 'where there are schools, places of worship, leisure centres and residential areas. On the Councils own website it says that Wilmslow is a residential town. Therefore, the club, is located in an inappropriate area according to the councils own policy. We would ask you to refuse grant on the grounds that 'it is inappropriate to the relevant locality'.
 >
 > The Council should be sensitive to the principle usage of Grove Street: a residential area with facilities for the community including children who everyday walk by the club, a family area close to schools, coffee and snack shops, churches and toy stores.

>
> Grove Street should not be an area to be avoided which would be against the legislation brought in by the government to give residents a say in the way their town is run.
>
> We feel that you should be considering the future of Wilmslow town centre. We have two betting shops and a strip club in a very small area. Economists' projections show that this kind of development can lead to the decline of a town.
>
> In conclusion, we ask that you take serious heed of our objections,
>
> Yours faithfully,
> 
>
>
> Sent from my iPad

1/2

RECEIVED

15 FEB 2013

RECEIVED

389

Public Entertainment
Licensing Dept
Cheshire East Council

13/2/2013

Dear Sir,

I write to object to the renewal of the licence for S.T. Lounge on Grove St. in Wilmslow. I did not object to the original application because I felt the business should not be discriminated against on principal.

However I now know what a detriment to the street scene an ugly shuttered shop front is, since that is the appearance 365 days a year! Perhaps even more of an issue is the cigarette butts & general litter left by the club's patrons as they smoke outside all evening.

I pass through Grove St at 8.30 am and again at 6pm daily and this detritus is an eyesore I don't see it outside any other shop, to anything like the same extent.

P.T.O.

The owners of the business clearly have no respect for anyone but their customers & their profits.

It is clear to me that such a high profile area of our village is not suitable for businesses that are boarded up in daytime and creates such a dirty area outside its premises.

yours sincerely



2. RECEIVED

20 FEB 2013

390

RECEIVED

14 FEB 2013

Ches. [REDACTED]

Tues. 12th Feb.

Re- Application for SEV Licence for ST Lounge, Grove St. Wilmslow.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I strongly object to the renewal of the licence for the above premises. I attend a local church only 100 yds away from the establishment & find the premises offensive not just because of the nature of their use but also because by day they are an ugly blight on one of the main shopping streets of the town.

I believe that in this time of Wilmslow needing to attract new business to the town the unsightly presence of these premises providing this service will deter other businesses from wanting to locate in Grove St.

Also there are several residential areas close by with many families and children using the street on a regular basis. Surely the above establishment is not a commendable influence on impressionable youth.

The residents of Wilmslow are proud of their town and its wholesome nature. This sort of establishment is against all principles of the majority of the residents. It is time Cheshire East made the area a "Zero Tolerance" zone.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

391

RECEIVED

20 FEB 2013

To: Licensing Section
Cheshire East council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Councillors,

04.02.13.

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,

[REDACTED]

Cheshire East Council

Licensing Department

MARKET PLACE,

MACCLESFIELD

SK10 1DX

13 February 2013

Re: Objection to the application by Van Leisure Limited to renew its Licence in respect of ST Lounge, Grove St, Wilmslow

As a Wilmslow resident with young children, I object to the application for renewal of the ST Lounge's Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence. A business of this kind is not in keeping with what Wilmslow is aspiring to be - a pleasant, vibrant, family-friendly and community spirited place.

Wilmslow has struggled in recent years despite once being an upmarket retail destination and the jewel in the north west's crown.

This downwards spiral is well recognised and there now seems to be a collective desire to reverse the town's decline and assure Wilmslow's future as a desirable place to live, work and visit. Great efforts have been made by local residents to restore a sense of community in Wilmslow.

We now have a Town Council (which I understand has recommended that the number of sexual entertainment venues for the locality be set at zero); a vibrant monthly artisan market (which has played a pivotal role in encouraging new independent retailers to up business in the town centre); and, innovative community action groups with inspiring local followings, such as Incredible Edible.

Wilmslow is only going to start to truly prosper again if we treat our town centre with the respect it deserves. We need to pay considerable attention to the makeup of the retail environment here and have an approach to town planning / licensing that is in line with the efforts of the wider community to make the town a better place for everyone.

Wilmslow town centre is simply not large enough to accommodate venues of this sort in a discrete way. The very presence of the club on our main shopping street all shuttered up during daylight hours is a constant reminder of the seedy business it is engaged in. When determining the outcome of this licence application Cheshire East (to the extent that it can influence the sorts of businesses that are operated here) should remember that sexual entertainment venues, betting shops and sports bars may have a role to play in a city economy (where stag parties and the like need to be catered for) but Wilmslow isn't Manchester - it's a small, and currently rather vulnerable, town that we need to protect.

A concerned Wilmslow resident.

REPRESENTATION FORM**Responsible Authority: POLICE**

Application Number:

Your Name	Anthony Whitney
Job Title	Licensing Officer
Postal and E-Mail Address	Licensing Section Cheshire Constabulary, Brunswick Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 1HQ macclesfield.licensing@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Contact Telephone Number	[REDACTED]

Name of the premises you are making a representation about:	S T Lounge Gentlemen's Club and Champagne Bar
Address of the premises you are making a representation about:	16 Grove Street, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 1DR

1. REPRESENTATION (Please give details)	<p>Application received 29th January 2013 from Van Leisure Ltd for a renewal of the Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence at S T Lounge Gentlemen's Club and Champagne Bar, 16 Grove Street, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 1DR.</p> <p>The application is for the annual renewal with the existing conditions to remain in accordance with Schedule 3, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.</p> <p>There are no Police representations.</p>
Which of the four licensing objectives does your representation relate to?	

Please detail the evidence supporting your representation or the reason for your representation.	
Suggested conditions that could be added to the licence to remedy your representation or other suggestions you would like the Licensing Sub-Committee to take into account.	

N.B. If I do make a representation I understand I will be expected to attend the Licensing Sub-Committee and any subsequent appeal proceeding. A full copy of my representation will be forwarded to the applicant.

State the number of representations made: None

Signed:
Licensing Officer Anthony Whitney

Date: 11th February 2013

Tel: 

A brief history of adult/sexual entertainment licence history at 16 Grove Street, Wilmslow

The first application for Premises Licence was made to Macclesfield Borough Council on 7th November 2005 under the transitional arrangements of the commencement of the Licensing Act 2003. The Premise was known as Suede and the Premises Licence was granted with Grandfather rights to carry forward conditions from an existing Public Entertainment Licence which had provision for adult entertainment, i.e. table dancing. The table dancing entertainment was not promoted by the club. It closed down. The applicants were Honeycombe Leisure.

2009 an application was received for the Premises Licence to be transferred to Van Leisure Ltd, the present Licence Holders. An application was also received on the same day for a variation of Designated Premises Supervisor to Paul Brandon Knowles, the present DPS. The premises were renamed The Kitten Club.

On 15.5.2009 an application was received for variation of the Premises Licence to remove some of the conditions. The premises were renamed S T Lounge.

On 23.12.2011 application was received from Van Leisure Ltd for a Sex Entertainment Venue Licence. Due to changes in the law, sexual entertainment could no longer be provided for by way of Premises Licence under Licensing Act 2003. This Licence was granted with conditions etc following a hearing of the General Licensing Sub Committee on 4th April 2012. Application states relevant entertainment as lap dancing, strip shows, pole dancing, full nudity.