

[REDACTED]
Wingate Drive,
Amphill,
Bedfordshire,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Date: 7th February 2012

TO:

Public Protection,
Central Bedfordshire,
Watling Street North,
Dunstable,
LU6 1LF.



Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object against extending the opening hours of Shayler's Lap Dancing Club at 4 Church Street Amphill to 4:00 AM on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The day of the week is insignificant, it could be any, the objection is to any day of the week.

In the response below I hope to cover the following points:

1. Prevention of crime and disorder
2. Public safety
3. Prevention of nuisance
4. Protection of children from harm

My main concern is for the safety of the younger population of Amphill especially our two teenagers making their way home in the early hours. The majority of local residents have no requirement for an establishment to serve alcohol up to 3:30AM. Visitors will be from out of town and will no doubt be worse for wear when leaving at 4:00AM causing a public nuisance on a residential street. Have you considered the public safety issue where loiterers could clash with local paper boys/girls collecting their rounds from Martin's directly opposite?

The town is now very quiet after 1:00AM on Fridays and Saturdays after the White Hart lost its late license, we would like to keep it that way.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Woburn Street
[REDACTED] Ampthill
[REDACTED] Bedfordshire [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Licensing Team
Central Bedfordshire Council
Watling House
High Street North
Dunstable
Bedfordshire LU6 1LF

10 February 2013

Dear Sirs

Applications to vary premises licence - 15 January 2013 – ‘Lord’ John Shayler – Shaylers

- 1) You have published notices of applications dated 15 January 2013 by a person calling himself Lord John Shayler (“Shayler”) for variation of licences granted by Central Bedfordshire Council (“the Council”) in relation to a venue known as Shaylers at 4 Church Street, Ampthill, as follows:
 - a) Application to allow sex entertainment to take place from 19:00 hours to 04:00 hours on Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays (current licence is 01:30 hours).
 - b) Application for performance of dance to be added as a licensed activity and allowed to 04:00 hours on Thursdays, Friday and Saturdays, and for sales of alcohol to be licensed till 03:30 hours on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.
- 2) Your notices invite members of the public who wish to make representations to do so in writing by 12 February 2013. Please treat this letter as our representations in relation to the applications.
- 3) We object to all the variations applied for.

Consumption of alcohol

- 4) So far as the application to extend the licensable hours for the consumption of alcohol is concerned, the position is that Shaylers is located in the centre of Ampthill. The centre of Ampthill is a residential area. There have in recent years been increasing problems caused for the residents by late night drinkers. As a

consequence of these and other problems the licence of the White Hart, which is virtually opposite Shaylers, has as a result of a review of its licence on 22 January 2013 been significantly cut back with all licensable activities to cease at 23:30 hours, seven days a week.

- 5) While Ampthill is a town and has a healthy pub trade, with seven pubs (The Queen's Head, the Prince of Wales, the White Hart, the Ossory Arms, the Engine and Tender, the Old Sun and the Albion) all within a few hundred yards of the centre and trading daily till about midnight, it is not an appropriate locality for drinking to be going on until after midnight. By virtue of the same principle, it is not an appropriate locality for public drinking to be going on until half past three in the morning.
- 6) Virtually anyone who has stayed out drinking until half past three in the morning will be drunk. As the committee will know from the mass of evidence that was put before it in the case of the White Hart, and indeed ought to be obvious to it from its experience of life generally, drunk people have a significantly disproportionate tendency to make noise, create mess and damage property – that is, to create public nuisance and commit crime. The Council does not need, and should not require, direct evidence that the proposed all-night drinkers of Shayler's establishment will cause trouble for local residents. It is to be inferred that they are likely to do so from the fact that they choose to spend the whole night drinking.
- 7) I note that on the review of the licence of the White Hart the police gave evidence of 5 incidents of public nuisance *alone* (i.e. not including crime) attributable to the White Hart *alone* in Ampthill since August, generally around 2-3 a.m. Having addressed this problem by taking action against the White Hart, how could the Council possibly justify granting a very late licence to premises 70 metres away when there is no reason to doubt that the result would be similar incidents?
- 8) If Shayler wants to operate an all-night drinking establishment he should be compelled to do it in a non-residential area. Until the recent decision to restrict the licensing hours of the White Hart, the residents of central Ampthill have suffered long enough at the hands of bad licensing decisions in favour of the liquor trade and late-night drinkers from other parts of Bedfordshire. Please do not inflict public nuisance on us again.

