

Notice of Licensing Sub-Committee

Date: Wednesday, 7 May 2025 at 10.15 am

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY



Membership:

Membership subject to change following committee appointments at Annual Council on 6 May 2025

Cllr D A Flagg

Cllr E Harman

Cllr L Williams

Reserves:

Cllr A Chapmanlaw (1)

Cllr A Keddie (2)

All Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=5867>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Michelle Cutler on 01202 128581 or email democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or email press.office@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

28 April 2025

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer
(janie.berry@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. Election of Chair

To elect a Chair of this meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee.

2. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence from Members.

3. Declarations of Interests

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

4. Protocol for Public Speaking at Licensing Hearings

5 - 10

The protocol for public speaking at Licensing Sub Committee hearings is included with the agenda sheet for noting.

5. Wiggle, 159 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth

11 - 96

An application has been received for the renewal of the Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence for the premises known as 'Wiggle', 159 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, to permit relevant entertainment to continue for a further twelve-month period.

This matter is brought before the Sub-Committee for determination.

6. Exclusion of Press and Public

In relation to the items of business appearing below, the Committee is asked to consider the following resolution: -

'That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.'

NOTE: The exemption is in relation to the appendices attached to the public report for agenda item 7.

7. Consideration of continued suitability of Hackney Carriage Driver

97 - 120

The Licensing Team have received information from Dorset Police in a witness statement which raised concerns about the conduct of a Licenced Hackney Carriage Driver who is also the proprietor of a Private Hire Vehicle. They consider that the information provided raises serious concerns in regard to the standard of behaviour expected of a licensed

driver.

In addition the same named driver is linked to separate information submitted to the Licensing Team.

The Licensing Sub-Committee is asked to determine whether the driver remains 'fit and proper' to hold a Hackney Carriage driver licence.

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chair decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.

LICENSING COMMITTEE AND SUB COMMITTEE – PROTOCOL FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This protocol for public speaking applies to Licensing Committee and Sub Committee hearings in relation to matters including the licensing of alcohol, regulated entertainment, late night refreshment, gambling, sex establishments and hackney carriage and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators, as set out in Part 3.3 of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.2 These matters are considered in accordance with relevant legislation and associated regulations including the Licensing Act 2003 (as amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011), the Gambling Act 2005, Part II and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009) and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

2. Conduct of Hearings

- 2.1 Chair welcomes everyone, matters of general housekeeping are dealt with, notification that the hearing may be recorded for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's website, reminder to switch mobile phones to silent, etc.
- 2.2 Chair asks everyone present to introduce themselves and state their role.
- 2.3 Chair checks that all persons who have given notice of their intention to speak and any person who wishes to withdraw a representation or wishes not to speak have been identified.
- 2.4 Chair explains proposed procedure and order of speaking for hearing as set out in Appendix A or B of this protocol as appropriate. All parties confirm agreement or make representations on procedure proposed.
- 2.5 Licensing Officer's report is presented.
- 2.6 Parties speak in the order agreed.
- 2.7 With the exception of hackney carriage and private hire hearings, parties who are speaking should not repeat the information which they have already given in writing in their representation. They will be able to expand on the written information given, provided the information remains relevant. Any additional information should be limited to the grounds of their representation(s). For example, if they are objecting on the grounds of Public Nuisance, then they should confine their comments to matters relating to Public Nuisance.

- 2.8 Members of the Licensing Committee or Sub Committee may ask questions after each party has spoken and once all parties have spoken. Parties will be allowed to ask questions through the Chair.
- 2.9 Once all parties have been heard, the parties will be given the opportunity to sum up. Party who spoke first to go last. The hearing will then conclude.
- 2.10 Members will deliberate in private with the clerk and legal representative as appropriate present.
- 2.11 The decision will be taken by the Committee and notification of the decision will be given as follows:
 - 2.11.1 For Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 hearings, determination must be within the period of five working days beginning with the day or the last day on which the hearing was held in accordance with the relevant Regulations, unless otherwise specified (for example, the issuing of a counter notice following objection to a TEN, in which case the determination must be at the conclusion of the hearing).
 - 2.11.2 For Sex Establishment and other hearings, where possible determination will be within the period of five working days beginning with the day or the last day on which the hearing was held.
 - 2.11.3 For Hackney Carriage and Private Hire hearings, notification of the decision will be given at the conclusion of the hearing, followed by a written decision letter where possible within the period of five working days beginning with the day or the last day on which the hearing was held.
- 2.12 Notification of the decision will include information for all parties of any right of appeal as appropriate.

3 General points

- 3.1 Hearings convened under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005 and associated regulations may be held remotely as required, if the Chairman agrees it is expedient to do so in the circumstances.
- 3.2 The hearing may be adjourned at any time at the discretion of the Members.
- 3.3 Members may amend the procedure at any time if they consider it to be in the public interest or in the interest of a fair hearing.
- 3.4 The Sub Committee may decide to conduct all or part of a hearing in non-public session in accordance with the relevant Regulations and/or where exempt information is likely to be disclosed.

- 3.5 The Chair may exclude any person from a hearing for being disruptive.
- 3.6 Meetings of the Licensing Committee in public session are recorded by the Council for live and subsequent broadcast on its website.
- 3.7 The hearing will take the form of a discussion.
- 3.8 Only persons (or their representatives) who have made an application, are subject to an application or have submitted a written representation or objection to the Licensing Authority under the relevant Act are permitted to speak at the hearing.
- 3.9 Any further information to support an application, representation, objection or notice (as applicable) can be submitted before the hearing. It may only be submitted at the hearing with the consent of all parties in accordance with any relevant Regulations. Wherever possible the Licensing Authority encourages parties to submit information at the earliest opportunity to allow sufficient time for this to be considered before the hearing and avoid the need for adjournment.
- 3.10 If a party has informed the Authority that they do not intend to participate, or be represented at the hearing, or has failed to advise whether they intend to participate or not, the hearing may proceed in their absence.
- 3.11 For other matters which are the responsibility of the Licensing Committee and not included in this protocol, the Meeting Procedure Rules in Part 4D of the Council's Constitution in relation to public questions, statements and petitions shall apply. This includes such matters as making recommendations on relevant licensing policies, approving the level of fees charged by the Council, and making decisions on tariffs charged by the Public Carriage Trade.
- 3.12 The Council's Constitution can be accessed using the following link:
<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

For further information please contact democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Appendix A

Proposed procedure and order of speaking for hearings (other than hackney carriage and private hire hearings)

1. The Licensing Officer presents report.
2. Questions of the Licensing Officer on their report. Members of the Sub-Committee to go first, then the applicant/licence holder.
3. Applicant will make their Application.
4. Questions of the Applicant by all parties, Members of the Committee/Sub-Committee to go first.
5. Responsible Authorities and Other Persons will make their representations.
6. Questions of the Responsible Authorities and Other Persons. Members of the Committee/Sub-Committee to go first.
7. All parties will be given an opportunity to sum up (with the party who spoke last to go first). The hearing will then conclude.
8. Sub-Committee will deliberate in private with Legal Adviser and Clerk present. (Councillors new to Licensing may observe but will not take part in the decision making).
9. Notification of the Sub Committee's decision will be given in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act and Gambling Act regulations. For other hearings, where possible determination will be within the period of five working days beginning with the day or the last day on which the hearing was held.
10. The notification of decision will include information about the right of appeal as appropriate.

Appendix B

Proposed procedure and order of speaking for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire hearings

1. The Licensing Officer presents their report.
2. Questions of the Licensing Officer on their report. Members of the Sub-Committee to go first, then the applicant/licence holder.
3. Applicant/licence holder presents their case.
4. Questions of the applicant/licence holder by all parties, Members of the Committee/Sub-Committee to go first.
5. All parties will be given an opportunity to sum up (with the party who spoke last to go first). The Hearing will then conclude.
6. Sub-Committee will deliberate in private with Legal Adviser and Clerk present. (Councillors new to Licensing may observe deliberations but will not take part in the decision making).
7. Notification of the decision will be given following deliberations at the conclusion of the hearing, to be followed by a written decision letter where possible within the period of five working days beginning with the day or the last day on which the hearing was held.
8. The Legal Adviser will advise parties of any right of appeal as appropriate at the conclusion of the Hearing. Information about the right of appeal as appropriate will also be included in the written decision letter.

Adopted by the Licensing Committee on 7.12.23

This page is intentionally left blank

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE



Report subject	Wiggle, 159 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, BH1 1JS
Meeting date	7 May 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Wellhot Limited have applied for the renewal of the Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence to permit relevant entertainment to continue for a further twelve month period at the premises.</p> <p>The Licensing Authority has received 2 objections.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Members are asked to decide whether to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Grant the application for renewal as made; or b) Refuse the application for renewal. <p>Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee are asked to make a decision at the end of the hearing after all relevant parties have been given the opportunity to speak.</p> <p>Members must give full reasons for their decision.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>The Council has adopted the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended; therefore, subject to limited exceptions and exemptions, or in the absence of a waiver, premises offering relevant entertainment require a SEV licence to operate in the BCP Council area.</p> <p>The legislation sets out mandatory and discretionary grounds for refusal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence. Mandatory grounds require the Council to refuse an application. Discretionary grounds enable but do not require the Council to refuse the application. When considering each of the discretionary grounds, members should only refuse if there is an appropriate and proportionate reason for doing so.</p> <p>Any decision to refuse the renewal of the licence must be relevant to one or more of the following grounds:-</p> <p><u>Mandatory Grounds of Refusal</u></p> <p>A licence shall not be granted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to a person under the age of 18; or

	<p>b) to a person who is disqualified by reason of prior revocation of a licence;</p> <p>c) to a person, other than a body corporate, who is not resident in an EEA state or was not so resident throughout the period of six months immediately preceding the 4 July 2011;</p> <p>d) to a body corporate which is not incorporated in an EEA state, or</p> <p>e) to a person who had, within a period of 12 months immediately preceding the date when the application was made, been refused the grant or renewal of a licence for the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made, unless the refusal has been reversed on appeal.</p> <p>Having considered the information provided through the application process, the senior licensing officer advises that none of the mandatory grounds for refusal appear to apply in this case.</p> <p>Members should focus their considerations on whether one or more of the four discretionary grounds for refusal set out in paragraph 12(2)(a) arise in respect of this application.</p> <p><u>Grounds (a) and (b)</u></p> <p>(a) that the applicant is unsuitable to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reason;</p> <p>(b) that if the licence were to be granted, renewed or transferred the business to which it relates would be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person, other than the applicant, who would be refused the grant, renewal or transfer of such a licence if he made the application himself.</p> <p>The application process requires applicants to provide comprehensive information about any convictions and a range of other information that may be relevant to consideration of grounds (a) and (b).</p> <p>In regard to this applicant there is no evidence of convictions deemed to be unspent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, cautions, discrimination cases or pending allegations at the date the application was made that would cast any doubt on the suitability of the applicant to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reason.</p> <p><u>Ground (c)</u></p> <p>(c) that the number of sex establishments, or of sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality at the time the application is determined is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality.</p>
--	--

	<p>BCP Council do not currently have a Sex Establishment Policy which sets or limits the number of sex establishments thought appropriate in the BCP area.</p> <p><u>Ground (d)</u></p> <p>(d) that the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard —</p> <p>(i) to the character of the relevant locality; or</p> <p>(ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or</p> <p>(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.</p> <p>BCP Council do not currently have a policy which sets out locations or vicinities which would be considered appropriate or inappropriate for sex establishments. This premises has been operating as a lap dancing club in this town centre location since 2006.</p> <p>Where objections have been received and the concerns have not been resolved through mediation between all parties, the Scheme of Delegation set out in the Council's Constitution states that these applications should be dealt with by the Licensing Sub-Committee.</p>
--	---

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Kieron Wilson – Housing & Regulatory Services
Corporate Director	Jillian Kay – Wellbeing
Report Authors	Sarah Rogers – Principal Licensing Officer
Wards	Bournemouth Central
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. An application for the renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) Licence was made on 25 February 2025 to permit the premises to continue providing relevant entertainment for a further twelve-month period. A copy of the application is attached at Appendix 1.
2. A map attached at Appendix 2 shows the location of the premises.
3. The premises have operated as a lap dancing club since 2006 under Wellhot Limited. A copy of the current SEV licence is attached at Appendix 3.
4. The renewal application for the SEV licence is required to be able to provide adult entertainment at the premises which is referred to as “relevant entertainment” in the legislation.
5. Relevant entertainment is defined as “any live performance or live display of nudity which is of such a nature that, ignoring financial gain, it must be reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the audience (whether by verbal or other means)”.
6. In the case of a woman “display of nudity” means the display of her nipples, pubic area, genitals or anus and, in the case of a man; it means exposure of his pubic area, genitals or anus.

Consultation

7. Applicants must give notice of the application by publishing an advertisement in the local newspaper together with notice displayed on the premises for a period of 21 days.
8. In considering this application the Council must have regard to any observations submitted to them by Dorset Police and any objections of which notice has been sent to them under Schedule 3, paragraph 10(15) of the 1982 Act, which provides that any objections must be made in writing within 28 days of the application.
9. Objections must be relevant and should not be based on moral grounds or values.
10. 2 objections to the renewal have been received, which are attached at Appendix 4.
11. The applicant has responded to the objectors in detail and a copy of their report is attached at Appendix 5.

12. As the renewal application had been submitted, before the current licence expired, the premises have been permitted to continue to operate under the terms of its current licence until determination of this renewal application.

Options Appraisal

13. Before making a decision, Members are asked to consider the following matters:
- The submissions made by or on behalf of the applicant.
 - The objection received.
 - Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and appropriate Regulations.

Summary of financial implications

14. There are no financial implications.

Summary of legal implications

15. If the application for renewal is refused the applicant may appeal the decision to the Magistrates' Court, unless the application was refused under discretionary grounds (c) or (d) above at "Reasons for Recommendation", in which case the applicant can only challenge the refusal by way of judicial review.
16. It should be noted that BCP Council's Sex Establishments Licensing Policy was quashed by way of a Judicial Review in February 2022. Essentially the Court were of the view that some consultation responses had been considered by the Council as based purely on moral views and not equality. No decision has yet been taken whether a new policy is to be developed by the new Licensing Committee.
17. Local Authorities are not bound to have a Sex Establishment Policy and the existence of a policy does not prevent an application being considered on its merits and in accordance with the legislation.

Summary of human resources implications

18. There are no human resource implications.

Summary of sustainability impact

19. There are no sustainability impact implications.

Summary of public health implications

20. There are no public health implications.

Summary of equality implications

21. The Council is under a duty in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the matters set out in relation to equalities when exercising the function of determining this renewal application (Public Sector Equalities Duty). Accordingly, Members must promote equality for persons with the following "protected characteristics": age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
22. Each Member must therefore, have due regard to the need to –

eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited in relevant equalities legislation;

advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

foster good relations between persons who share a relevant characteristic and persons who do not share it.

22. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
- (a) Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
 - (b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
 - (c) Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Summary of risk assessment

23. There are no risk assessment implications.

Background papers

Home Office Guidance –

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20100413151441/http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/crimereduction057a.pdf>

Appendices

- 1 – Copy Application
- 2 – Location Plan
- 3 – Current SEV Licence
- 4 – Copy Objections
- 5 – Copy Response by Applicant to Objectors



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982
(AS AMENDED)**

**Licence for a Sex Establishment Application for* Grant / Renewal / Transfer /
Variation
(*delete as appropriate)**

1. Applicant Details

Surname	OJLA		
Forenames	JASPAL		
Other Name(s) (if applicable)			
Address			
Contact number(s)			
Email address			
Date Of Birth		Place of Birth	
National insurance number			
Have you been resident in the UK throughout a period of six months immediately preceding this application?	YES	Yes/No	

2. Trading company details

Company Name	WELLHOT LIMITED
Managing Director	JASPAL OJLA
Head Office Address	OJS INDUSTRIAL PARK CLAYBANK ROAD PORTSMOUTH PO3 5SX
Address from which you operate if different from above	WIGGLE 159 OLD CHRISTCHURCH ROAD BOURNEMOUTH BH1 1JS
Company number(s)	02362993
Company email address	
VAT registration number	543965122
Company registration number	02362993

3. Give full names and private residential address for all directors, partners or other persons responsible for the management of the establishment.

Continue on separate sheet if necessary

Person 1

Surname	OJLA		
Forenames	JASPAL		
Other Name(s) (if applicable)			
Address			
Contact number(s)			
Email address			
Date Of Birth		Place of Birth	
National insurance number			
Have you been resident in the UK throughout a period of six months immediately preceding this application?	YES	Yes/No	

Person 2

Surname	OJLA		
Forenames	RASHWINDER		
Other Name(s) (if applicable)			
Address	AS ABOVE		
Contact number(s)			
Email address			
Date Of Birth		Place of Birth	
National insurance number			
Have you been resident in the UK throughout a period of six months immediately preceding this application?	YES	Yes/No	

Person 3

Surname	OJLA		
Forenames	TARAN		
Other Name(s) (if applicable)			
Address	AS ABOVE		
Contact number(s)			
Email address			
Date Of Birth		Place of Birth	
National insurance number			
Have you been resident in the UK throughout a period of six months immediately preceding this application?	YES	Yes/No	

4. Offences and convictions

Have you or any partners/directors in the company been convicted of ANY offence which is NOT regarded as being SPENT under the terms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974	Yes/No NONE
--	-----------------------

If yes, give details of all relevant conviction(s)

Person Name	Date of Conviction	Court	Offence	Sentence

Have you (or if corporate body, that body) been disqualified from holding a sex establishment licence?	Yes/No (If yes provide details) NO
Have you (or if corporate body, that body) ever been refused a licence for a sex establishment?	Yes/No (If yes provide details) NO

5. Trading details

Is the application for	Sex Shop	
	Sex Cinema	
	Sexual Entertainment Venue	YES
Address of the premises	159, OLD CHRISTCHURCH ROAD BOURNEMOUTH BH1 1JS	
Name of the business		
Opening hours	Monday	00.01 -00.00
	Tuesday	AS ABOVE
	Wednesday	AS ABOVE
	Thursday	AS ABOVE
	Friday	AS ABOVE
	Saturday	AS ABOVE
	Sunday	AS ABOVE

If a sex shop

Is any part of the premises is to be used for the purposes of displaying films, video recordings or other moving pictures?	Yes/No (if yes provide details)
--	--

List articles to be offered for sale?	
With regard to any advertisements or displays – provide size(s) of proposed displays or advertisements.	AS BEFORE
Detail measures which will be in place to ensure that prevent the interior of the premises being visible to passers-by	WINDOWS ARE BLACKED OUT

If a Sexual Entertainment Venue

Confirm if there have been any changes to the layout of the premises in relation to:- All designated performance areas including private booths or cubicles Welfare faculties room for performers Access and egress of the premises WC facilities for performers/patrons Smoking areas for performers/staff	NONE YES/NO NONE YES/NO NONE YES/NO NONE YES/NO NONE YES/NO NONE If YES provide plan with highlighted changes
Do you currently have the following documents?.	
Written code of conduct for Dancers	YES/NO YES
Code of Conduct for Customers	YES/NO YES
Disciplinary Procedure Policy	YES/NO YES If YES provide copies
With regard to any advertisements or displays – provide size(s) of proposed displays or advertisements.	NONE
Detail measures which will be in place to ensure that prevent the interior of the premises being visible to passers-by	WINDOWS BLACKED OUT AND LOBBY AREA TO STOP VISIBILITY

6. Management of premises -In respect of each individual who is to be responsible for the management of the premises, in the absence of the licence holder, continue on separate sheet if necessary

Manager 1

Surname	OJLA		
Forenames	TARAN		
Maiden Name (if applicable)			
Address	AS ABOVE		
Contact number(s)	AS ABOVE		
Email address	AS ABOVE		
Date Of Birth	AS ABOVE	Place of Birth	
National insurance number			
Have you been resident in the UK throughout a period of six months immediately preceding this application?	<div style="text-align: right;">Yes/No</div> YES		

Manager 2

Surname	OJLA		
Forenames	JASPAL		
Maiden Name (if applicable)			
Address	AS ABOVE		
Contact number(s)	AS ABOVE		
Email address	AS ABOVE		
Date Of Birth	AS ABOVE	Place of Birth	
National insurance number	AS ABOVE		
Have you been resident in the UK throughout a period of six months immediately preceding this application?	<div style="text-align: right;">Yes/No</div> YES		

Manager 3

Surname			
Forenames			
Maiden Name (if applicable)			
Address			
Contact number(s)			
Email address			
Date Of Birth		Place of Birth	
National insurance number			
Have you been resident in the UK throughout a period of six months immediately preceding this application?	<div style="text-align: right;">Yes/No</div>		

For all managers provide full details of convictions for ANY offence which is NOT regarded as being SPENT under the terms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

Person Name	Date of Conviction	Court	Offence	Sentence
	NONE			

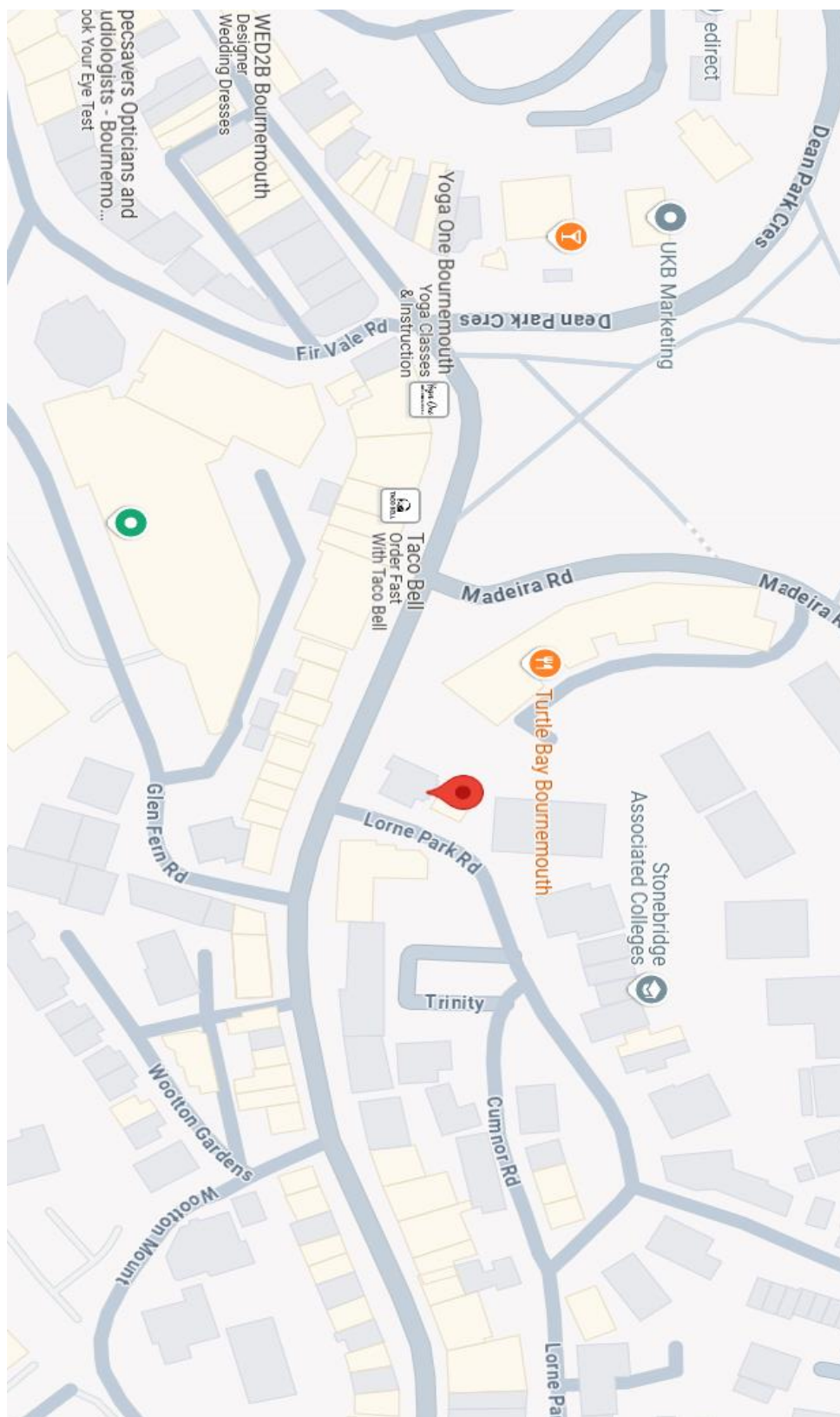
APPLICANTS ARE WARNED THAT ANY PERSON WHO IN CONNECTION WITH AN APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT, RENEWAL OR TRANSFER OF A LICENCE MAKES A FALSE STATEMENT WHICH HE KNOWS TO BE FALSE IN ANY MATERIAL RESPECT, OR WHICH HE DOES NOT BELIEVE TO BE TRUE, IS GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AND LIABLE ON SUMMARY CONVICTION TO A FINE

DECLARATION that all information provided above is true and complete

Signature	Jaspal Ojla
Date	26/02/2025
Capacity	DIRECTOR

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE APPLICATION MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE FOLLOWING:

1. In respect of individual applicants and each of those named in we require a copy of their birth certificate.
2. Three copies of a passport size photograph in respect of the applicant (if any individual) and each of those whose names appear in response to Questions 6 & 35. The photographs are to be dated, bear the name in block capitals of the person whose likeness it bears, and be signed by the person making the above Declaration.
3. A site plan scale 1:100
4. Scale plans of the premises (1:100) in respect of which the licence is sought showing (interalia) all means of ingress and egress to and from the premises, parts used in common with any other building and details of how the premises lie in



Wiggle, 159 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth

This page is intentionally left blank



Licence for a Sexual Entertainment Venue

This Licence is granted pursuant to Schedule 3 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended by Section 27 of the Police and Crime Act 2009, to permit relevant entertainment to

to use the premises as a sexual entertainment venue at

Wiggle

159 Old Christchurch Road Bournemouth BH1 1JS

1. This Licence, which will remain in force until **28 March 2025**, unless it is revoked or surrendered before that date, is granted on the terms and conditions overleaf and subject to the restrictions contained in regulations, made from time to time by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, under Paragraph 13 of the Third Schedule to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
2. This Licence is subject to Special Conditions for Sexual Entertainment Venues overleaf (unless expressly varied or excluded).

PERMITTED HOURS

Monday to Sunday inclusive – 00:01 to 00:00 hours

Dated this 5 day of June 2024

Licensing Manager
Mrs Nananka Randle

General conditions for Sex Establishments

1. In the event of a conflict between these Regulations and any special conditions contained in a licence relating to a Sex Establishment the special conditions shall prevail.
2. The grant of a licence for a Sex Establishment shall not be deemed to convey any approval or consent which may be required under any enactment, byelaw, order or regulation other than Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
3. A refusals register shall be kept and made available for inspection by an authorised officer of the Council or Police Officer.
4. The Premises shall be maintained in good repair and condition.
5. Alterations or additions either internal or external and whether permanent or temporary to the structure, lighting or layout of the Premises shall not be made except with the prior approval of the Council.
6. The licence holder shall ensure a copy of the licence and of these Regulations are required to be exhibited in accordance with paragraph 14(1) of Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended and shall be reproduced to the same scale as those issued by the Council.
7. The copy of the licence required to be displayed shall be suitably framed and the copy of these Regulations shall be retained in a clean and legible condition.

Standard Conditions – Sexual Entertainment Venues

Conduct and Management

1. Where the licence holder is a body corporate or an unincorporated body, any change of director, company secretary or other person responsible for the management of the body is to notify the Council in writing within 14 days of such change and such written details as the Council may require in respect of any new director, secretary or manager are to be furnished within 14 days of a request of writing from the Council.
2. The licence holder shall retain control over all portions of the premises as defined on the approved premises plans, and shall not let, licence or part with possession of any part of the licensed premises.
3. The licence holder shall nominate a Duty Manager for the premises on each occasion they are open to the public and being used for the purposes of providing relevant entertainment.
4. The licence holder shall ensure the name of the Duty Manager is displayed in the foyer or reception of the premises so the name can easily be viewed by Police or authorised Council officers carrying out an inspection of the premises, or otherwise by persons using the venue.
5. The Duty Manager shall be responsible for ensuring the premises operate in accordance with the conditions applicable to the sex establishment licence.
6. The Duty Manager shall remain on the premises while they are on duty save in the event of an emergency situation.
7. The Licensee must ensure that a suitable number of trained staff are employed to supervise the interior of the premises ("floor supervisors") whilst performances are given under this licence.
8. The Licensee must ensure that a sufficient number of floor supervisors are employed in the premises to supervise customers and performers whilst sexual entertainment is provided.
9. No person under the age of 18 shall be admitted to the licensed premises whilst the sex establishment licence is being used. A notice advising no admittance to persons under the age of 18 shall be prominently displayed at each public entrance to the premises.
10. No person under the age of 18 shall be employed to work at the licensed premises in any capacity, or allowed to work in the premises on a self-employed basis.

11. The premises shall follow the 'Think 25' initiative, whereby any customer who enters the premises who appears to be under the age of 25 shall be asked for age identification. The only ID accepted shall be photo identification such as a picture driving licence, a passport or a PASS ID.

12. An incident / refusal logbook shall be maintained at the premises. The incident / refusal log shall, as a minimum, give details of:

- Any persons refused entry to the premises and the reason for refusal
- Any persons ejected from the premises and the reason for ejection
- Any inappropriate behaviour by customers
- Any incidents of crime or disorder
- Any complaints made by customers, dancers or staff

13. The incident / refusal log shall show the date, the time of the incident, the name of the staff member reporting the incident, a brief description of the customer involved / name of dancer or staff member where appropriate and brief description of the incident and any action taken by staff.

14. The incident / refusal log shall be kept in a place where it can be easily accessed by staff working at the premises and all staff shall be aware of the procedure to follow.

15. The licence holder and/or Duty Manager shall ensure the incident / refusal log is checked periodically, at least once a week, to ensure the log is being effectively used.

16. The incident / refusal log shall be made available for inspection to the Police and or an authorised officer of the council on request.

17. The licence holder and/or Duty Manager shall ensure that the public is not admitted to any part or parts of the premises other than those, which have been approved by the Council.

18. No part of the licensed premises shall be used by prostitutes for the purpose of solicitation or otherwise exercising their calling.

Advertising, Premises Appearance and Layout

19. There shall be no touting for business in any area for the premises by but not limited to persons holding advertising boards, leafletting, advertising on branded vehicles or personal solicitation, this includes leafletting.

20. The Council shall not permit the display of any form of imagery or photographs that the Council believes could be construed as offensive to public decency.

21. No display or advertisement of the activities permitted by the sex establishment licence shall be exhibited so as to be visible from outside of the premises except:

- any notice required by law, by these regulations, or by any condition of the sex establishment licence granted by the Council
- the name of the premises as specified in the sex establishment licence
- the hours of opening of the premises
- notice of any admission charge to the premises
- unless the Council has given its prior consent in writing that such display or advertisement may be used.

22. All windows must be dressed or designed so as to prevent persons outside the premises having a view of the interior.

23. The premises shall not contain any sign, advertising material, goods or display without the written consent of the Council.

24. No alterations or additions either internal or external and whether permanent or temporary to the structure, lighting or layout of the premises shall be made except with the prior approval of the Council.

25. The layout of the premises shall be such that performers cannot be seen from outside the premises.

26. Performers may not stand in lobby, reception or foyer areas or outside the premises entrance for the purposes of greeting customers or encouraging customers to enter the venue.

CCTV

27. A suitable CCTV system shall be installed and maintained at the premises in accordance with the requirements of Dorset Police.

28. The system shall be operational at all times the premises is open to members of the public and will cover all public areas including booths and VIP areas.

29. The positioning of the CCTV cameras will be agreed with Dorset Police prior to installation and will comply with that agreement at all times. Changes to the CCTV system and / or positioning of the cameras may only be made with the written consent of Dorset Police.

30. The licence holder shall retain recordings for 31 days, which will be delivered to the Police on request (subject to Data Protection legislation as appropriate).

31. At all times that the premises are open to the public there will be a member of staff on duty who is conversant with the operating of the CCTV system and who is able to download immediately any footage requested by the Police, an officer from the Licensing Authority or an authorised agent.

Requirements for a code of Conduct for Dancers

32. There shall be a Code of Conduct for Dancers in place at the venue that has been agreed in writing by the licence holder and the Council.

33. The Code of Conduct shall, as a minimum, contain the conditions set out in the section below entitled "Code of Conduct for Dancers" and provide information to support whistleblowing and give dancers encouragement to report concerns to the Licensing Authority.

34. No change shall be made to the Dancer's Code of Conduct without the prior written consent of the Council.

35. The Dancers Code of Conduct must state that dancers who do not comply with the Code of Conduct will face disciplinary proceedings.

36. The licence holder shall require all dancers to sign an acknowledgement that they have received a copy of the Dancer's Code of Conduct and have read and understood its contents and shall comply with such Code of Conduct at all times they are working at the premises as dancers.

37. The licence holder shall retain original records showing that each dancer has signed to acknowledge receipt of the Dancer's Code of Conduct.

38. The premises management and staff (including security staff) shall be aware of the content of the Dancer's Code of Conduct and shall ensure it is complied with.

Requirements for a Code of Conduct for Customers

There shall be a Code of Conduct for Customers in place at the venue that has been agreed in writing by the licence holder and the Council.

39. The Code of Conduct shall, as a minimum, contain the conditions set out in the section below entitled "Code of Conduct for Customers".

40. The Code of Conduct for Customers shall be displayed in prominent positions throughout the premises where it is visible to all customers.

41. No change shall be made to the Customers Code of Conduct without the prior written consent of the Council.

42. The Customer's Code of Conduct must state that customers who do not comply with the Code of Conduct will be ejected from the premises.

43. The premises management and staff (including security staff) shall be aware of the content of the Customer's Code of Conduct and shall ensure it is complied with.

44. Where a customer breaches the Customers Code of Conduct, this shall be recorded in the incident / refusals log.

Disciplinary Procedure

45. The Code of Conduct for Dancers shall be detailed in writing and a copy of it provided to each dancer prior to their taking up their first shift at the premises together with a copy of the licence holder's Policy on breach of such Code.

46. The licence holder shall require all dancers to sign an acknowledgement that they have been provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct for Dancers and the Policy on breach and have read and understood its content,

Code of Conduct for Dancers

47. The Dancer's Code of Conduct shall apply whilst the Dancer is working or on shift at the premises and include the following conditions as a minimum:

- a) Dancers shall only perform on the stage(s), to a seated audience or in other such other areas of the licensed premises as may be agreed in writing with the Council. ("the performance areas")
- b) Dancers may not accept any telephone number, email address, address or contact information from any customer, except in the form of a business card, which must be surrendered to the Licensee or their representative before leaving the premises.
- c) Dancers may not touch a customer during a performance
- d) Dancers may not permit a customer to touch them during a performance
- e) Dancers must not when performing, touch a customer at any time during the performance unless accidentally or due to a third party or for the purpose of restraint. For the avoidance of doubt if a performer has to intentionally touch a customer for the purpose of restraint, the touch should only be made above the customer's chest or on their limbs and only with the performer's hands
- f) Dancers may not straddle the customer
- g) If a customer attempts to touch or speak to a dancer inappropriately, the dancer shall stop the performance and advise the customer of the rules of the Code of Conduct. If the customer continues with their inappropriate behaviour, the dancer shall stop the performance and inform the management
- h) If a customer engages in acts of masturbation or other sexual behaviour, the dancer shall cease the performance immediately and inform the premises management.
- i) Dancers may not touch their own breasts, anus or genitals with their fingers, lips or tongue
- j) Dancers may not intentionally touch the genitals, anus or breasts of another dancer, nor knowingly permit another dancer to touch their genitals, anus or breasts
- k) Dancers may not perform any act which simulates masturbation, oral sex or sexual intercourse, including the insertion of any object, including their own finger, into the anus or vagina
- l) Dancers shall not solicit for gratuities or payment for sexual act. Dancers shall not engage in any act of prostitution
- m) Dancers may not be in the company of a customer unless it is in an area of the premises that is open to the public
- n) Dancers shall not perform if under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- o) Dancers shall use the dressing room facilities provided for their exclusive use to change for their performance.
- p) Dancers shall only use the smoking area provided specifically for their use.
- q) Dancers shall only use the sanitary facilities specifically provided for their use.
- r) Dancers shall not leave the premises or otherwise be visible outside the premises, including for smoking breaks, unless dressed in suitable attire
- s) All dancers shall comply with this Code of Conduct. Any failure to adhere to the Code of Conduct shall render the dancer subject to the Policy on breach, a copy of which must be provided to each dancer.
- t) Customers must be seated in an upright position against the back of the booth or seat with their hands

by their sides or on their knees before a dancer can start a table dance

48. Customers must remain seated during the entire performance of a private dance.

49. During times when performances of sexual entertainment are taking place, customers may only dance in areas specifically designated by the Council as being separate from the areas for performance of sexual entertainment.