Sex entertainment/dancing

- 9) It is a mystery why the Council granted a licence to Shayler to operate a sex entertainment venue in the middle of Ampthill in the first place. The Council has never given any coherent explanation for its decision to override the opposition from 128 local residents. The principal objection of many people, including us, to the original licence was that Ampthill is not an appropriate locality for the operation of the sex entertainment venue. That continues to be the position and is the general background against which the Council should consider this latest application.

- 10) We cannot see why the license to provide sex entertainment should run any later than the license to supply alcohol, or should be extended any later than its present limits. There is, so far as we are aware, no evidence whatever that Ampthill has any need for sex entertainment until three or four o'clock in the morning. The only customers that Shayler will attract will be from other towns and villages. There is no reason to think that they will be careful to avoid disturbing local residents when they are turned out at four in the morning after hours of pouring booze down their throats and leering at strippers. The public nuisance that has dropped off very considerably since the Council took firm action against the White Hart will be revived from Shaylers.
-

Conclusion

- 11) We submit that the Council should be concerned to ensure that residential areas inhabited by families like ours who pay their council tax and do not ask for much in return, are not subjected to disturbances of any kind after midnight. If the Council has any doubts, it should resolve them in favour of protecting local residents, not the commercial interests of people like Shayler. Please reject his applications.

Yours






[Redacted]
Rectory Lane
Amphill
Beds
[Redacted]

11 February 2013

licensing.section@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire Council
Watling Street North
Dunstable
LU6 1LF

Dear Sirs/Mesdames

Application to extend the licence obtained by the establishment "Shaylers" at 4 Church Street, Amphill ("Shaylers")

We understand that applications have been made to; (1) extend the operating hours and the provision of sexual entertainment until 4am and; (2) the supply of alcohol until 3.30am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

We wish to strongly object to these applications.

We farm land in Gas House Lane and have had problems with people coming down there after Shaylers shuts, doing drugs, hanging out in the lane and leaving litter, including empty bottles of alcohol. The police have had to be called on one occasion. We know these people are associated with Shaylers as we have talked to them, including one time when people came to retrieve their abandon car. They have been lap dancers and men who had been to the club.

The granting of any such extension would **undermine** the 4 licensing objectives imposed by the Council which are:

- The prevention of Crime and Disorder**
- Public Safety**
- The Prevention of Public Nuisance**
- The Protection of Children from harm**

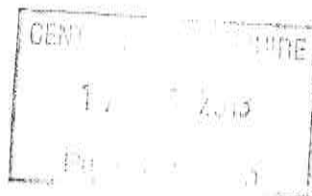
We are afraid that the longer people are allowed to drink, the more intoxicated they will become and the more problems they cause. Extending the operating hours and sale of alcohol will only be a detriment to the Amphill community and those who have to police it.

We trust that due consideration will be given to the above points and we look forward to hearing from you. If we can be of any further assistance, then please do not hesitate to contact us. We also understand that our identity will not be passed to the applicant unless our permission is given.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

Central Bedfordshire Council
Watling Street North
Dunstable
LU6 1LF



Church Ave
Amphill
Bedfordshire

11/02/13

Re: Application to extend the licence at Shaylers, 4 Church Street, Amphill

Dear Sir

We wish to object to both the applications to extend the operating hours of the venue and the extensions of license to supply alcohol.

We consider it a totally unsuitable location to operate in this way. The town centre houses many residents in very close proximity to both the venue itself and the parking area available to its visitors.

For many years a large number of local residents have suffered the consequences of disturbances from the other town centre venue with a late license, The White Hart. They have been subjected to noise, vandalism and petty crime and anti-social behaviour. The council has clearly appreciated the extent of this problem and had the sense to respond to these concerns by curtailing the licence accordingly, for which we are all very relieved.


It would therefore be considered a contraction of its own policies and objectives in terms of prevention of public nuisance and of crime and disorder to 'transfer' the problem across the road within a few yards to 'Shaylers' by extending the licensing here.