50. Customers must remain fully dressed at all times.

51. Customers may not touch dancers during a performance.

52. Customers may not make lewd or offensive remarks to dancers.

53. Customers may not harass or intimidate dancer.

54. Customers may not ask dancers to perform any sexual favour

55. Customers may not perform acts of masturbation or indulge in other sexual behaviour

Staff welfare

56. Dancers under the age of 18 will not be permitted to work at the premises. All reasonable steps shall be taken to verify the age of the dancer such as the production of photo identification.

57. The licence holder shall ensure dancers have secure dressing rooms and facilities to secure valuables.

58. The licence holder shall ensure that there are sanitation facilities for the use solely of the dancers and other employees of the premises.

59. Each dancer shall be provided with an information pack which will include the following:

- A copy of relevant conditions attached to the Sex Establishment Licence.
- Details of any other conditions applied by the management of the premises
- A copy of the Dancers Code of conduct
- A copy of the Customers Code of Conduct
- The premises Disciplinary Procedure Policy including breach of Dancers Code of Conduct
- Pricing policy
- Nationally recognised unions, trade organisations or other bodies that represent the interest of the dancers

60. The licence holder shall maintain written records of all dancers working at the premises. The records shall show the full name of the dancer, home address, date of birth and the date the dancer was provided with the information pack as stated above.

61. Such records shall be kept on the licensed premises and produced for inspection by the Police or an authorised council officer on request.

62. Any instances of the dancer breaching the Dancers Code of Conduct and any instances of discipline and fines imposed will be recorded on their record. The record shall include the date and time of the incident and the breach that occurred.

63. All booths/areas for VIP's used for private dances must be visible to supervision and must not have closed doors or closed curtains that prevent performances from being observed.

64. All booths/areas for VIP's used for private dances must be directly supervised by either an SIA registered door supervisor, or a member of staff who has direct contact with SIA registered door supervisors working on the premises at all times the booths/areas are in use. Direct supervision does not include remote supervision by CCTV.

65. Dancers will only be present in the licensed area in a state of nudity when they are performing on stage or providing a private dance

SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES – SPECIAL CONDITIONS

ANNEX 1

Additional Conditions imposed by the Licensing Authority on 7th November 2013 for Wiggle, 159 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth

1. The designated premises supervisor shall work and be based at the premises, and shall not be DPS at any other premises. Should the DPS be absent from the premises, a written notice of delegation of responsibility shall be given, and should be available on request.
2. The licensee shall employ a compliance officer, approved by the Council, to monitor compliance with the licence conditions. The compliance officer shall not perform any other functions at the premises while relevant entertainment is being provided.
3. All private dancing shall be monitored at all times by a person physically on the premises, as well as by CCTV.
4. The licensee shall procure two independent mystery shopper visits per annum for the purpose of verifying that the conditions of this licence are being observed. Records of mystery shopping visits to be made available on request.
5. There shall be random drug searches on entry.
6. The toilets shall be checked at least every 30 minutes whilst the premises are open, with a record of such checks retained and made available on request.
7. The licensee shall conduct twice weekly drug swab tests in the premises, with equipment approved by Dorset Police. For the avoidance of doubt, such tests must include the dancers' changing facilities and toilets. Records of such tests shall be retained and made available on request.
8. Notices shall be prominently displayed throughout the premises, setting out the customers' code of conduct and the premises' zero tolerance drugs policy.
9. All flat surfaces in the toilets and changing rooms shall be appropriately treated to deter drug use.
10. Public toilets shall not be used by dancers, except in emergencies.
11. There shall be independently verified drug training, at least annually, for all dancers and members of staff.
12. Records must be kept of any drug seizures, and the Police informed. Records of such seizures shall be retained and made available on request. The premises shall install and maintain a drugs safe, to which only the Police and the DPS have access.
13. Customers must be informed that dancers are not permitted to touch them.
14. Performers shall be reminded on a nightly basis of all relevant codes of conduct, with a particular emphasis on the 'no touch' policy and zero tolerance of drugs.
15. Every individual working at the premises shall be trained on all codes of conduct and the drugs policy. Refresher training shall be arranged on a regular basis. Full records of training shall be retained and made available on request.

This page is intentionally left blank

RENEWAL OF SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENCE

WIGGLE 159 OLD CHRISTCHURCH ROAD BOURNEMOUTH

OBJECTIONS

OBJECTION #1

I am writing to formally object to the proposed licensing of Wiggle a sex entertainment venue in Bournemouth town centre.

I work in Old Christchurch Rd and believe the councils decision to licence sex Entertainment Venues puts them in breach of their Public sector Equality Duty. The presence of this club makes me feel unsafe. Old Christchurch Rd is increasingly hostile to women even in the day time, licensing SEV's reinforces the idea that women are for sale.

Objectification of Women:

Sex entertainment venues, by their very nature, objectify women, reducing them to mere objects for the sexual gratification of male patrons. The renewal of this license will perpetuate harmful stereotypes and reinforce demeaning views of women, contributing to a culture of misogyny and disrespect. The centre of Bournemouth becomes increasingly centred around the objectification of women as weekend evenings progress with most venues open after 4am being based on an economy of selling sex (Always males paying for access to women's bodies) (1) The governments Tackling Violence against Women and Girls report states: Effective prevention also involves our public spaces being designed in a way which helps ensure women and girls are and feel safe and deters offending. (2) I believe that the sale of sex entertainment creates a hostile environment in a town centre which should be welcoming to all.

Rise in Sex Attacks in Immediate Vicinity:

There has been a concerning documented increase in sexual assaults in the immediate vicinity of this establishment. The proximity of this venue to residential areas, educational institutions, and public spaces raises valid concerns about the safety and wellbeing of the community, especially women.

The Performance Analysis Department for Dorset Police have provided the following information.

Searches were completed on Niche for all sexual offences that have occurrence addresses within the 'Bournemouth Central' section.

Offence group	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Other Serious Sexual	0	3	3	4	5
Other Sexual Offence	44	32	47	43	44

Rape Female	114	81	144	144	154
Rape Male	10	10	14	7	16
Sexual Activity Child Under 13	3	6	3	6	3
Sexual Assault Female	104	113	122	167	163
Sexual Assault Male	18	16	15	13	22
Total	293	261	348	384	407

In addition, there have been several very serious sex attacks and rapes in immediate proximity to this venue and at times very relevant to the operating times of SEV's in this part of Bournemouth town centre.:

In October 2022, a woman was raped after four men approached her in Wooton Gardens (Behind Old Christchurch Rd) at 3am (3)

On June 25, 2022, Two women were reportedly sexually assaulted by a man as they walked through Horseshoe Common in [Bournemouth](#). The 18-year-old women were walking through Horseshoe Common when they were approached by an unknown man at around 3.30am. (4)

On Sunday 26 February 2023 a woman – was walking in the area of Lansdowne Road, between the flyover above the A338 and Beechey Road, between around 1.30am and 1.45am when she was sexually assaulted by a man. (5)

On Friday, August 11 2023, At 4.04am, Dorset Police received a report that a woman had been raped by a man in Horseshoe Common. (6)

On July 7 2023 woman had spent two hours trying to rebuff Ahmed Almryam's advances in a bar before he followed her when she left, it is alleged. (7)

On Tuesday, February 18 2024 A 26-year-old man from Bournemouth was arrested on suspicion of [sexual assault](#) and stalking (8)

I note that in the dancers rules there are very strict rules. These rules recognise that customers will be sexually charged and that the dancers may be subject to sexual attack or harassment. If the committee is able to recognise this danger to the dancers they must be able to also recognise that other women in the vicinity of the club or in other late night venues are also at risk from these customers and further more may be more vulnerable as they may be drunk and not aware of the risk of the customers or the nature of the activities they have been partaking in.

The Licensing Committee's Duty Under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

The PSED requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimization.
- Advance equality of opportunity between different groups.
- Foster good relations between different groups.

The licensing of a venue that explicitly profits from the sexual objectification of women directly contradicts these obligations. Furthermore, the venue's rules for dancers acknowledge the risks of sexual harassment or assault inside the club. If the committee recognizes the necessity of stringent protections for women working within the SEV, it must also recognize the risks posed to other women in the surrounding area, many of whom may be more vulnerable due to alcohol consumption and lack of awareness of the venue's clientele.

Impact on Women's Freedom to Use Public Space

No individual should feel they need to avoid an area of their own town due to its unsafe or hostile environment. By permitting SEVs to operate in the heart of Bournemouth's nightlife, the council is indirectly creating a space that many women feel compelled to avoid for their own safety. This is a clear violation of the principle that all public spaces should be accessible and inclusive.

(1) Clubs with late licenses in central Bournemouth

Club Name	Closing Time	Status
HALO	N/A	Permanently closed as of March 2024
B AT ONE	3:00 AM	Active
VODKAREV	3:00 AM	Active
CAMEO	4:00 AM	Active
DNA	4:00 AM	Active
ANVIL	5:00 AM	Active
ZEPHYR	5:00 AM	Active
CAMEL	6:00 AM	Active
WIGGLE (SEV)	5:00 AM	Active
FYEO (SEV)	6:00 AM	Active
TEMPTATION (SEV)	6:00 AM	Active
BAR REPUBLIC	6:00 AM	Active

(2)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033934/Tackling_Violence_Against_Women_and_Girls_Strategy_-_July_2021.pdf

- (3) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-63453715>
- (4) <https://www.dorset.live/news/dorset-news/women-sexually-assaulted-man-walking-7261272>
- (5) <https://news.dorset.police.uk/news-article/84d3eaad-1cc8-ed11-9d54-6045bdd24049>
- (6) <https://www.bournemouthcho.co.uk/news/23720094.man-arrested-part-bournemouth-rape-investigation/>
- (7) <https://www.bournemouthcho.co.uk/news/23908483.man-stands-trial-accused-bournemouth-rape/>
- (8) <https://news.dorset.police.uk/news-article/120b1e9b-f0f5-ef11-9d75-6045bdd24049>

OBJECTION #2

Susan Stockwell – Consent given to disclose name and email address to applicant enable communication.

25.03.25 @ 15:30

This is my objection to the application by Well Hot Ltd for a Sexual Entertainment Venue license for Wiggle strip club at 159 Old Christchurch Road.

I repeat all the points made in my previous objections to licensing this premises in this way and respectfully remind the committee that under case law, Sheptonhurst, they are entitled to make a different decision on licensing even if the circumstances are identical to those in previous year(s). This is an administrative decision and the decisions of previous committees either recently or over the years are not binding on you. You are also perfectly entitled to consider hearsay evidence, ie what is repeated by another person, though it is up to you as to how much weight you give it.

I would like to draw your attention to successful objections to strip club licensing made by ward councillors in other parts of the country, and shown as appendices towards the end of this objection. At Appendix 1 a green ward councillor in Sheffield makes points regarding the last licensed strip club in that town, pointing out very similar circumstances to Bournemouth, with Knowledge Gateway reflecting our own three Universities, numerous language schools and ambitions to attract investment to fill empty buildings with student accommodation. I would echo the request in this objection in Sheffield to ask for a condition that everyone working in the establishment, including security staff, performers and all others has employment contracts, which at the moment Companies House records suggest that they do not. This also places the duty on the employer to check right to work in this country. I have no evidence that anyone in Wiggle does not have a right to work, but would point out that anyone that slips through the net, which I accept the applicant has in place having previously represented this at another hearing, then they could be vulnerable to exploitation by third parties not associated in any way with the applicants. I have visited Sheffield for a night out not so long ago, and found it to be lively, happy relaxed and boisterous, very like the pictures run by local press here of people enjoying the night time economy before strip clubs came to dominate the centre of Bournemouth. It was very much in stark contrast to the state of central Bournemouth which is absolutely saturated with police and council resources to try and bring order to the chaos caused by sex tourists marauding about through the night. I remind the committee of a different Bournemouth strip club which even warns its dancers in writing not to go to local bars after their shift because they won't be safe.

At Appendix 2 A Labour ward councillor objects to a strip club licensing on the basis of heritage, being close to the grave of Richard III, whose remains were moved to the cathedral in recent years. I point out the parallel to our St Peter's Church, whose churchyard has graves next to each other of Mary Wollstonecraft, founder of modern feminism and author of "A Vindication of the Rights of Women", her daughter Mary Shelley and her son in law. The councillor mentions nurseries in the area and I draw a parallel to having witnessed tiny children from the new academy built at Stafford and Madeira Road, out for a walk and either from reception or possibly a nursery at the school being walked past Wiggle with staff. Old Christchurch Road conservation area houses all three licensed strip clubs in Bournemouth, and consists of the roads built when the Victorians developed the town as a seaside resort

dedicated to health for those escaping London. It includes the former Town Hall as well as many buildings built subsequently in the Art Deco period which I was shown on a walking tour last summer run by an academic expert in this field to see if such tours would be appealing to attract tourists. If we want to swap sex tourism for respect for Bournemouth's heritage and stunning architecture then licenses for sexual entertainment need to be refused.

Next I would like to draw attention to objections from property owners and businesses to strip club licensing. In Westminster City Council area a hearing was held on 25th August 2022 for a strip club license application. At Appendix 3 are shown various objections by property owners to that application, including the use of legal representation. I have written to BCP's own estates department who hold the Freehold of the mainly residential Citrus Building next door to Wiggle on behalf of the public as it is owned by BCP. At time of writing this I don't know whether they will use the opportunity to object to this application with a view to protecting the public interest in this property or their own residential and commercial tenants. I also draw your attention to the successful objection to licensing a strip club near the world famous department store Selfridges. In addition the developers of a regeneration project near an established strip club in Maidenhead objected to its relicensing. Ironically, it may well have been aided by the Judicial Review into BCP's sex establishment licensing policy in making that objection. It is disappointing that the owners of the various buildings awaiting investment in Old Christchurch Road have tolerated the licensing of strip clubs nearby. I draw your attention to the two retail arcades in the area Richmond Gardens and St Peter's Quarter which according to press reports have changed hands recently and are offered for sale respectively.

At Appendix 4 are examples of council departments elsewhere objecting to strip club licensing, namely Environmental Health and Licensing. These are shown as attachments to this email in pdf form. Unfortunately my efforts to engage our environmental health department here in BCP in assessing suitability of the three strip clubs licensed in Bournemouth based on the buildings has not been productive at date of writing this. Because Wiggle has no effective means of ventilation visible to a lay observer, ie me, from the outside, the windows having to remain closed as a condition of licensing, I have approached our environmental health department over this point. Whilst the health and safety legislation which insists on this being provided is still on the statute book made by Parliament a previous government told local authorities not to enforce it. However, I am not relying on the health and safety legislation which BCP is forbidden from enforcing but on the licensing regime for sex establishments, which does still allow you to refuse a license on the basis of unsuitability of the premises. There is no requirement of which I am aware that requires the licensing plan to include ventilation, and the only official source I can find is the business rates records, which sometimes show some forms of ventilation. I would ask you to consider whether there is adequate ventilation to prevent heat related injuries of patrons or staff in a hot summer given the black on the windows which will attract heat, the lack of a lift and the possibility of air borne infection travelling in such an unhealthy environment. I reiterate that I am not asking you to enforce the excellent health and safety legislation obliging workplaces to guard against this with ventilation, as already mentioned this can't be done at the moment, but to look at whether this is a suitable building for this activity. I have in the recent past approached a BCP council officer with responsibility for licensing asking for

an objection to be lodged, but unlike Westminster Council there was a feeling that the council's role was to remain neutral.

It is forbidden under the Local Government Act 1972 for the council's executive, ie the councillors charged with overseeing the council's function to improperly influence the decision making process of the regulatory committees, including Licensing. However, I would suggest that this doesn't prevent departments whose functions would be impacted by a licensing decision making objections to licensing applications. As long as they are properly carrying out functions such as community safety, environmental health, public health, estate management, licensing itself or any other function and not making the objection spuriously in an attempt to improperly influence the committee's decision, that is not only proper, but arguably part of their duty.

Appendix 5 shows the Metropolitan Police making an objection to a strip club license on the basis of inadequate provision to prevent crime and disorder. It is disappointing that despite the substantial crime and disorder and huge amount of police and council time and resources dedicated to trying to keep a lid on crime and disorder in Central Bournemouth, this approach is not being taken by Dorset police to strip club licensing. Very straightforward conditions such as a ratio of security staff to customers, toilet attendants, ensuring both the staff entrance and customer entrance are provided with security guards, maximum number of people in the building, a one meter gap between customer and dancer in private dances or ideally abolish the private dances have potential to dramatically improve staff and public safety. In addition this appendix shows text of before and after articles on strip club licensing in Newquay, where the police objected to licensing despite not having direct evidence of the presence of the strip clubs contributing to the sexual assaults in the area. By contrast our crime including sexual violence remains much higher in Central Bournemouth than the rest of BCP area. I should also point out than in contrast to our PCC Police and Crime Commissioner in Dorset, the PCC covering Bristol was reported in 2022 as calling for strip club licensing to be removed from council control and for there to be a nationwide ban. I mention this as it is important to understand that Dorset police's previous unwillingness to object to strip club licenses in Bournemouth does not prevent you from refusing a license, given that other police and at least one PCC has spoken out against licensing.

At Appendix 6 is BCP's previous cabinet member for tourism objecting to strip club licensing as part of her function. At time of writing I have written to our current member asking him to consider lodging an objection.

At Appendix 7 is an example of a BID Business Improvement District objecting to strip club licensing. On the application to Westminster Council heard 25th August 2022 the local BID objected,

At appendix 8 is White Ribbon's correspondence with me regarding accreditation and nil Cap sex establishment licensing policy

I am now setting out the points on which I am objecting specifically to this application and on which it can be refused.

Applicant. The applicant is still unsuitable for being given a license on the basis of various points where a cavalier disregard for regulations imposed by local authorities has been shown

2013 Bournemouth licensing committee was obliged to impose mystery shopper conditions following allegations of various breaches of conditions at Wiggle. At a subsequent hearing it was found that this wasn't being adhered to.

2020 Portsmouth the applicant's director and his agent were fined for not having an HMO license at Cabman's Rest and both appealed, with the applicant's director subsequently withdrawing that appeal. However, the adjudicator who decided on the remaining appeal stated that the property was dangerous because of lack of fire extinguishers, a point denied by the applicant's legal representative ie that the premises were dangerous, in the online presence of the applicant at a subsequent BCP licensing hearing. The applicant did not correct his representative leaving the impression that the building was not dangerous.

2021 Southampton City the applicant has another company licensed for strip clubs trading as Wiggle where the premises has been expanded. However the records for building control show that work on a party wall has been recorded as started but not completed, despite the premises being reopened to the public. It is possible that the records are out of date and that everything is in order, so the applicant should be given an opportunity to explain the situation in Southampton.

The applicant is also unsuitable because they advertise their premises using a dancer wearing a costume parodying school uniform as it is in a tartan material.

In addition to the above I have photographed a pile of Nitrous Oxide cylinders called Fastgas in the grounds of Wiggle during the pandemic in a break when the clubs could open. Since they were cleared I am delighted to say I have seen no reappearance of this type of canister. I drew the pictures to the attention of the national press who swiftly launched a successful campaign to make it easier for police to enforce on possession of this product. However, even before this, when I took the pictures, if it could be shown that it was being used as a recreational drug it was illegal. Here balloon debris was also present. I should say a much bigger pile of cannisters was on the opposite corner of the road just inside the wall for Trinity House, where there is a rehab facility. The pile should have been in the eyeline of door staff. In addition I visited late morning or early afternoon and the club had closed at about 5am, which didn't really leave time for someone to build up a pile that large.

The premises are unsuitable for use as a strip club for the reasons given above of no adequate ventilation being apparent (although I may be wrong and there may be ventilation which I can't see in place) and no lift being apparent on the plans which I have seen. In addition a smoking shelter is provided which goes against your statutory public health duty by encouraging smoking through making it more comfortable for patrons. The roof was looking a bit the worse for wear on the shelter and the cracking in the building was still apparent last time I checked. However, I intend checking again soon as there has previously

been a flurry of patching up and litter picking before licensing hearings in the past so I will be happy to withdraw or modify this section in the event of change between now and a hearing.

The location is unsuitable for reasons of the character of the neighbourhood and use to which nearby premises are put for reasons, some of which are given above.

In particular it is near open space, ie Horseshoe Common which may attract prostitution by persons unconnected with the applicant. I respectfully remind the committee that there is no requirement to prove harm in a licensing refusal, so you are perfectly entitled to make reasonable assumptions and to act proactively. In other licensing policies which I have seen in appears to be common practice not to license near open spaces such as parks.

You also don't need a policy to be in place, which I say the old Bournemouth policy is in place and your officers have told me is not, to refuse on the grounds of location, only to refuse on the basis of a policy placing a cap on the number of licenses.

As previously stated, it is next to a rehab facility in Trinity House, and it is reasonable to refuse to license near vulnerable people, ie their clients.

It is near the new school, and it is reasonable to refuse on this basis. As stated in judge's remarks in ex parte Christian Institute where the local authority was Newcastle on Tyne, placing a sex establishment in a neighbourhood will attract people that shouldn't be mixing with children. There is no suggestion the applicant breaches license conditions by allowing children, ie anyone under 18 onto the premises when the club is operating, but nevertheless, for youngsters to be walking to and from school past a strip club is not appropriate. Likewise the fact that so many young students away from home and sometimes from their own country are in the area again makes it entirely inappropriate to license a strip club there. The plans to fill empty buildings with student accommodation can't come to fruition if parents balk at funding their children living in such a neighbourhood. I have heard from one language school owner that parents do not like their children to be so near strip clubs.

It is near various restaurants etc which have children's menus and to clubs and bars whose advertising makes it clear that they are aimed at young people so that again strip club licensing is not appropriate. Families eating out late on a warm summer's evening sitting outside and students away from home as well as youngsters from Bournemouth and surrounding areas are not a good mix with sex tourists attracted into the area and marketed to large groups. I don't know how successful the marketing to large groups is but Wiggle's website advertises package deals for groups of up to 30 people. Packages which sell alcohol in advance to anyone including parties before they arrive at the premises strikes me as highly irresponsible, as it may not be possible to honour that if a customer is already intoxicated, or becomes too intoxicated to consume everything bought. I feel that if this is done that it should be clear that non alcoholic drink will be substituted if any member of the party becomes too intoxicated to be served with more alcohol whilst on the premises on the pre appointed date. In addition the package advertised doesn't state the size of bottles offered nor strength of the alcohol, which is important information so breaches the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations. These points are also relevant to unsuitability of the applicant.

It is near religious premises as mentioned at St Peter's Church and also at the nearby synagogue. The town centre Mosque is a little further away but it is still reasonable to assume people will walk to get to it from beyond Wiggle.

The location's neighbourhood has recently been granted some sort of planning permission according to press reports for premises in Glen Fern Road called Boho Grand to include residential and commercial use. As previously mentioned with Citrus building next door and a move to encouraging people to live in town centres, strip club licensing is definitely not appropriate at 159 Old Christchurch Road. In the past planning permission was refused for the upstairs area of this building to be converted to residential flats, but given the improvements in the bus facilities and alternatives to private motor car planned for that road, and the planning move to encouraging car "light" living with minimal commuting the applicant, who owns the building outright through another company if my information is up to date, might be well advised to pursue this course of action for the building. All three strip clubs have had constant advertising tabs for recruitment for dancers since I have been lodging objections and one of the other clubs in Bournemouth was until recently advertising a gallery showing a large number of dancers advertised as performing in Bournemouth but from Watford, where there is a sister club. If you have any concerns that there is an oversupply of dancers available in Bournemouth, which would result in unemployment if a club stops offering sexual entertainment these two facts would seem to contradict this. In addition, I should point out that I have noticed from googling that several night clubs have actually opened up in Sheffield since the last strip club was converted to a regular bar. It is perfectly possible that dancing which doesn't require a sexual entertainment license will replace the existing clubs. I also understand that both pole dancing and aerialist work is excellent exercise so that this may open up employment opportunities as alternatives to sexual entertainment, eg through running exercise classes.

As in previous objections I ask the committee to be mindful of their Public Sector Equality Duty including duty to promote good relations between the sexes and to eliminate harassment, particularly in the light of feedback by women to a public consultation on BCP's sex establishment licensing policy alleging harassment by strip club customers.

I have also been sent images of tokens and a flyer which a third party has told me are being used by Wiggle, which I understand would be a breach of their license conditions. However, I believe the third party may have submitted their own objection.

This is the end of my objection and various appendices follow.

Kind regards

Susan Stockwell

Appendix 1

Green Councillor objects to strip club licence renewal.

12th April 2017



Dear Sir /

Madam,

I am writing as a ward councillor to lodge an objection to the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino licence.

In doing so, I wish to support residents and other businesses in City Ward who are adversely affected by this lap-dancing club.

Whilst Spearmint Rhino has been trading for a number of years, its location is becoming increasingly unsuitable for a lap-dancing club. The growing development of the Cultural Industries Quarter and the expansion of student accommodation and teaching locally are highly relevant to the appropriateness of the location. The premises are located on what is to be known as the Knowledge Gateway, recognising the enhancement of the area as a place of creative knowledge and progressive development.

A lap-dancing club is increasingly at odds with this vision. I am therefore disappointed that the application form submitted does not attempt to address any of the licensing objectives except by stating it is a renewal application.

The nature of a lap-dancing club means there is significant difference in the treatment of the sexes. In particular, I understand the establishment treats the regular staff (mostly if not all, men) as employees but requires the dancers (i.e. women) to be self-employed, with correspondingly lower degrees of employment protection. This is not a matter of choice on the part of the dancers. The local authority must demonstrate it has due regard to the various principles in the public sector equality duty when considering the application, so as to comply with its own legal obligations.

If the authority is minded to grant the licence, I would support a condition requiring all workers, including dancers, to be engaged directly only under the terms of a written contract of employment.

I trust the Committee will take these views into account.

Appendix 2

Plans to open a new strip club in Leicester have been opposed by some because the proposed site would be too close to King Richard III's tomb.

A planning application has been sent to the city council to open the venue, despite claims it would be a "particularly unsuitable location".

If approved, the sexual entertainment venue in Millstone Lane, would only be a few hundred metres from the final resting place of the former King.

King Richard III's remains were reburied inside Leicester Cathedral in 2015, after being dug up from a council car park a stone's throw away.



The proposed venue in Millstone Lane, would only be a few hundred metres from Leicester Cathedral.

Credit: ITV News Central

Labour Councillor Patrick Kitterick, representing the Castle ward, has lodged objections to the application after complaints from residents.

He said: "There are an increasing number of residents in the area, it's not a deserted area of town any more and there are a number of nurseries in the area.

"You are only a few hundred metres from the resting place of a former King of England.

"A number of residents in the area have contacted me to make the objection, it just shouldn't be in an area of family nurseries."

The matter was due to be considered again by the licensing committee on 19 December 2017 but the meeting has been postponed.

Appendix 3 pp approx 325 page count 25th August 2022 Westminster

Appendix 4 objection by licensing department and environmental health pp 295+Westminster 25th Aug 2022

Appendix 5 Objection by police p295 approx and Newquay x2 articles. Lap dancing 'contributes to sex crimes' police claim

BBC 2012

Lap dancing clubs may have contributed to sex crimes in a Cornish town, according to a senior police officer.

Insp Ian Drummond-Smith, from Devon and Cornwall Police, made his claims in a letter objecting to an application to open a new club in Newquay.

He said he was not linking the 14 rapes and 30 sexual assaults directly to the clubs, but their presence "could have been a contributing factor".

The new licence applicant declined to comment ahead of the licence hearing.

The sex crimes referred to by Insp Drummond-Smith took place in the town over a two-year period.

During that time, there were two lap dancing clubs in Newquay, although one was forced to close last year for breaching its licensing conditions.

'Low-level harassment'

Cornwall Council's licensing committee will consider an application for a new lap dancing establishment on Friday.

But the application has been opposed by police and local residents.

Insp Drummond-Smith told BBC News the presence of lap dancing clubs in an area where there were young people and a heavy use of alcohol could be a contributing factor to the sexual offences.

Tracy Earnshaw, who represents a Newquay residents' group, said local people do not want another sex club in the town.

"We have seen an increase in low-level sexual harassment and offensive comments and that's not just at night after nine o'clock, 10 or 11 - this is during the day," she told BBC News.

Last October Ms Earnshaw said previous clubs had their licences removed by Cornwall Council because of "serious, repeated and blatant" breaches.

BBC 2019

Newquay reinvented: 'You stopped finding knickers in your garden'

- Published

6 December 2019

Share



Image source, Mel Bonfield

Image caption,

Newquay remains a popular destination in the summer months and is also a focus of New Year's Eve celebrations

By Johanna Carr

BBC News

In the summer of 2009 Newquay's image was in tatters. The town was known as a hardcore party resort where anything went. Thousands of teenagers made post-exam pilgrimages to the Cornish coast to drink until they passed out, while gangs of stags and hens marauded through the streets, making the town a no-go area after dark for families and couples.

Then two teenagers died falling from cliffs, while a third was seriously injured - all in the space of a few days. Suddenly time was up on Newquay's days of dangerous debauchery.

"I can't describe what it was like when the under-18s were coming," says Tracy Earnshaw, who was involved in campaigning to change the culture of the resort.

"Indecent exposure was the norm. You used to ring Newquay police and not get much response."



Image source, Getty Images

Image caption,

While Newquay's nightlife caused concern, the towns beaches have always been attractive to visitors

In 2009, Tracy lived with her young family in Newquay town centre. Life was pretty tough - they struggled to sleep at night due to the noise, were only able to drive "bangers" because of the number of times wing mirrors and wipers were snapped off, and were trying desperately to sell up and move away.

Her campaigning took up a lot of time.

"My focus was mostly the underage drinking and lap-dancing clubs which contributed to the antisocial behaviour," she says. "They were just all feeding on one another and people were not being held accountable. There was a lot of vested interests and a lot of turning a blind eye."



Image caption,

Tracy Earnshaw says she "very rarely" sees stag dos in Newquay now and the "underage kids have stopped coming"

Now she is pleased nobody wanted to buy her home and is glad she still lives in the town. She becomes emotional talking about how things have changed.

"It has been quite a phenomenal change, actually," she says.

"The less stag groups that came, the less anti-social behaviour there was. You stopped finding knickers in your front garden."

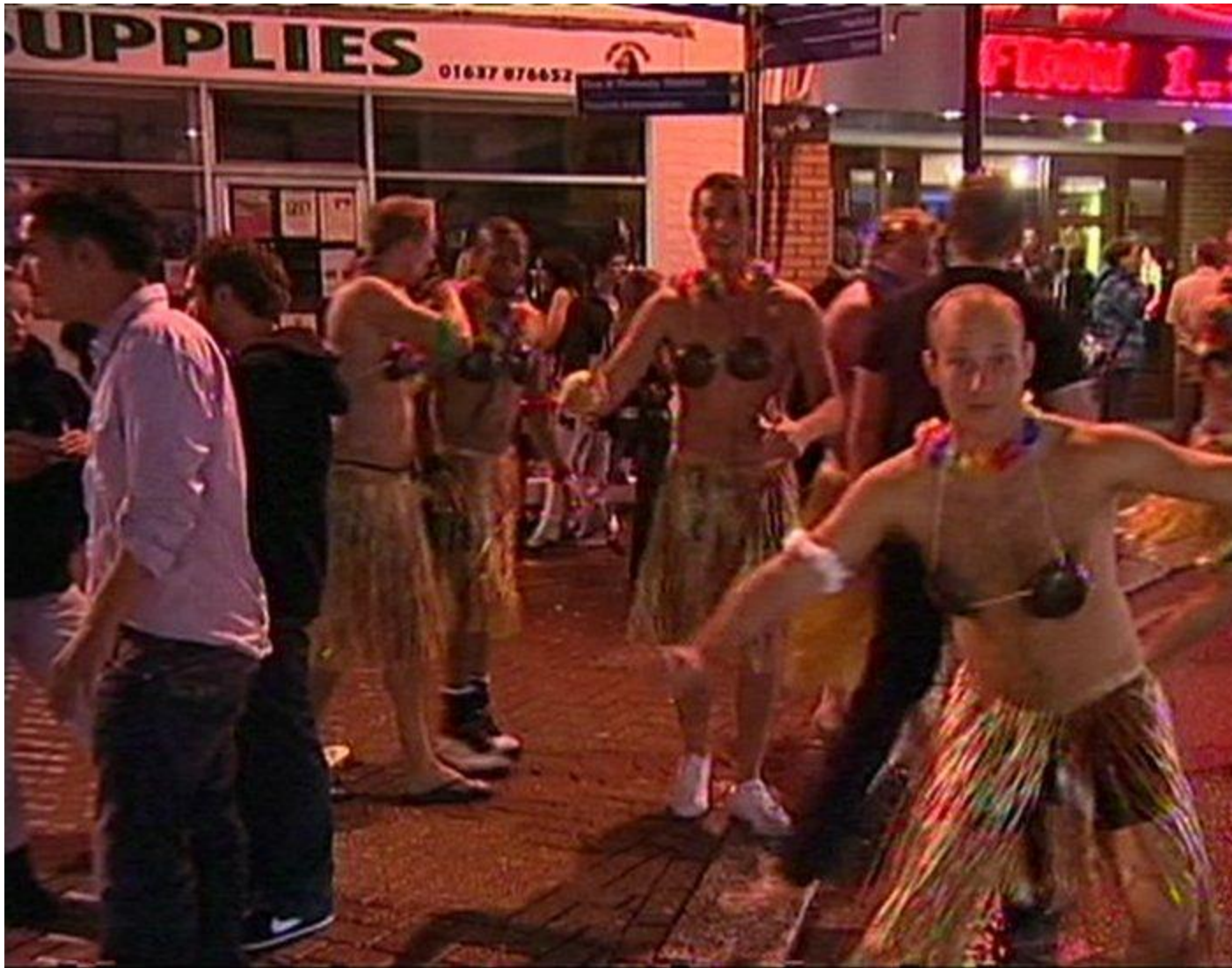


Image caption,

Newquay used to be a mecca for rowdy stag and hen groups

In the immediate aftermath of the deaths in July 2009, residents like Tracy rose up and marched on Newquay Town and Cornwall councils, demanding an end to the permissive culture in the town.

Soon measures were brought in to try to ensure young people's safety. Newquay Safe - an award-winning partnership between the council, police and about 20 other agencies - was set up and schemes like a bar crawl code of conduct, Challenge 25 and alcohol-free under-18s club nights all aimed to tackle the resort's problems.

At the time, Insp Dave Meredith was relatively new to the top policing job in Newquay. Tracy says Insp Meredith, who is retiring at the end of the month, was "instrumental" in changing the culture of the town.



Image caption,

Insp Dave Meredith: "I have always been open and honest about my tough stance"

"He didn't really care who he upset by simply doing his job," she says.

"I would say he was the first person who actually looked at the problem and decided something should happen. He wasn't shy about going into licensed premises and saying 'what is going on here?'"

Insp Meredith says Newquay is "absolutely a different place" today.

[Skip X post by Insp Dave Meredith](#)

Allow X content?

This article contains content provided by X. We ask for your permission before anything is loaded, as they may be using cookies and other technologies. You may want to read [X's cookie policy, external](#) and [privacy policy, external](#) before accepting. To view this content choose 'accept and continue'.

Accept and continue

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites.

End of X post by Insp Dave Meredith

"It was sort of a Wild West town back then," he says.

"It was just power drinking and fighting and all that... I knew it was going to be a really challenging job. It is great that we have moved forward in 10 years from something that was causing concern to a lot of people. It was 10 years or so of hard work."



Image source, Getty Images

Image caption,

Police started meeting teenagers as they arrived in town to check their bags for alcohol and offer advice

He describes himself as "very forthright" and says he was an advocate of "robust" action.

He says one thing he looked at was the town's lap-dancing clubs. He found there was "compelling evidence showing issues with them".

"That is why we decided to take them to licensing review," he says. "I think Newquay is a far safer place with the closure of these lap-dancing clubs."