The majority of disturbance to others occurs as people arrive and depart from these venues, provision of such a late license would mean that any disturbance would no longer be finite, and residents would have to endure intermittent disturbance the whole night through, which would be intolerable.

We personally felt intimidated by customers of Shaylers whilst walking back with our children from an evening meal at the Prince of Wales. We walked back the 'quiet way' through the car park to steer clear of the groups of youngsters that were on the square, not realising that Shaylers had now opened. We encountered a group of leery gents who had just parked up and were heading into Shaylers. Some of these men were 'under the influence' and made us feel very uncomfortable as we walked past them trying to ignore their gaze. We had my husband in our party and for that I was grateful but we still felt very intimidated by these 'out-of-towners'. And this was at the point where they had not even gone into the venue.

We have serious concerns over the extension of licensing for Shaylers and request that you consider turning down the application.

Regards



Patricia Davies

From: Dave McBain
Sent: 12 February 2013 11:44
To: Patricia Davies
Subject: FW: Objection to application for variation of premises licence Shaylers Ampthill

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 February 2013 11:09
To: Dave McBain
Subject: Objection to application for variation of premises licence Shaylers Ampthill

Dear Mr McBain,

Re: Application for variation of premises licence – John Shayler – Shaylers, 4 Church Street, Ampthill

As a local resident, home owner, and business owner living on Dunstable Street I strongly object to any application to increase the operating licence of the business named above. It is no exaggeration to state that every Friday and Saturday night our property is subject to some form of antisocial behaviour from the customers of the many local pubs and clubs in the centre of Ampthill. Antisocial behaviour has manifest itself across a broad spectrum ranging from loud noise to the pushing of doorbells frequently after 23:00 and to the smashing of windows and other minor levels of vandalism.

Whilst accepting that this level of behaviour is something that one must now come to expect when living in a town the prospect of extending the operating hours of local businesses, that supply the majority of the persons that then go onto cause disruptive behaviour, is something I would not want to see happen.

It is my observation that the increase of these opening hours would likely lead to an increase in the hours at which disruptive, antisocial behaviour will take place in the streets leading to and from the centre of Ampthill and that this increase will need to be met with an increase in the workload for the local police station.

I hope you will take my objections into account when you consider the application.

Please confirm receipt of this letter.

Yours, sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dunstable Street
Ampthill
Beds.
[REDACTED]

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12/02/2013

Chandos Road
Amphill
Bedfordshire

10 February 2013



Licensing Team
Central Bedfordshire Council
Watling House
High Street North
Dunstable
Bedfordshire LU6 1LF

Dear Licensing Team

This correspondence is to protest against the application to extend the licensing hours of Shaylers "Sex Establishment", in the Market Square, Amphill, until 4am.

- The aim of this letter is not only to state, quite clearly, that the license should not be extended to 4am, but also to demonstrate that, ultimately, the licensing committee has within its grasp the right to withdraw the license altogether.
- **Central Amphill is the location for religious worship.** St Andrew's Church is located in Church Street. Those who attend events and ceremonies use the car park adjacent to Shaylers. Amphill Methodist Church and Amphill Baptist Church are located in Dunstable Street and are passed by pedestrians walking to and from the town centre. The Market Square is also used for Christian worship: the two minutes silence on 11 November and Christmas events, not least carol singing. Each Remembrance Sunday there is a large march through the town by people of all ages, from children's groups to war veterans, and it is not acceptable in any way, shape or form that such a significant event should have to walk passed a Sex Establishment.
- **The Market Square is central to Amphill's regeneration** and the focal point for locals and visitors. A substantial sum of money was spent upgrading the square: cobbles were laid, black posts erected, benches deployed and flower beds established to improve the locality. The town centre is also the location for historic buildings of character, some of which are listed, and Shaylers clearly undermines all the efforts that have been made by local people and organisations over recent times. Amphill town centre is also a transport hub, there is a plan to enhance the town as a tourist attraction, a cafe has been constructed in Amphill Park, Center Parcs is opening soon, and a cycle way had been built so that visitors to Center Parcs can ride into Amphill. A huge effort has also been made to raise funds to refurbish Parkside Hall in Woburn Street. Work on the refurbishment is to start imminently. All-in-all, there will be significantly more visitors coming to Amphill in the years ahead. Also, Amphill has established a very successful town twinning with Nissan-lez-Ensérune in the south of France. The mayor of Nissan attended the Remembrance Day march through the town centre in 2012.
- **Protection of minors.** The Market Square is a *de facto* play area for children, primarily on scooters, but also ball games. The benches are also a meeting point for young people. Also, each November, the streets of central Amphill are closed for the lights switch on and a fair is held in the car park (where the main entrance to Shaylers is). This event is planned all year and involves a considerable amount of organisation and fund-raising and is primarily for the young. Do the licensing committee feel that it is appropriate that the carnival queen and princesses have appear on a stage before hundreds of locals against the backdrop of a lap-dancing club? There is also a children's toy shop directly opposite. Do the licensing committee think that it is right that children from France, as part of the twinning, should be exposed to the existence of Shaylers when they visit, and what does the committee believe this achieves for the town's reputation? This clearly undermines the efforts of Amphill to create a good impression overseas.