Image caption,

This alleyway used to be home to a sex shop but now hosts a health food store

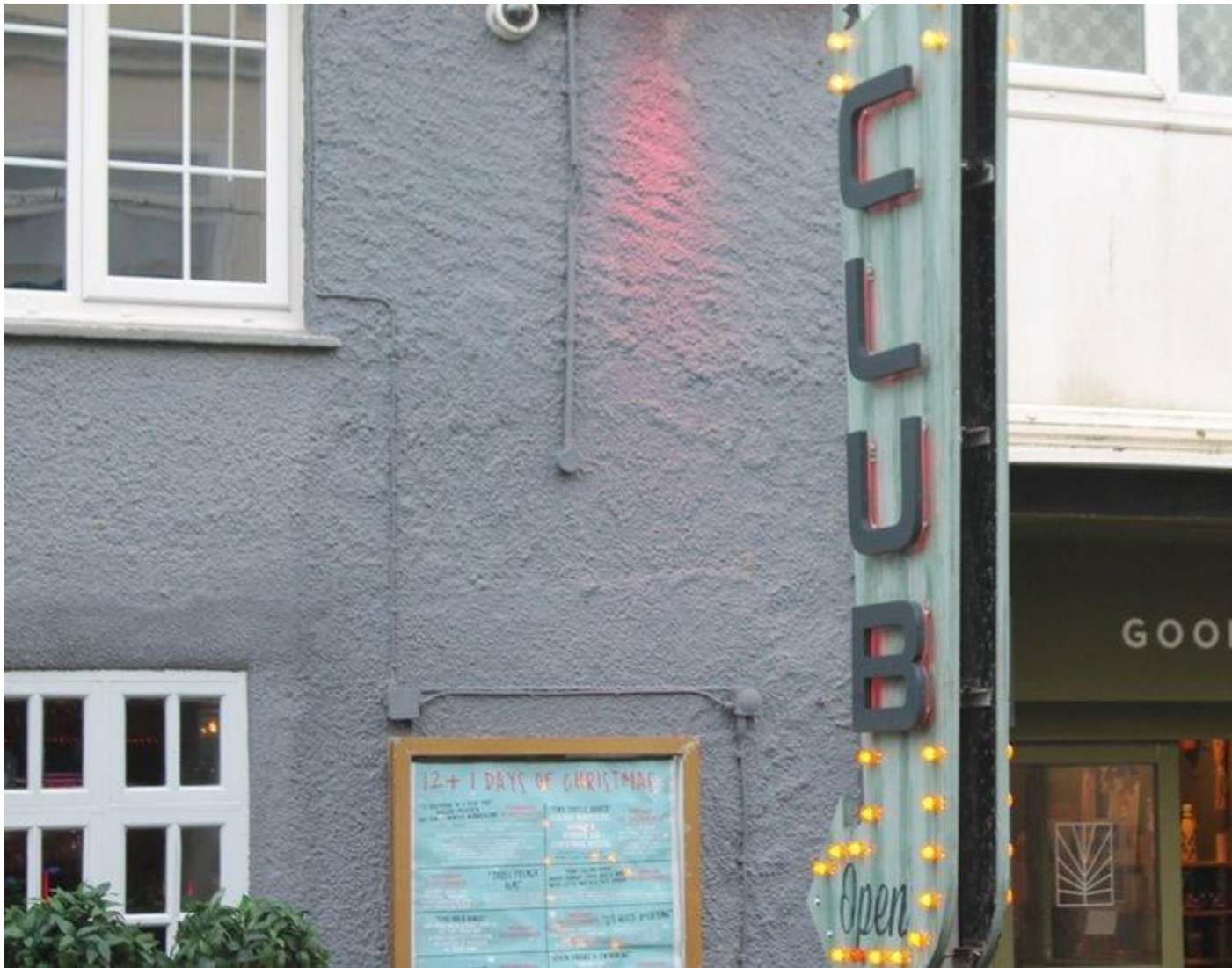


Image caption,

Newquay's pubs and clubs exist alongside ethical food shops, yoga studios and wine bars

This summer for the first time in many years Newquay's nightclubs and campsites did not run any dry nights for under-18s because there were no longer enough coming to make it worthwhile.

Insp Meredith says there is now a "very robust policy making sure that under-18s don't go into pubs and clubs". He says they work very closely with the licensees.

"They realise it is not worth risking their business by letting these people in," he says. "These days we don't have a real problem with underage drinking."



Image caption,

Newquay still has a busy nightlife but many venues close earlier and do not allow people in offensive dress through the doors

Another change has been what is acceptable for people to wear while out drinking in Newquay.

A [mankini ban](#) has been credited with helping to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. Insp Meredith says this was never a police initiative but rather the venues banding together and deciding they no longer wanted customers dressed in that way.

Inflatable genitalia and T-shirts bearing offensive slogans were also prohibited in a code of conduct for the Newquay Pubwatch scheme, meaning people wearing or carrying such items would not get into venues signed up to it.

Robin Jones is one of the faces of the new Newquay - a town of upmarket cafes, wine bars and yoga studios. He owns a wine and tapas bar and says life and holidays here have become more family-orientated.



Image caption,

Robin Jones says he feels sorry for stag groups who come to Newquay not realising how much things have changed

Robin says he would not have wanted to live in Newquay in 2009 but moved to the town seven years ago and loves it.

"It is such a beautiful place around the beaches and the coastline," he says. "I think it was massively let down by the town identity and the culture that went with it. House prices have risen dramatically and I think that is attracting a different sort of person to the town. There happened to be three wine bars all started up about the same time three years ago."

He says he thinks their success is down to Newquay's new clientele wanting somewhere a bit more upmarket.



Image caption,

The evolution of the town has included the development of high-end apartment blocks

The entrepreneur says there are fewer stag and hen dos now and those that do come and dress up tend to get turned away. "A lot of the businesses won't let them in any more," he says. "I feel a bit sorry for them because they are walking around with nowhere to go to.

"All the people that come in the bar say what a different town it is and how much nicer and calmer it is."

[Tourism data from Visit Britain, external](#) shows Newquay does not appear to have suffered a big drop in visitor numbers since the changes. The tourism survey indicates there were 526,000 visits to the town in 2009 and 441,000 in 2010. Between 2016 and 2018 there was an average of 487,000 visits each year.



Image caption,

Debbie Anderson-Jones says the town is far less busy at night these days

You may also be interested in:

- [Spitfire pilots return after round-the-world trip](#)
- ['Only complete' Roman egg found during dig](#)
- [Trafalgar Square Christmas tree branded a turkey](#)

Debbie Anderson-Jones has also noticed how much calmer Newquay is. She started volunteering as a street pastor a decade ago and has seen the worst the nightlife had to offer.

The street pastor scheme has now ended and these days she runs Pirans Angels, which offers a similar service on a reduced number of nights.

Of the drinking culture, she says: "It started on a Saturday afternoon and [you used to think] if we are going to town we have got to get in and out before they start... by 10pm people were like 'you need to get off the streets because all hell will break loose'."



Image caption,

Debbie says scenes like this one are a rarity these days

She says they are now seeing far fewer people on the streets who have made themselves vulnerable through drink, and anyone who causes trouble is effectively instantly banned from all the other venues.

"If someone is difficult in one club, door staff and the cameras work together to identify that person and that group and relay that message to every pub and restaurant," she says. "If you are kicked out of one place you are not getting in anywhere. We will say to them 'I just heard what you did, you are all on CCTV, you might as well go home now'."

Debbie says the stag groups that still come are different from their predecessors and seem to want to do other activities as well as drinking.



Image caption,

Tracy Earnshaw, pictured in 2012, no longer spends "far too much time" writing letters calling for change in Newquay

As for Tracy, she says her life has completely changed.

Recounting incidents of being flashed at and meeting a 15-year-old girl wandering the streets after being raped, she says she can't quite believe how much is different, and credits the change to the right people being in the right places at the right time.

"I think a lot of people will forever be grateful to Dave Meredith because he made a difference," she says. "These kids who were 15 and 16 were here to get hammered without any accountability... it was grim and we were made to feel guilty if you had a problem with it.

"You had to be really resilient. We always knew we were right and what was happening was wrong. It was unacceptable and actually it was against the law."

- Pu

Appendix 6 Lesley Dunlop tourism

Wiggle's licence in Bournemouth renewed despite councillors' concerns

- Published

8 June 2022

Share

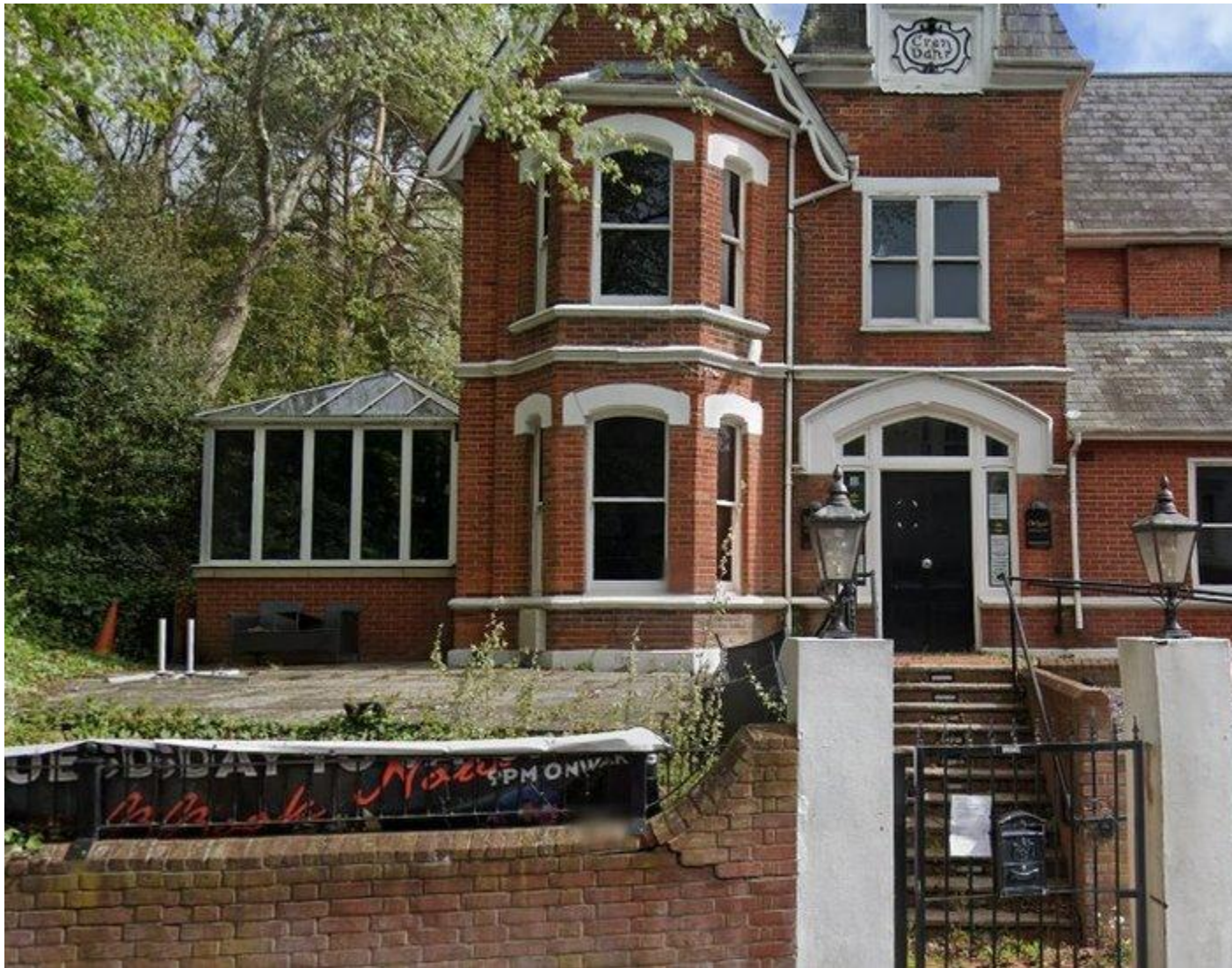


Image source, Google

Image caption,

Wiggle's licence has been extended for another year by BCP Council

A strip club's licence has been renewed for another year despite a councillor complaining she had been harassed by punters as she walked past.

Police and the local council had no objection to Wiggle, which has been operating in Bournemouth since 2006, staying open.

But two councillors objected and said they felt there was "no place" in the area for "sex establishments".

BCP Council's licensing sub-committee approved the renewal on Tuesday.

'Harmful sexist culture'

Independent councillor Lisa Northover said she had been harassed by men who had been to the venue.

"I've had this happen to me so I know it happens. It's not a moral objection," she added.

"I don't want to be spoken to like that by people who have just spent a couple of hundred pounds in Wiggle getting het up."

Councillor Beverley Dunlop, a Conservative, said she objected to the renewal of Wiggle's licence "in the strongest terms".

In written comments to the sub-committee for a meeting on 26 May, she said venues "which profit from sexual exploitation and promote a harmful sexist culture are not compatible with being a world-class destination".

- [Cent](#)

Appendix 7 BID objection-available on request

Appendix 8 correspondence with White Ribbon available on request.

This concludes my objection.

I consent to my email address being disclosed to the applicant purely for the purposes of any correspondence they may wish to enter into regarding this objection only.

Kind regards

Susan Stockwell

25.03.25 @ 22:25

Hi

Could the attached pdf of upcoming events advertised at Wiggle Bournemouth please be added to my objection to SEV licensing this year. They add to the unsuitability of the

applicant seen in the context of the Equality Act. The Public Sector Equality Duty obliges BCP council to eliminate harassment, so that licensing an applicant running promotions sexualising the uniform of female health workers and police officers will undermine this. Another promotion sexualising children with a "school girl theme" speaks for itself. The "funk me" promotion implies that the no touching rule can be broken as the word funk can be easily confused with a similar swear word meaning sexual intercourse. The MILF promotion still seems to be offered in Bournemouth, despite being withdrawn in Southampton's Wiggle.

Kind regards

Susan Stockwell

Licensing Team
Public Protection and Licensing Service



Licensing Service Objection

Application for a new Sexual Entertainment Venue – Sex Establishment
licence under Schedule 3 paragraph 10 of the Local Government
(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 for Ground Floor and Basement
3 - 4 Vere Street, London, W1G 0DH

Licensing Service Ref: 21/14650/LISEVN

1. Introduction

1.1 I am authorised on behalf of the Licensing Service of Westminster City Council to carry out its functions in considering Sex Establishment applications made under the provisions of Part II, Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

1.2 I have considered the new Sexual Entertainment Venue – Sex Establishment Licence application submitted on behalf of Ground Floor And Basement, 3 - 4 Vere Street, London, W1G 0DH.

1.3 Paragraph 10 subsection (15) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Part II states;

‘Any person objecting to an application for the grant, renewal or transfer of a licence under this schedule shall give notice in writing of his objection to the appropriate authority, stating in general terms the grounds of the objection, not later than 28days after the date of the application’

1.4 The Licensing Service has considered it appropriate to make an objection in relation to this application. Due to the nature of the premises applied for and taking into consideration the councils Statement of Licensing Policy for Sexual Entertainment Venues 2012 specifically the character of the relevant locality and the use of premises in the vicinity, the Licensing Service makes an objection to this application.

1.5 I have considered the application in detail, the history of the premises, the location of the premises and transport links and whether the application meets the council's Licensing Policy. My findings in relation to this application are set out in this document.

2. The Application

2.1 The applicant has applied for Relevant Entertainment to be provided from 10:00 to 05:00 Monday to Saturday and from 10:00 to 00:00 on Sunday. The Relevant Entertainment is described as “Full nudity striptease”.

2.2 At the time of making my objection there has been no request to disapply any of the Standard Conditions for SEV premises.

Proposed layout of the premises:

2.3 The premises has two entrances on Vere Street, one at ground level and with the other at Basement level. After a discussion with the applicant the main entrance on the ground will be used only for performers. The entrance at Basement level will be used for all patrons. This is accessed by a set of stairs from street level. A photograph of the entrances has been attached at Appendix 1 of my objection.

- 2.4 The premises is about to go under construction so the Licensing Authority has been unable to visit the premises to do a site inspection but a virtual meeting was held to discuss the application. The Licensing Authority is hopeful to be able to visit the premises ahead of a licensing sub-committee hearing.

Proposed style of operation:

- 2.5 The premises propose to operate as a strip club with a bar from 10:00 to 05:00 Monday to Saturday and from 10:00 to 00:00 on Sunday.
- 2.6 Relevant Entertainment is only proposed to take place Monday to Sunday and all performers are required to sign a declaration as part of their code of conduct that fully understand the premises rules and regulations around performances.
- 2.7 The applicants Clarmans Clubs Ltd are experienced operators in the industry. The managers of the proposed Licence Holder are the directors of John Mckeown Clubs Ltd that have run the Sophisticats Clubs who have held a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licences since 2001.

Standard Conditions:

- 2.8 The applicant won't be disapplying any of the standard conditions.
- 2.9 The applicant has applied for premises licence (21/14651/LIPN) under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003 which is currently within the consultation period. This licence will be determined in conjunction with this application.
- 2.10 The premises has the benefit of another licence (09/01218/LIPV) under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003. However, this licence is conditioned to not allow any nudity or strip tease.
- 2.11 A new premises licence was granted in November 2021 (21/07616/LIPN) to trade as a restaurant. This licence has a condition to allow striptease or nudity when the premises are operating under the authority of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence. The applicant has mentioned that these two licences will be surrendered subject to the grant this application and the LA03 application.

3. Summary of Licensing Service's Objection

- 3.1 The Licensing Service is making an objection to this application on the grounds that if granted it will not promote the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the improvement in the character and function of the city, or areas of it.

4. Premises History

- 4.1 The premises are licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 and trade as Maroush Restaurant (09/01218/LIPV). The premises licence was applied for as part of a conversion in August 2005 and was granted by delegated authority in October 2005. The licence has always been held by Lucky Duggy Ltd.

- 4.2 As mentioned in 2.11 the premises has the benefit of a second licence (21/07616/LIPN) under the Licensing Act 2003. This premises licence was applied for in July 2021 and was granted by delegated authority in November 2021. This licence is held by 4VS Limited.

5. The Premises, its location and transport links

- 5.1 3 - 4 Vere Street is situated between Henrietta Place and Oxford Street.
- 5.2 The premises is situated between Bond Street and Oxford Circus Underground Stations. The closest station is Bond Street which is situated 230 feet away. Oxford Circus is situated 0.2 miles away. Bond Street operates services for the Central Line which operates Monday to Thursday from 05:46 to 00:28, Friday from 05:52 to 03:18, Saturday from 03:38 to 03:18 and Sunday from 03:38 to 23:40 and the Jubilee Line which operates Monday to Saturday from 05:25 to 00:43 and Sunday from 05:25 to 23:58.
- 5.3 The nearest bus stop to 3 - 4 Vere Street is on Oxford Street. This is serviced by bus 390, 113, 139, N113, 7, 98, N137, N207, N7, N98, 94, 159, one of which a few of them are night buses.
- 5.4 There are no other SEV licenced premises within a 250 metre radius of the premises.

6. Licensing Objectives and Relevant Licensing Policies

- 6.1 The Sexual Entertainment Venues Statement of Licensing Policy 2012 was approved by the council on the 2nd February 2012 and operative from the 10th February 2012. The policy sets out the council's approach to the regulation of sexual entertainment premises under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended, (the 1982 Act). This policy should be read with reference to the statutory Statement of Licensing Policy published under the Licensing Act 2003 (the 2003 Act), and the relevant related strategies and initiatives referred to in it, particularly where premises are regulated under both the 1982 Act and the 2003 Act.
- 6.2 The aim of this policy is to promote the 4 licensing objectives identified in the 2003 Act, and also to promote the improvement in the character and function of the city, or areas of it.

Policy LO1 – Character of the relevant locality

- 6.3 Paragraph 2.4.2 of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2012 relating to Policy LOC1 – Character of the Relevant Locality states;

'Under the 1982 Act the council has the discretion to refuse applications relating to sexual entertainment venues on the grounds that the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard to the character of the relevant locality'.

- 6.4 The policy then specifies reasoning behind this policy.

'Sexual entertainment venues cater for a particular adult audience and by attracting those customers can affect the character of the locality in which they are situated'

6.5 Further;

'areas predominately characterised by general or family retail use may be inappropriate localities for sexual entertainment because of their use by children, either unsupervised or in a family context, and by adults wishing to avoid the characteristics of, or associated with, sexual entertainment venues'.

6.6 Vere Street is made up mainly of retail shops and restaurants.

6.7 Another reason to be considered is;

'the nature of the clientele that sexual entertainment venues may attract, and their behaviour outside the premises, may also be inappropriate in the context of the character of the locality in which the premises are situated'

6.8 The premises closes at 05:00 Monday to Saturday and 00:00 on Sunday, customers will have access to Bond Street Underground Station which has the Central and Jubilee Line plus there is an all-night bus service in close proximity.

6.9 Consideration should also be given to;

'localities characterised as areas of historic importance, or iconic in nature, will be particularly attractive to, and used by, visitors, both adults and children'.

6.10 Vere Street dates from the early 1800's and 3-4 Vere Street is currently a restaurant on the ground and lower ground floor with an office building on the first to fifth floors. The main entrance to the premises is on the ground floor and another entrance to the premises is at street level which has stairs that lead down to the basement.

6.11 Vere Street is through road from Oxford Street to Henrietta Place and is lined with retail shops and cafes. There is also next door the Brazilian Consulate General and further up Vere Street is the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity at St Peter's Church.

Policy LO2 – Use of premises in the vicinity

6.12 Paragraph 2.4.16 of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2012 relating to Policy LOC2 – Use of premises in the vicinity states that

'under the 1982 Act the council has the discretion to refuse applications relating to sexual entertainment venues on the grounds that the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put'

6.13 The first reason which should be considered under this is part of the policy is that;

'the council considers that sexual entertainment venues, providing a particular type of entertainment for a particular adult clientele, may be inappropriate in the vicinity of other premises depending on their use. This may include premises in the vicinity used for religious worship, by children and families, or vulnerable adults'.

- 6.14 There is one faith group within 250 metre of the premises, the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity at St Peter's Church, Vere Street. The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity offers training days, learning hubs, courses for people at different stages of their working lives and resources for personal and small group use. The premises is open Mondays to Friday 09:00 to 17:00.
- 6.15 The Brazilian Consulate General is situated next door to the premises. The premises is open from Monday to Friday 09:00 to 15:00.
- 6.16 Consideration should also be given with regard to;
- 'premises where children under the age of 18 in particular may reasonably be expected to attend will include schools and youth clubs and family community facilities including swimming pools, libraries, and open spaces'*
- 6.17 There are no schools within a 250-metre radius of the premises.

Policy HR1 – Hours

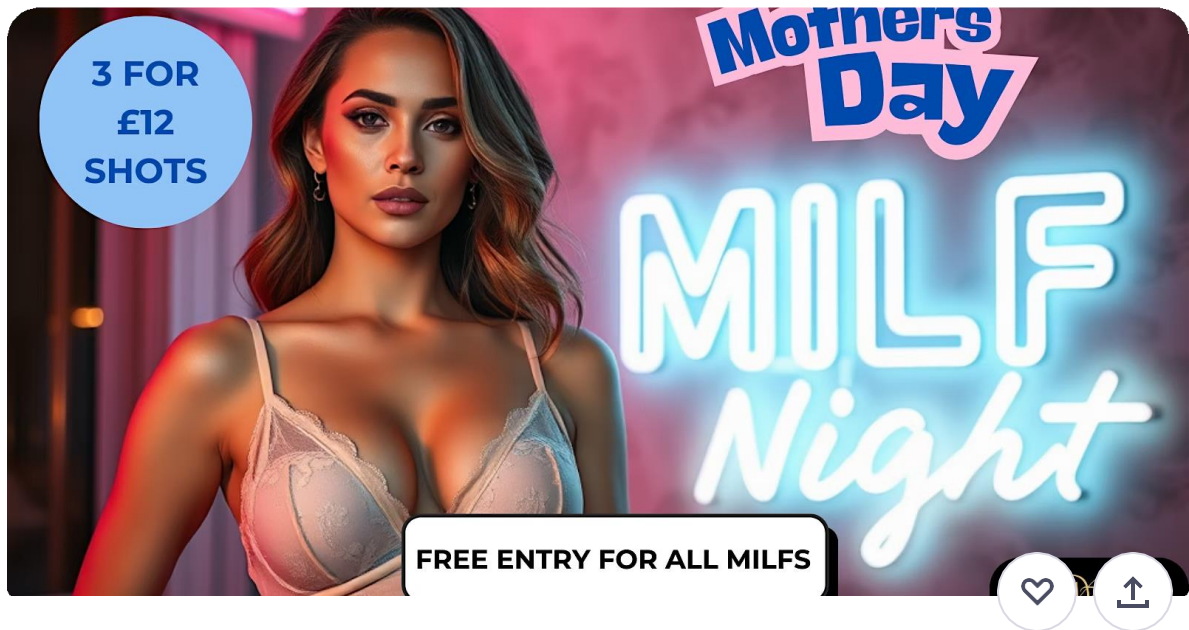
- 6.18 The hours applied for Relevant Entertainment reflect the terminal hours being applied for under 21/14651/LIPN. The premises has no characteristics on the exterior of, or associated with, sexual entertainment venues.
- 6.19 The premises has operated as a restaurant under two licence numbers 09/01218/LIPV and 21/07616/LIPN which both operated shorter hours than the proposed application. This application requests hours beyond core hours in Policy HR1. Paragraph 2.5.1 states 'Where a premises is licensed under the 2003 Act for hours beyond the 'core hours' the council will have regard to those hours and generally grant a SEV licence to the hours authorised for other licensable activities.

7. Licensing Authority Position

- 7.1 Taking into account the points raised in paragraphs above the Licensing Authority maintain their objection to this application.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Photograph of the front of 3-4 Vere Street, London

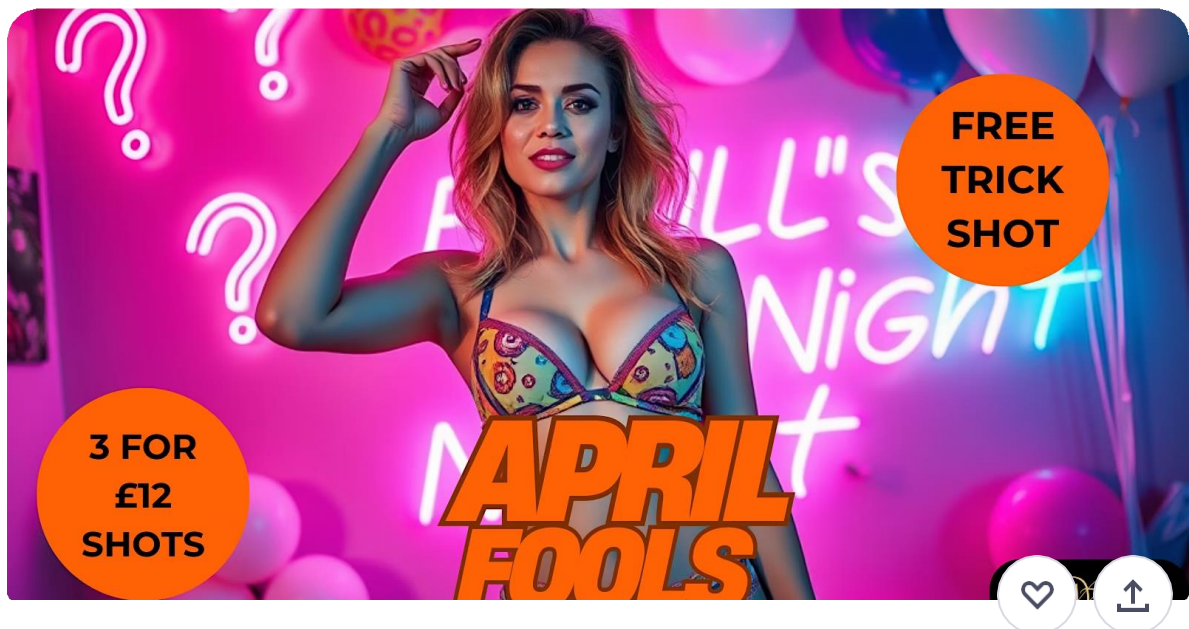
[Events](#) [About](#)

Milf's Night Party at Wiggle Strip Club

Saturday at 22:00

Wiggle Strip Club Bournemouth

From £5.00

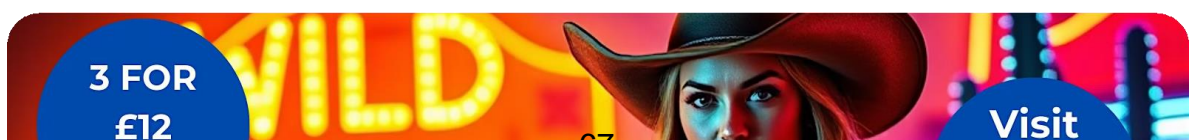


April Fools Party At Wiggle Strip Club

Tue, 1 Apr, 22:00

Wiggle Strip Club Bournemouth

From £5.00





Wet 'n Wild Payday Party at Wiggle Strip Club

Sat, 5 Apr, 22:00

Wiggle Strip Club Bournemouth

From £5.00



Bunny Bank Holiday at Wiggle Strip Club

Fri, 18 Apr, 22:00

Wiggle Strip Club Bournemouth

From £5.00





F*** THE FEDS PAYDAY PARTY at Wiggle Strip Club

Sat, 3 May, 22:00

Wiggle Strip Club Bournemouth

From £5.00

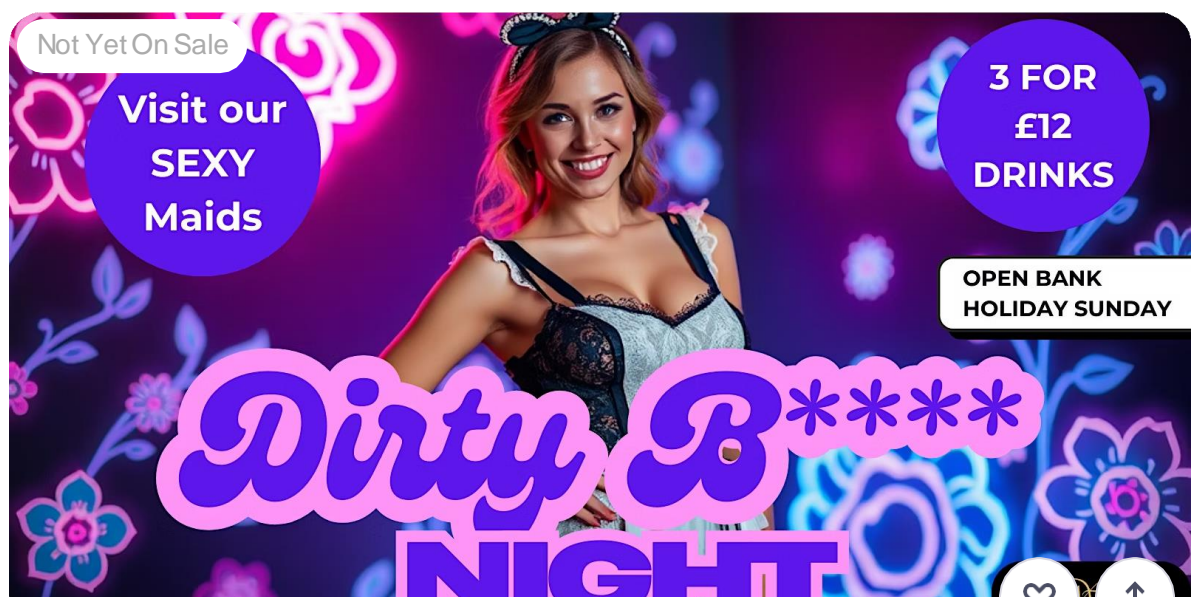


FUNK ME BANK HOLIDAY PARTY at Wiggle Strip Club

Sun, 4 May, 22:00

Wiggle Strip Club Bournemouth

From £5.00



DIRTY B**** BANK HOLIDAY PARTY at Wiggle Strip Club

Sun 25 May 22:00

69



COSPLAY / ANIME PAYDAY PARTY at Wiggle Strip Club

Sat, 31 May, 22:00

Wiggle Strip Club Bournemouth

From £5.00

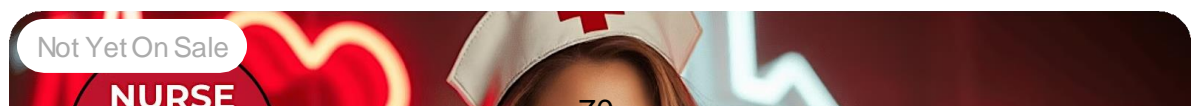


FATHERS DAY / DADDY ISSUES PARTY at Wiggle Strip Club

Sat, 14 Jun, 22:00

Wiggle Strip Club Bournemouth

From £5.00





NAUGHTY NURSE PAYDAY PARTY at Wiggle Strip Club

Sat, 5 Jul, 22:00

Wiggle Strip Club Bournemouth

From £5.00



HAWAIIAN PAYDAY PARTY at Wiggle Strip Club

Sat, 2 Aug, 22:00

Wiggle Strip Club Bournemouth

From £5.00





A-LEVEL RESULTS PARTY at Wiggle Strip Club

Fri, 15 Aug, 22:00

Wiggle Strip Club Bournemouth

From £5.00

Show more

Past (4)



ST PATRICKS PARTY at Wiggle Strip Club

Sat, 15 Mar, 22:00

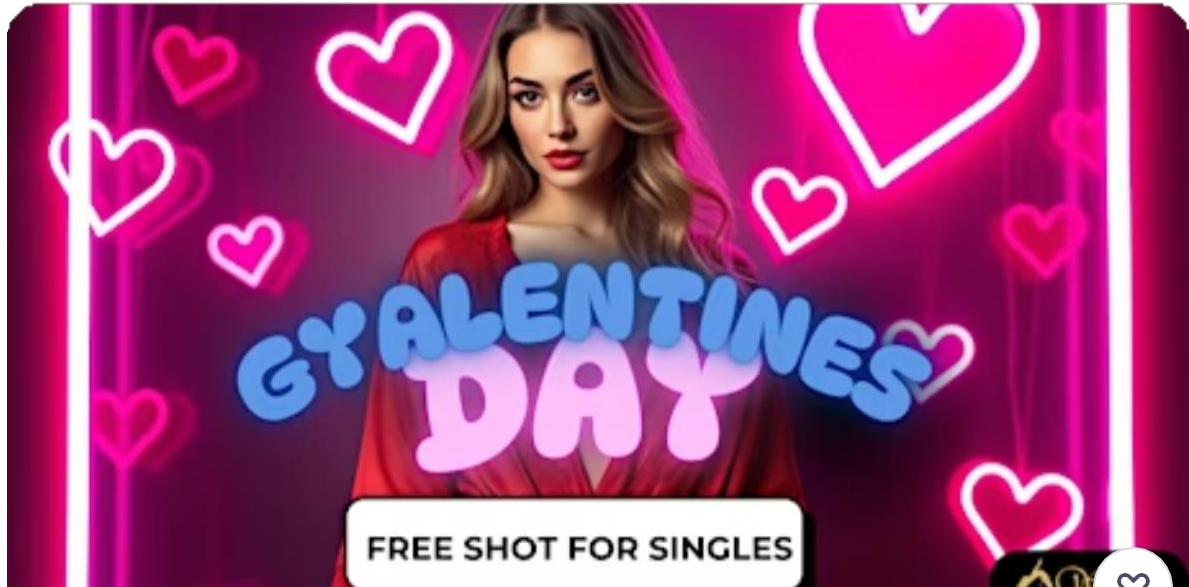
Check ticket price for event



BONDAY / FETISH Payday Party at Wiggle Strip Club

Sat, 1 Mar, 22:00

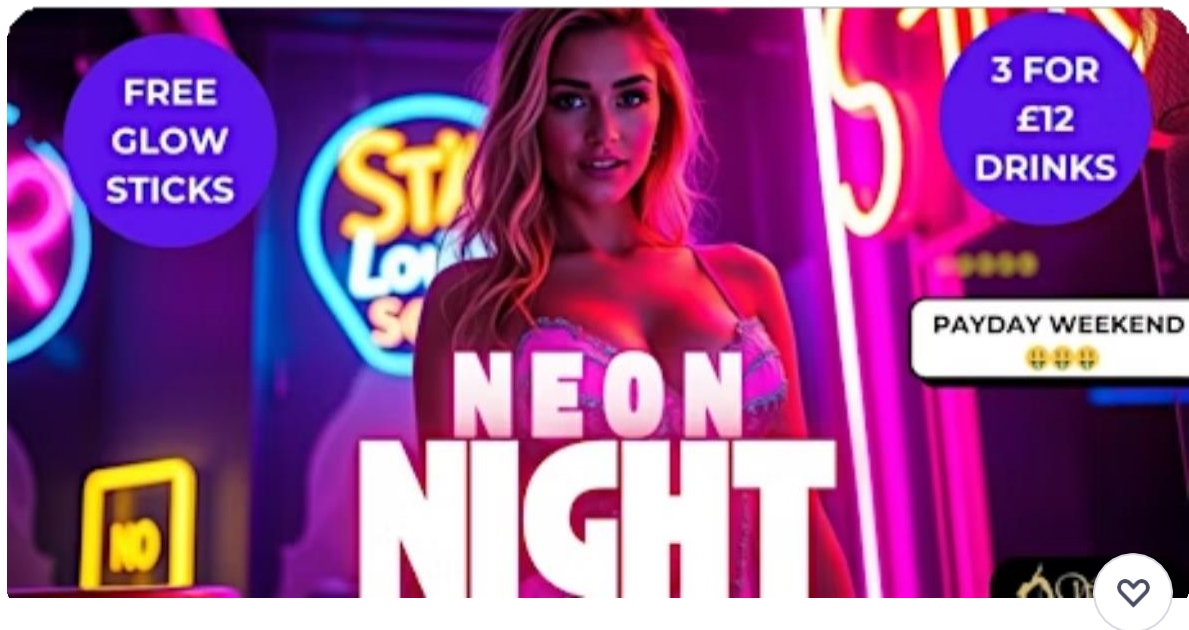
[Check ticket price for event](#)



Gyalentines / Valentine's Party at Wiggle Strip Club

Fri, 14 Feb, 22:00

[Check ticket price for event](#)



Neon Payday Party at Wiggle Strip Club

Sat, 1 Feb, 22:00

[Check ticket price for event](#)

This page is intentionally left blank



COMITTEE REPORT

2025

Wiggle
Bournemouth

Bournemouth
City Council

Prepared By:
Taran Singh Ojla

1. About Wiggle

Who we are

Wiggle is a professionally managed group of adult entertainment venues, operating responsibly across the United Kingdom with 5 SEV premises — for nearly 25 years.