- **Amphill town centre is a residential area.** Houses are located in the town centre and many doors that front the town centre lead to flats located above the commercial premises.
- **There is a charity shop with a view that looks directly at Shaylers** and there are also two bus stops nearby: one in Church Street and another in Bedford Street. There is also a detrimental impact on regular businesses, especially as many residents no longer go into the town centre in the evenings because of anti-social behaviour and the sordid climate. The door staff at Shaylers cannot protect the public outside the premises.
- **Opposition to Shaylers in Amphill is almost total** – for it is the locals who bear the brunt of all the negative consequences. Not only was there the biggest-ever demonstration in Amphill, covered by BBC Look East, but also a petition, while our local MP, Nadine Dorries, raised the issue directly to David Cameron at Prime Minister's Question Time. When the license was granted initially much was made of the fact that there were few complaints. This is no longer the case.
- It is critical that the licensing committee **take full account of the local police** beyond the simplistic statistics on anti-social behaviour. In Henley-on-Thames a club that opened in 2009 was closed down in 2011 on the orders of the police. Like Amphill, Henley-on-Thames, also witnessed a protest march. Do police in Amphill support late-night licenses? The license of the White Hart, opposite Shaylers, has been reviewed because of anti-social behaviour, noise pollution, underage drinking and drug-taking. Given that the hours of the White Hart have been reduced to midnight, to extend the hours of Shaylers, forty yards over the road, is perverse. There is a consensus of opinion amongst protesters that Amphill needs one closing time for all, not later than midnight.
- The argument promoted by Central Bedfordshire Council was that they had no choice but to allow the license if all legal aspects were followed. This is untrue as several councils across England have introduced a **'nil' policy**: Bromley Town, Enfield, Haringey, Merton, North Tyneside, Richmond-upon-Thames, Slough, Wellingborough, Winchester and Cambridge.
- It should also be stated that **the license for a Sex Establishment can be withdrawn even if the business complies with all the terms of its license**, is well run, is supported by good testimonials from visitors, and only opens after all other businesses have closed down for the day. This was the case in Leamington, Warwickshire, in 2011, concerning Shades Gentleman's Club, in the High Street. The club was closed on the grounds that it detracted from the character of the area, undermined attempts at regeneration, adversely affected residents, and because there was a place of worship nearby. These four reasons also relate to Amphill, as detailed above, and on this basis, **Shaylers should be closed down.**
- The licensing committee must establish what activities visitors to Shaylers engage in before entering and after leaving. This entails an examination of problems in other parts of Amphill as a result of the opening of the lap-dancing club; such problems effect residents beyond the town centre. There is also considerable noise, shouting and car doors slamming in the main car park during the night.
- **Amphill in recent years has been bedevilled by anti-social and criminal behaviour**, including drug-taking, underage drinking, street violence, and in 2012 there was a homicide. Given recent events concerning the White Hart, the reputation of the licensing committee is low, and any move to extend the license will lead to a wholesale loss of faith in the system. This is not in the interests of the licensing committee or the people of Amphill. The previous extension of the White Hart license until the early hours created serious problems which have been well documented and brought many residents to the end of their tether. When a town like Amphill has large-scale demonstrations, self-evidently, things are going badly wrong.
- On the basis of the above evidence, I strongly implore the licensing committee to stand by the people of Amphill, those who matter most in this case, and reject the application to extend the license.

With regards