Founded in 2000 by Jaspal Singh Ojla, Wiggle remains a family-run business, now under supervision by his son Taran Singh Ojla.

At Wiggle, we understand the sensitivities of our industry and prioritise respectful, sophisticated adult entertainment. Our operations are guided by stringent licensing objectives designed to ensure the safety and well-being of our customers, performers, staff and the wider community.

Through comprehensive staff training, rigorous security protocols, and robust welfare initiatives, we proactively address community concerns and uphold the highest standards of conduct.

We are proud of our licensing record, with no refusals or revocations, reflecting our longstanding dedication to responsible management, community cooperation, and empathetic, accountable operation within the night-time economy.

[Wiggle Website](#)

[About Us](#)

2. Table of Contents

1. About Wiggle	2
Who we are.....	2
3. Alcohol Licensing Objectives	4
3.1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder	4
3.2. Public Safety	4
3.3. Prevention of Public Nuisance	5
3.4. Protection of Children from Harm	5
4. SEV Licensing	6
4.1. Performer Safety	6
4.2. Guest Safety	6
4.3. Safeguarding Community Sensitivities	7
4.4. SEV Licensing.....	7
4.5. Wiggle's Enhanced SEV Standards	8
5. Response to Objections.....	11
5.1. Key Points	11
Regulatory & Compliance	11
Crime & Public Safety.....	11
Public & Community Engagement	12
Economic & Social Contribution	12
Locality Considerations	12
5.2. Objection 1 response	13
Objectification of Women.....	13
Alleged Rise in Sexual Offences in the Vicinity	13
Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	14
Impact on Women's Freedom to Use Public Space.....	14
5.3. Objection 2 Response	15
Introduction	15
Appendix 1 - Non-Local Councillor Objections and Employment Contracts	16
Appendix 2 – Objection Related to Heritage	16
Appendix 3 – Objection by Westminster Businesses	16
Appendix 4 – Objections by Council Departments	17
Appendix 5 – Metropolitan Police Objection	17
Appendix 6 – Former Objection by Councillor Dunlop	17
Appendix 7 – Bournemouth BID	17
Appendix 8 – White Ribbon Campaign	17
Additional Assertions by the Objector.....	18
Alleged Breach of the Mystery Shopper Condition	18
Historical HMO Fine	18
Alleged Building Control Breach (Southampton).....	18
Nitrous Oxide Canisters on the Premises	19
Ventilation and Disabled Access	19
Allegations of Prostitution	19
Local Rehabilitation Centre.....	20
Protection of Children from Harm	20
Character of Old Christchurch Road	20
Pre-Purchased Packages	21
Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	21
Promotional Tokens and Wristbands	21
Online Promotions and Themed Events	21

3. How Wiggle Upholds the Four Licensing Objectives

3.1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder

- Extensive training for staff in responsible alcohol retailing and refusal procedures.
- High ratio of SIA-trained security to pro-actively prevent incidents from occurring.
- Monitored, police-approved CCTV systems with 31-day retention for investigation support.
- Zero-tolerance drug policy with random entry searches, frequent toilet checks, and co-operation with police initiatives.
- Active participation in local schemes such as PubWatch, Best Bar None, promoting community-wide standards.
- Clear refusal of irresponsible drinks promotions and vigilant monitoring of customer sobriety.
- Enforcement of a strict refusal of entry policy for intoxicated individuals.

3.2. Public Safety

- All venues employ at least one qualified first aider.
- Premises designed with high safety standards—non-slip flooring, ergonomic design, and regular safety assessments.
- Compliance with rigorous fire safety, electrical, and gas safety regulations.
- Staff trained in health and safety practices, regularly refreshed, with thorough accident reporting systems.

- Glass management policy including the use of toughened glass or polycarbonate glassware and frequent clearing to avoid hazards.
- Availability of chaperone support, use of venue phones for emergencies, and welfare-focused staff culture.

3.3. Prevention of Public Nuisance

- Robust dispersal policy: reducing music volume, increasing lighting at closing time to facilitate quiet, orderly exit.
- Active management of customer dispersal by security, including assisting customers with taxis or safe transportation home.
- Clear signage reminding customers to respect local residents upon departure.
- High-quality venue soundproofing ensuring minimal noise disturbance to neighbours.
- Premium pricing structure to discourage excessive alcohol consumption, thereby reducing antisocial behaviour.
- Waste management systems to ensure public spaces near the venue remain clean and safe.

3.4. Protection of Children from Harm

- Strict adherence to Challenge 25 age-verification policy, consistently trained and refreshed for all staff.
- Rigorous ID checks for customers and performers to verify age and eligibility.
- Marketing and promotional materials designed responsibly, avoiding nudity or salacious imagery to maintain a tasteful brand image.
- Print marketing materials are not displayed on the external premises, to maintain a discreet premises.

- Online marketing materials, including social media and ticketing platforms make clear reference to the premises being 18+ and inform users that entry will be refused if they arrive intoxicated.
- Procedures in place to confiscate and report false or altered ID to authorities.

4. SEV Licensing

4.1. Performer Safety

- **Monitored CCTV:** All Wiggle venues feature comprehensive, police-approved CCTV systems, monitored in real-time by trained staff to ensure continuous oversight and performer safety.
- **Chaperone Service:** Performers can request assistance from same-gender staff to enhance comfort and security, ensuring they feel fully supported and protected while on premises.
- **Taxi Escort Service:** At the end of shifts, dedicated SIA-trained security personnel provide safe escort services to taxis or transport, ensuring performers leave the premises securely.
- **Zero-Tolerance Drugs and Conduct Policy:** Strict enforcement of a zero-tolerance policy towards drug use and inappropriate customer behaviour. Regular searches, vigilant supervision, and immediate action on any breaches uphold performer safety.
- **Wellness and Pastoral Care:** Wiggle provides wellness support through established chaplaincy partnerships (Citylife Church, Harbour Church, Amber Chaplains) offering confidential emotional and pastoral care, actively prioritising performer welfare beyond licensing requirements.

4.2. Guest Safety

- **Enhanced Security Presence:** Wiggle operates with an industry-leading ratio of SIA-trained security staff, typically three per hundred customers,

significantly exceeding recommended standards to proactively prevent incidents.

- **Responsible Alcohol Management:** Premium pricing, absence of irresponsible promotions, comprehensive staff training on responsible alcohol retailing, and vigilant sobriety monitoring ensure customers consume alcohol safely and responsibly.
- **Qualified First Aid Provision:** Every Wiggle venue has at least one qualified first-aider on duty, equipped to swiftly respond to any medical incidents, ensuring guest safety at all times.
- **Promotion of Hydration and Sobriety:** Free potable water and clear promotion of non-alcoholic beverages are always available, particularly to customers displaying signs of intoxication, proactively preventing alcohol-related issues.
- **Safety and Support Initiatives:** Active participation in city-wide safety schemes such as PubWatch, Best Bar None accreditation, and the Ask Angela initiative to ensure customers have trusted mechanisms for seeking assistance.

4.3. Safeguarding Community Sensitivities

- **Clear and Strict Code of Conduct:** Wiggle operates under a detailed code of conduct enforced by highly trained staff and security personnel, ensuring performers and customers uphold standards of appropriate behaviour at all times.
- **Venue Design and Privacy:** Premises layout designed specifically for discretion and decency, maintaining privacy for performers and ensuring entertainment is contained fully within regulated and licensed areas.
- **Proactive Management of Behaviour:** Regular staff patrols, reinforced by rigorous training, promptly identify and address any behaviour that could compromise decency, dignity, or compliance with SEV conditions.

4.4. SEV Licensing

- **Mandatory Licensing Conditions:** Wiggle rigorously adheres to nationally set SEV licensing conditions, including strict age restrictions, performer protection measures, CCTV requirements, privacy standards, and restrictions on visibility into venues from the street.
- **Attached Licensing Conditions:** In addition to mandatory conditions, Wiggle complies with specific conditions imposed by local licensing authorities to meet locality-based requirements, ensuring tailored compliance at every venue.

- **Regular Compliance Inspections:** Wiggle welcomes and actively facilitates regular inspections by local Licensing Departments and relevant authorities to demonstrate ongoing adherence to both mandatory and specific licensing conditions, maintaining transparent communication and accountability.

4.5. Wiggle's Enhanced SEV Standards

Security and Incident Prevention

- Operates with **three SIA-licensed door supervisors per 100 customers**, far exceeding the standard 1:100 industry ratio.
- Security staff are specially trained in **performer safeguarding, customer management, and venue-specific SEV conditions**.
- Regular **internal and third-party audits** to assess security effectiveness and incident trends.
- Staff undergo conflict resolution and de-escalation training to **prevent disorder before it arises**.

Performer Welfare and Support

- **Private welfare and changing spaces** are provided at every venue, with clean, secure and professional facilities.
- **Chaperone system** in place—same-gender staff available to accompany performers on request.
- End-of-shift **taxi escort service** for performers, organised and supported by venue security personnel.
- **Zero-tolerance policy** on harassment and inappropriate customer conduct, strictly enforced.
- **Performer eligibility checks**, including identity verification and right-to-work compliance.
- **Partnerships with chaplaincy and support organisations** (Citylife Church, Harbour Church, Amber Chaplains) offering voluntary, confidential wellness support.

Customer Safety and Care

- **Free potable water** available to all customers at any time.
- Staff trained to identify and manage **signs of intoxication**, encouraging uptake of non-alcoholic alternatives.
- Intoxicated customers are **refused service and entry**, even if they have pre-purchased packages—fully refunded as part of our responsible retailing ethos.

- Guests offered assistance with **safe travel**, including taxi escort and access to communication facilities for emergency needs.
- Access to venue **telephone and first aid** support for any guest in distress or requiring assistance.

Community Engagement and Public Sensitivity

- Active participation in community initiatives such as **PubWatch, Best Bar None**, and **Ask Angela**.
- Clear signage and staff-led **dispersal strategy** to reduce public nuisance, including dimming music, increasing lighting, and direct customer engagement.
- **Online-only marketing**, clearly marked 18+, with no external print advertising or public-facing salacious content.
- All promotional names and content are **playful and light-hearted**, without breaching public decency or licensing conditions.
- Discreet, **neutral exterior presentation** with no visibility into entertainment areas from public space.
- Dedicated internal team for **lost property tracking and guest support**, integrated with our contact page system.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

- One of very few SEV venues in the UK with **full disabled access** and accessible washroom facilities.
- Regularly welcome **wheelchair users and patrons with limited mobility**, many of whom travel from across the South Coast.
- Venue design ensures **inclusive comfort and safety for all guests**, regardless of gender, orientation, or mobility needs.

Operational Best Practice

- **Staff licensing and compliance training** includes the Licensing Act 2003, SEV-specific regulations, safeguarding, alcohol retail, and customer service.
- Continuous **internal staff development** programme with inductions, refreshers, and licensing updates.
- Daily cleaning schedules, hygiene protocols, and waste disposal procedures to maintain a clean, presentable venue and surrounding area.
- Transparent cooperation with all **statutory agencies**, including police, licensing officers, planning, and environmental health.
- **31-day CCTV retention**, real-time monitoring, and police-approved camera systems, enhancing safety and supporting accountability.

Reputation and Record

- Wiggle has operated SEV premises for nearly 25 years without a single licence revocation or refusal.
- Actively engaged in **dialogue with local stakeholders** to ensure that concerns are addressed and the premises remains a positive part of the night-time economy.

5. Response to Objections

5.1. Key Points

Regulatory & Compliance

- **No objections from statutory bodies** – No concerns raised by the police, licensing authority, fire department, environmental health, or other relevant bodies.
- **No recorded license breaches**– No warnings, penalties, or license breaches within the past year.
- **Consistent renewal history** – License successfully renewed in previous years without issue.
- **No changes to the premises** – No alterations to the layout, operation, or nature of the business since the last renewal.
- **Venue remains fully compliant with SEV conditions** – All licensing conditions are adhered to, ensuring responsible operation.
- **Regular and successful inspections** – All required inspections have been passed without issue.

Crime & Public Safety

- **No increase in crime linked to the venue** – Local police data shows no direct correlation between the venue and any increase in crime.
- **Strict security policies in place** – Trained door staff, ID checks, metal detectors (if applicable), and CCTV coverage inside and outside the premises ensure safety.
- **Strong working relationship with police and licensing authorities** – Management proactively engages with law enforcement and licensing officers to uphold best practices.
- **No incidents of disorder or antisocial behaviour linked to the venue** – No recorded complaints from local businesses, residents, or authorities regarding disturbances.
- **Strict zero-tolerance policy on drugs and criminal activity** – Clear policies in place to prevent any illegal activity within or around the premises.
- **Robust dispersal policy** – Ensuring customers leave quietly and responsibly to prevent late-night disturbances.

Public & Community Engagement

- **No complaints from local residents or businesses** – No known objections from those living or working in the immediate vicinity.
- **Ongoing commitment to responsible management** – Venue management ensures high operational standards and engages with local authorities on best practices.
- **Regular engagement with stakeholders** – The club maintains a professional relationship with law enforcement, licensing officers, and local businesses.
- **Venue is well-integrated within the area** – No evidence that it negatively impacts the community, character of the area, or local economy.

Economic & Social Contribution

- **The venue supports local employment** – Jobs provided for staff, security personnel, and performers, contributing to the local economy.
- **Positive impact on surrounding businesses** – The club contributes to the nighttime economy, benefiting local taxi firms, restaurants, and bars.
- **Encourages safe and regulated entertainment** – The presence of a licensed venue prevents the demand for unregulated or illegal entertainment venues.
- **Performs a social function in a controlled environment** – The venue provides adult entertainment in a lawful and well-regulated setting, preventing unlicensed alternatives.

Locality Considerations

- **Highly controlled and regulated environment** – Unlike unlicensed establishments, the club operates under strict regulations ensuring responsible conduct.
- **Performer welfare is a priority** – Staff and performers are protected by clear policies on working conditions, safety, and consent.
- **No evidence of public nuisance or indecency** – No complaints regarding inappropriate behaviour, lewd conduct, or breaches of public decency laws.
- **Venue adheres to strict advertising guidelines** – No inappropriate promotions or signage that could be deemed offensive or contrary to local policies.

5.2. Objection 1 response

Objectification of Women

The assertion that Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) inherently objectify women is both unfounded and reductionist. It disregards the agency of the women who choose to work within this licensed sector and perpetuates the stereotype that their decision to do so lacks autonomy or legitimacy. Wiggle offers a structured, voluntary, and professionally managed working environment in which performers are treated with dignity and afforded meaningful protections.

It is also incorrect and, arguably, sexist to suggest that SEVs cater exclusively to male patrons. Internal venue data shows that approximately **one-third of our clientele is female**, reflecting a diverse customer base. Women attend SEVs for a variety of reasons—social, celebratory, or personal—and this reality directly contradicts the assumption of a male-only audience engaging in the objectification of women.

The objection also references the **UK Government's 2021 Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy**. While the strategy rightly emphasises the need for safer public spaces, it makes **no reference** to SEVs as a causative factor in gender-based violence. There is no evidence to suggest a direct correlation between the operation of lawfully licensed SEVs and an increase in misogyny or harm to women in the community.

It should be noted that the **design and regulatory structure of SEV licensing exists precisely to mitigate any potential risks**. Venues are subject to rigorous controls, including performer protection standards, code of conduct enforcement, CCTV surveillance, and licensed door supervision. The effectiveness of these measures is reflected in Wiggle's exemplary record: over two decades of operation without any license refusals or criminal association.

Alleged Rise in Sexual Offences in the Vicinity

The objection draws attention to a rise in sexual offences within the Bournemouth Central area, implying a connection to Wiggle's presence. This claim is unsupported by evidence. Sexual offence trends in urban centres are complex and multi-faceted, involving factors such as social behaviour, law enforcement resourcing, nightlife density, and broader societal trends. There is **no evidential link between Wiggle and any of the cited incidents**.

The objector lists six separate incidents, none of which were associated with Wiggle's premises, staff, or clientele. Importantly, **Dorset Police have raised no objection to this licence renewal**. Were there legitimate concerns linking Wiggle to any such incidents, it would be expected—indeed, procedurally required—for police to submit a formal objection. That they have not done so is indicative of our venue's safe and compliant operation.

Wiggle maintains proactive cooperation with police and local authorities through schemes such as **Town Watch**, and our security protocols are regarded by local enforcement as model practice.

Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

The objector suggests that the operation of SEVs constitutes a breach of the Public Sector Equality Duty. We submit that this interpretation is both narrow and inconsistent with the purpose of the PSED.

The **PSED obliges public authorities to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different groups**. It does not grant the power to prohibit lawful economic activity based on ideological objections. In fact, we argue that the **removal of SEV licensing would infringe on the rights of individuals who freely choose to work in this lawful sector**, including many female performers who value the independence and structure provided by SEV employment.

Wiggle provides a **safe, regulated, and supportive environment** for its staff and performers. We are one of the very few SEVs in the region that offers **full wheelchair access and accessible facilities**, and we regularly welcome **disabled customers from across the South Coast**. Denying the operation of such a facility would, in itself, raise questions regarding equitable access to regulated, inclusive venues for disabled individuals.

Impact on Women's Freedom to Use Public Space

The objection implies that the presence of SEVs compromises the freedom of women to enjoy public space. This claim is not supported by incident data, police reports, or complaints linked to Wiggle. Our operations are conducted within the premises, under license, and with no public-facing promotional content or activity that intrudes upon or alters the use of public space.

The objector's own submission contradicts their argument. The table included lists a number of **late-night venues with equal or later operating hours**,

including **Bar Republic and Camel**, both of which are nightclubs, not SEVs. The existence of various types of venues provides consumers with freedom of choice and ensures that individuals can select nightlife environments that align with their preferences and comfort.

Wiggle contributes to this diversity responsibly and transparently, operating a venue that is fully licensed, discreet, and effectively managed.

5.3. Objection 2 Response

Introduction

Susan Stockwell is a known and regular objector to Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licensing applications across the South Coast. She has objected to multiple venues, often irrespective of location, policy context, or the individual merits of the premises under consideration.

To our knowledge, Ms Stockwell has **never visited any Wiggle venue**, including the premises subject to this application. Her objections are part of a broader **personal campaign against the SEV industry** and frequently include assertions that are either unsubstantiated, unrelated to the venue in question, or demonstrably inaccurate.

In previous licensing processes—such as her objection in Weymouth—Susan Stockwell submitted material that was later found to be **factually incorrect and irrelevant** to the application at hand. This current objection continues that pattern. It includes material drawn from unrelated licensing jurisdictions (such as Westminster and Sheffield), generalised ideological arguments, and references to alleged incidents or imagery **not associated with the Wiggle Bournemouth premises**.

While all representations must be considered, we respectfully submit that the Committee should assess the weight of this objection in light of the objector's documented history of speculative, generalised, and non-evidentiary submissions, which do not materially assist in evaluating this specific licence renewal.

Appendix 1 - Non-Local Councillor Objections and Employment Contracts

The objector refers to objections raised by a Green Party councillor in Sheffield concerning a separate SEV in that city. This venue operates under a different local authority, a different SEV licensing policy, and within an entirely separate social and commercial context. These circumstances are not applicable to Bournemouth and are therefore of limited relevance to this renewal application.

With regard to **employment contracts and right to work**, Wiggle fully complies with Home Office requirements. All staff, managers, and self-employed contractors undergo right-to-work checks as standard. There are **no reported breaches** relating to employment or immigration law, and the objector acknowledges that no evidence of wrongdoing exists.

The reference to licensing policies for **other Bournemouth SEV premises** is also immaterial. This application concerns the renewal of a specific licence for Wiggle at 159 Old Christchurch Road, and must be considered independently on its own merits.

Appendix 2 – Objection Related to Heritage

Appendix 2 refers to an objection raised in a different jurisdiction concerning heritage concerns. The premises at 159 Old Christchurch Road are not subject to heritage restrictions, and no planning or conservation authorities have raised objections in relation to this renewal. The relevance of this appendix to the current application is therefore negligible.

Appendix 3 – Objection by Westminster Businesses

Appendix 3 presents a summary of objections raised by businesses and property owners in Westminster City Council to a separate SEV application. There are **no such objections from local businesses or property owners** in Bournemouth regarding this renewal.

It is worth emphasising that SEVs **contribute positively to the local economy**, providing custom to taxis, takeaways, hotels, cleaning services, and licensed security providers. This indirect economic value should be considered when assessing the overall impact of Wiggle on the town centre.

Appendix 4 – Objections by Council Departments

The objector refers to objections by departments within other councils. In contrast, **no statutory authorities or departments within BCP Council have objected to this application**. Licensing, environmental health, and police have all declined to raise any formal concern.

The objector also refers to ventilation suitability. Wiggle operates with a **full air conditioning and mechanical ventilation system**, in compliance with health and safety requirements. Assertions to the contrary are unfounded, and the objector acknowledges she has never visited the premises.

With regard to internal council communications, we cannot comment on why departments may not have responded to the objector, though we trust officers are focusing on more prioritised workloads.

Appendix 5 – Metropolitan Police Objection

This reference relates to a Metropolitan Police objection in London and cites the City of Bristol's SEV policy, which attempted to introduce a zero-SEV stance. This policy was subsequently overturned after legal challenge due to concerns that it did not protect the rights of performers. These policy contexts are not applicable to Bournemouth, which retains a lawful SEV framework.

Appendix 6 – Former Objection by Councillor Dunlop

Councillor Beverley Dunlop submitted an objection in 2022 but **did not attend the relevant committee hearing**, nor has she submitted a representation to this renewal application. We note that failure to engage with the committee undermines the weight and continuity of the objection.

Appendix 7 – Bournemouth BID

The objector refers to a BID objection but has not provided documentation. For this renewal, **Bournemouth BID has not submitted an objection**, and thus this appendix is not relevant to current proceedings.

Appendix 8 – White Ribbon Campaign

No documentation has been submitted with Appendix 8, and **White Ribbon UK has not submitted an objection to this licence renewal**.

Additional Assertions by the Objector

Alleged Breach of the Mystery Shopper Condition

The objector refers to an alleged breach of a "mystery shopper" licence condition but offers **no date, details, or evidence** of such an incident. Wiggle rigorously adheres to all SEV and premises licence conditions. If a breach had occurred, it would be a matter of public record and would have likely triggered a review or formal warning by the licensing authority. No such action has ever been taken.

Furthermore, Wiggle welcomes regular visits and assessments by both council officers and independent assessors. We actively encourage mystery shopper exercises as part of maintaining high standards and transparency. If any substantiated concern exists, we request that the objector provide formal documentation so that it may be appropriately investigated. In the absence of such evidence, we consider this point unsubstantiated and speculative.

Historical HMO Fine

The objector continues to reference a historical HMO (House in Multiple Occupation) fine levied against a director of the company. This matter has been raised before several local authorities and has been repeatedly found **not to be grounds for refusal** of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence. It is unrelated to the conduct, management, or licensing of the Wiggle premises in Bournemouth. The licensing system rightly focuses on compliance with the four licensing objectives and the specific conditions of the SEV licence. There have been **no breaches of licensing law or operating standards** at Wiggle that would justify drawing conclusions from a completely unrelated matter. The continued reference to this fine appears to serve no licensing purpose and instead borders on personalisation of the objection process.

Alleged Building Control Breach (Southampton)

The objector claims that Southampton City Council had concerns regarding building control compliance. However, this assertion is **unsupported by any formal record**. The premises in question have since had their SEV licence **renewed by the same authority**, which demonstrates continued regulatory confidence in our operations.

There is no known enforcement history, building prohibition, or planning breach relevant to this or any other Wiggle-operated venue. Our venues are subject to regular checks by building control officers, fire safety assessors, and licensing enforcement teams, all of whom would raise immediate concerns if any

significant issue existed. The repetition of this claim, without documentation, cannot be considered credible in the context of a licensing decision.

Nitrous Oxide Canisters on the Premises

The objector references the presence of nitrous oxide canisters discovered outside the premises. It is acknowledged that such littering was **identified during the COVID-19 pandemic**, at a time when the venue was **closed to the public** in accordance with national restrictions.

This demonstrates that the issue was not connected to our operation or clientele. Since reopening, there have been **no further incidents of this kind**, and routine cleaning of the vicinity is carried out as part of our operational procedures. Moreover, our door supervisors and management team conduct regular perimeter checks to ensure that our immediate surroundings remain safe and presentable.

Ventilation and Disabled Access

Wiggle Bournemouth is among the **very few SEV venues in the UK with full disabled access**, including step-free entry, wide corridors, accessible toilets, and suitable seating arrangements. The venue complies fully with equality and accessibility standards. The objector's suggestion that the absence of a lift equates to non-compliance is **legally incorrect**. There is **no statutory requirement** for a lift where full ground-floor access is already provided. In regard to ventilation, Wiggle has a **professionally maintained HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) system**, which is regularly serviced and meets health and safety regulations. Our ventilation setup provides a comfortable and safe environment for staff, performers, and customers alike. Assertions to the contrary are again speculative and appear to be based on assumption, not inspection or fact.

Allegations of Prostitution

The objector implies, without any evidence, that illegal sexual services may be occurring at or in connection with the venue. We categorically reject this implication. There has never been **any investigation, complaint, or intelligence report** linking Wiggle Bournemouth to prostitution or related activity.

The operation of SEVs is heavily regulated. Our venues are under continuous CCTV monitoring, staffed with licensed door supervisors, and subject to regular inspections. In addition, our performers operate under a clear and strictly enforced code of conduct. Customers are reminded verbally and via signage that

sexual contact is not permitted and any breach of this rule results in immediate removal and a permanent ban.

Local Rehabilitation Centre

The objector references a rehabilitation centre operating in the area but fails to note that **no objection has been submitted** by the management or governing body of that facility. Wiggle is unaware of any concern expressed by the centre and has maintained a respectful and law-abiding presence in the local community.

In our view, it would be improper to speculate on the views of a separate organisation that has elected not to make a formal representation. The absence of objection from such a body should be seen as tacit recognition that our venue does not present a problem in terms of community health or welfare.

Protection of Children from Harm

The objector alleges that SEVs inherently present a risk to children. Wiggle implements comprehensive measures to ensure the **protection of children from harm**, in accordance with licensing objectives. These include:

- The **absence of any external advertising** on the premises.
- The use of **blacked-out windows and neutral external frontage** to avoid public visibility of any adult-themed material.
- A **Challenge 25 policy** to prevent underage access, enforced by trained staff and electronic ID verification.
- Performer age checks and legal right-to-work assessments.

Wiggle operates in a manner that is discreet, responsible, and completely appropriate within its setting in a licensed nightlife area. There are **no grounds to claim that children are at risk** from the lawful operation of our venue.

Character of Old Christchurch Road

Old Christchurch Road is an established part of Bournemouth's licensed leisure district, containing bars, nightclubs, takeaways, and late-night entertainment venues. The presence of an SEV is **consistent with the mixed-use character** of the area and has been accepted in planning and licensing terms for over two decades.

Families seeking alternative leisure options have access to numerous family-oriented attractions and areas elsewhere in Bournemouth, including the seafront, Lower Gardens, and town centre shopping areas. The notion that one licensed adult venue undermines the entire town's family offering is an

overstatement unsupported by either visitor data or council planning designations.

Pre-Purchased Packages

Wiggle offers **pre-purchased entertainment packages**, a standard practice across the hospitality and nightlife sector. All such packages are subject to **strict intoxication checks** upon arrival. If a customer is visibly intoxicated, they are **refused entry** and issued a refund, in line with our responsible alcohol policy and staff training.

This process mirrors protocols used by major nightclubs, event venues, and national bar chains. There is no evidence that this system has ever led to overconsumption or loss of control, and we continue to enforce it with the highest degree of professionalism and care.

Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

This point has already been addressed in earlier responses. Wiggle maintains that **performers have the right to lawful work** in a safe, licensed, and regulated environment. Denying such work opportunities based on moral or ideological opposition may itself raise concerns under the PSED, particularly when no evidence of harm exists.

Promotional Tokens and Wristbands

The images submitted by the objector clearly show branding for **Wiggle Portsmouth**, not the Bournemouth premises under consideration. We acknowledge that each location operates under a distinct licence and set of conditions. The submission of unrelated material from a different premises carries no relevance to the current renewal application and risks misleading the committee.

Online Promotions and Themed Events

The objector references a selection of promotional names and online graphics. All advertising is **online only**, aimed at customers aged 18+, and subject to platform age-verification standards. There are **no print materials**, public signage, or flyers in breach of licence conditions. Bournemouth's SEV licence does not regulate digital advertising, and no condition has been violated. The promotional content in question is **light-hearted and clearly satirical in tone**. These types of themes are common across nightlife venues and are not intended to offend. No complaints have been received from the public, and no action has been taken by the licensing authority.

This page is intentionally left blank

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE



Report subject	Consideration of continued suitability of Hackney Carriage Driver
Meeting date	7 May 2025
Status	Public Report with exempt appendices
Executive summary	<p>The Licensing Team have received information from Dorset Police in a witness statement which raised concerns about the conduct of a Licenced Hackney Carriage Driver who is also the proprietor of a Private Hire Vehicle. They consider that the information provided raises serious concerns in regard to the standard of behaviour expected of a licensed driver.</p> <p>In addition, the same named driver is linked to separate information submitted to the Licensing Team.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>The Licensing Sub-Committee determine whether the driver remains 'fit and proper to hold Hackney Carriage driver licence.</p> <p>The following options are available:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Written Caution b. Suspension for a defined period c. Revocation d. Take alternative action e. Take no action <p>Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee are asked to make a decision at the end of the hearing after all relevant parties have been given the opportunity to speak. Members must give full reasons for their decision.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>Section 61 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the Council to suspend, revoke or refuse to renew a drivers Licence for any reasonable cause.</p> <p>Section 51(1) and 59(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, provides that a district council shall not grant a licence – unless they are satisfied that the applicant is a fit and</p>

	<p>proper person to hold a driver's licence.</p> <p>The Council's Constitution sets out the responsibility of functions and of officers. The Licensing Committee has delegated decisions relating to public carriage licensing matters which fall outside of existing policies and disciplinary matters to Licensing Sub-Committee.</p>
--	---

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Kieron Wilson – Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director	Jillian Kay – Corporate Director for Wellbeing
Report Authors	Trudi Barlow – Licensing Officer Nananka Randle – Licensing and Trading Standards Manager
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. X has been a licenced driver with since 2017.
2. In addition, they also hold a Private Hire Vehicle Licence, the vehicle is currently registered with a local Private Hire Operator.
3. Full driver and vehicle details are detailed in Appendix 1.
4. On 20 March 2025 intelligence was shared by Dorset Police regarding X, this included a statement the driver had made to them regarding a separate ongoing investigation. This was shared with us as Dorset Police felt that the contents of the statement raised serious concerns that the behaviour which had fallen short of the standards expected of a licensed driver. See Appendix 2
5. The statement raises serious concerns about the conduct of the driver
6. All Licenced Drivers have to undertake Safeguarding training which is refreshed every three years when licences are renewed. X undertook the Blue Lamp Trust training in 2023, this course includes how to identify and report suspicious activity and to understand what is meant by Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation.
7. In the statement X confirms that they gave out their phone number and took private bookings. On checking our records X does not have a Private Hire Operators Licence as required by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 55 and consequently is in contravention of Section 46(d) of the same Act which states:-
46 Vehicle, drivers' and operators' licences.
(1) Except as authorised by this Part of this Act—.....
(d) no person shall in a controlled district operate any vehicle as a private hire vehicle without having a current licence under section 55 of this Act;
(2) If any person knowingly contravenes the provisions of this section, he shall be guilty of an offence.
8. At the end of the statement, reference is made to a dashcam.
9. Chapter 13 of BCP Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy states the following:-

13.8 Unauthorised equipment for the recording and replay of video and audio is not permitted.

13.9 Dashcams can be installed with the agreement of the licensing team, which must be set up correctly for recording outside of the vehicle only

10. All CCTV and dashcam installed in licensed vehicles should be registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which governs the protection of personal data.
11. On our annual vehicle renewal application form we ask if the vehicle is fitted with such system and provide a link to the ICO website which contains the necessary information and registration details.
12. There have been issues on vehicle licence renewal applications relating to declaration of CCTV/dashcam. See Appendix 1
13. Information was submitted to the Licensing team which falls short of expected behaviours by a BCP licence holders. See Appendix 1 and 3.
14. The Licensing Officer identified the driver involved which again calls into question their fitness to continue to hold a licence.
15. Attempts were made to contact X by phone however these were unsuccessful, an email was sent. To date no response has been received.

Test of Fit and Proper Person

16. Section 61 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that a Licensing Authority may suspend or revoke the licence of a driver of a hackney carriage or a private hire vehicle for any reasonable cause.
17. 'Fit and proper person' is a phrase that occurs in legislation but there is no judicially approved definition or test of fitness. In the absence of such a test, the Licensing Sub-Committee must look at the whole of a person's character before determining their suitability to hold a licence.

The leading case to consider when determining whether a driver is 'fit and proper' is

• *McCool v Rushcliffe Borough Council* 1998

'one must, it seems to me, approach this question bearing in mind the objectives of the licensing regime which is plainly intended to ensure, so far as possible, that those licensed to drive private hire vehicles are suitable persons to do so, namely that they are safe drivers, with good driving records and adequate experience, sober, mentally and physically fit, honest, and not persons who would take advantage of their employment to abuse or assault passengers'

18. The Institute of Licensing Guidance on determining the suitability of applicants and licensees in the hackney and private hire trades was published in 2018. This document reminds us that "The aim of local authority licensing of the taxi and PHV trades is to protect the public" and given the importance of this function reminds decision makers that any bar set when making determinations should be at the highest level.

Paragraph 1.2 states

The overriding aim of any Licensing Authority when carrying out its functions relating to the licensing of Hackney or Private Hire Drivers, Vehicle Proprietors and

Operators, must be the protection of the public and others who use (or can be affected by) Hackney Carriage and Private Hire services.

Paragraph 1.4 states

'if a licence holder falls short of the fit and proper standard at any time, the licence should be revoked or not renewed on application to do so'

Paragraph 3.16 of the Guidance sets out the test widely used by Local Authorities

'Would you (as a member of the licensing committee or other person charged with the ability to grant a hackney carriage driver's licence) allow your son or daughter, spouse or partner, mother or father, grandson or granddaughter or any other person for whom you care, to get into a vehicle with this person alone?'

The Guidance reminds us in Paragraph 3.28 that

case law makes it clear that the impact of losing a driver's licence on the applicant and his family is not a consideration to be taken into account. Leeds City Council v Hussain [2002] EWHC 1145 (Admin)

19. Members are also asked to consider the guidance within the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards issued by the Department for Transport which was updated in November in 2022– in particular paragraph 5.3 – 5.4 set out guidance for decision makers. At 5.4

Licensing authorities have a duty to ensure that any person to whom they grant a taxi or private hire vehicle driver's licence is a fit and proper person to be a licensee. It may be helpful when considering whether an applicant or licensee is fit and proper to pose oneself the following question:

Without any prejudice, and based on the information before you, would you allow a person for whom you care, regardless of their condition, to travel alone in a vehicle driven by this person at any time of day or night?

If, on the balance of probabilities, the answer to the question is no, the individual should not hold a licence.

Licensing authorities have to make difficult decisions but (subject to the general principles) the safeguarding of the public is paramount. All decisions on the suitability of an applicant or licensee should be made on the balance of probability. This means that an applicant or licensee should not be given the benefit of doubt. If the committee or delegated officer is only 50/50 as to whether the applicant or licensee is fit and proper, they should not hold a licence. The threshold used here is lower than for a criminal conviction (that being beyond reasonable doubt) and can take into consideration conduct that has not resulted in a criminal conviction.

20. Members should apply the requirements of the BCP Taxi and Private Hire Driver's Policy and this guidance when considering whether X is a fit and proper person and whether they should continue to hold a driver's licence.

Options Appraisal

21. Members are asked to consider all the information provided and then take one of the following options:
 - a. Written Caution
 - b. Suspension for a defined period

- c. Revocation
- d. Take alternative action
- e. Take no action

Summary of financial implications

22. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

23. Anyone aggrieved by a decision has the right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court within a period of 21 days beginning with the day that the applicant is notified, in writing, of the decision.

Summary of human resources implications

24. There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

25. There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

26. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Summary of equality implications

27. There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Summary of risk assessment

28. There are no risk assessment implications arising from this report.

Background papers

BCP Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Policy (2021-2025)

[Taxi-and-Private-Hire-Drivers-Policy](#)

BCP Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy (2021-2025)

[BCP-Hackney-Carriage-and-Private-Hire-Vehicle-Policy](#)

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 [Local Government \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1976](#)

Institute of Licensing Guidance on determining the suitability of applicants and licensees in the hackney and private hire trades

[Publications - Institute of Licensing \(IoL\)](#)

Department of Transport Statutory taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards July 2020 updated in November 2022

[Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards - GOV.UK](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Driver details and details of the issues being reported

Appendix 2 – Statement shared by Dorset Police

Appendix 3 – Information extract

Appendix 4 – Email sent to X by Licensing Officer

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank