

[REDACTED]
Brewery Lane
Amphill
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

9 February 2013

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

Re: Application for variation of sex establishment licence – John Shayler – Shaylers, 4 Church Street, Amphill

We write to oppose most strongly the proposed extension of the late opening licence for the above premises from 01.30 to 04.00 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The centre of Amphill, while it contains retail and other businesses, is also a heavily residential area. There are family homes on Church Street, Dunstable Street and Woburn Street; all very close to the venue, which is near the junction where these roads meet. There are also apartments above the new shops on Bedford Street, on the same block as the venue. The potential for late-night noise and disturbance of people leaving the club is therefore very high. We live about 200 yards from Shayler's venue on Brewery Lane, part of the densely populated Park Hill residential area.

As you will know, the Licensing Committee recently withdrew the late-night licence from the Cellar Night Club, just a few yards away from 4 Church Street, owing to frequent late-night disturbances. An extension in hours for Shayler's establishment would undermine and possibly negate the effect of this decision.

In addition, an inspection by Amphill Street Watch patrol on 1st February revealed that a group of very young males, probably under-age and drinking alcohol, were taking an interest in the sex entertainment venue, giving rise to considerable cause for concern as local authorities have a duty to protect children from harm. The Street Watch Patrol have provided us with an excerpt from their report, as follows:

AMPTHILL STREET WATCH Patrol Report - Friday 1st February 2013

".....As we approached the Post Office, we saw 8-10, I guess 14-16 year olds (referred hereupon as the group) mainly male walk across the street to look into Shaylers' front window. They proceeded round the back of the building to the front

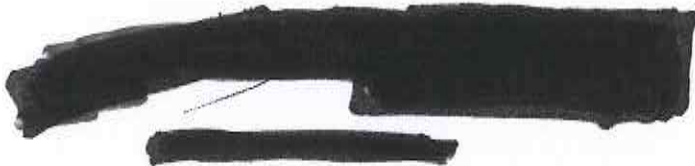
entrance of the SEV [sex entertainment venue]. The group was scruffily dressed with baseball caps and hoods, and behaved in an anti-social manner. Some carried bottles.

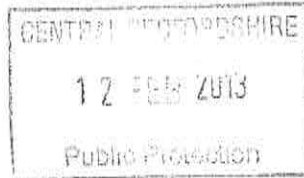
'We followed them and at the SEV entrance could hear them 'mouthing off'. We could see Shaylers' door staff being very wary of the situation wishing to avoid any confrontation. When we arrived on scene, the door staff were clearly relieved to see us. Apart from two males of the group, one of whom had a bottle of lager in his hand, the group dispersed quickly. For a few moments we soaked up verbal abuse from these two before they went away 'having had their say'.

'Our main concern about the group was the anti-social behaviour, underage drinking, lack of parental control, and attraction towards the SEV".

The proposed extension must be strongly and unanimously opposed by the same committee that revoked the Cellar night-club license; for the same reasons and based on the fact that it is in the same, heavily residential area.

Yours sincerely

A large, thick black redaction mark covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.



Grange Road
Amphill

10 February 2013

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

Dear Sirs,

**Extended opening hours under consideration
at Shaylers, 4 Church Street Amphill MK45 2EH**

I am writing to object to the proposed extension to the current opening hours at the above SEV, presently being considered by the Licensing department.

Amphill is a very small town, with no other venues/businesses open in the middle of the night/early hours of the morning. The Sexual Entertainment Venue is located very close to flats and houses in our little town centre. It is completely inappropriate to encourage more customers to this venue, particularly at these unsociable hours. The majority of users must have to drive to the club and any additional traffic generated in the middle of the night is entirely incompatible in such a small town, and will also impact on adjacent villages en route- Flitwick, Maulden etc.

The protracted opening hours will obviously extend the inevitable noise created as people enter/exit the SEV- car doors slamming and bawdy groups of SEV users returning to their vehicles, or awaiting taxis, further disturbing the sleep of residents who live in our town centre.

I do not understand why a license was initially granted for a SEV in Amphill in the first place!

Yours faithfully-

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]

Fallowfield
Amphill

Public Protection
Central Bedfordshire Council
Watling House
High Street North
Dunstable
LU6 1LF

7th February 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Application for extension of alcohol/dance licence in respect of Sex Entertainment Venue at, 4 Church Street, Amphill

This letter is in regard to the application to extend the alcohol/dance licensing hours at the above venue. Please treat this letter as a letter of objection.

Recent press reports have drawn the attention of the public to the curtailment of the late night licensing arrangements at the *White Hart* in Amphill. This restriction on late night opening was based on incidents taking place in the vicinity of the town centre after normal licensing hours. Bedfordshire Police reports from 2011, logged an increasing level of anti-social behaviour in the town centre during 2010 and there is evidence from town centre residents that this has increased rather than diminished.

It therefore seems inappropriate to remove the late night licence to serve alcohol from one establishment, and a few weeks later grant a similar licence to another establishment close by. The evidence accumulated by police and residents is that the problems occur outside the premises, as drinkers disperse, not within the premises. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the problem will increase especially as the application in front to the Committee, requests an alcohol licence until 3.30 am.

In common with all other town centres in the UK, Amphill faces increasing pressure on businesses, located close to the venue in question. The business community in the town have made great efforts to encourage the use of local venues and there are some remarkable successes despite a difficult economic climate. The after dark economy including a mix of restaurants and pubs are an essential part of this and lead to a lively town centre, but there is evidence that late night anti-social behaviour will discourage the use of local venues. A balance of eating and drinking venues, which are well managed, will lead to increasing use, after night fall. Fear of anti-social behaviour and reports of disturbance in the centre of the town will have an opposite effect reducing the number of local people using the venues and eventually lead to business closures.

Therefore the licensing committee have a serious choice to make. Support local business owners who offer a well run facility, or take a risk that excessive late night alcohol consumption will further undermine the confidence of people to use these venues late at night. This will lead to business closures. The decision involves a balance which is important to the economy of Amphill.

I therefore hope that due consideration is given to all the factors including support to sustainable businesses when a decision on the licence is under consideration.

Please confirm that this letter will be put before the Licensing Committee who will hear Mr Shayler's application and confirm when and where the application will be heard.

Yours faithfully



Fallowfield
Amphill

Public Protection
Central Bedfordshire Council
Watling House
High Street North
Dunstable
LU6 1LF



7th February 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Application for extension of sex entertainment licence in respect of 4 Church Street, Amphill

This letter is in regard to the application to extend the sex entertainment licensing hours at the above venue. Please treat this letter as a letter of objection.

Please consider the fact that the Club has only been open since 30th November 2012 therefore it is much too early to consider an extension of its license. As yet there has been no time to assess if the conditions of the original license are being met.

Recent press reports have drawn the attention of the public to the curtailment of the late night licensing arrangements at the *White Hart* in Amphill. This restriction on late night opening was based on incidents taking place in the vicinity of the town centre after normal licensing hours. Bedfordshire Police reports from 2011, logged an increasing level of anti-social behaviour in the town centre during 2010 and there is evidence from town centre residents that this has increased rather than diminished.

It would seem that it is difficult to learn if the Club so far has been meeting the conditions of its license. So, for the council to extend said license would further back the belief of local residents that the council does not take into consideration the wishes of local residents to whom it is supposed to be accountable.

Therefore the licensing committee have a serious choice to make. Support local business owners who offer a well run facility, or take a risk that excessive late night disruption fuelled by alcohol consumption will further undermine the confidence of people to use these venues late at night. This will lead to business closures.

The license is up for review in August 2013. At that point the ability and willingness of the Club to meet its conditions and the ability of the Council to enforce those conditions can be scrutinised.

I therefore hope that due consideration is given to all the factors including support to sustainable businesses when a decision on the licence is under consideration.

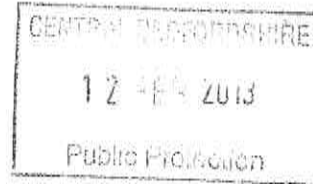
Please confirm that this letter will be put before the Licensing Committee who will hear Mr Shaylor's application and confirm when and where the application will be heard.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

[REDACTED] Dunstable Street
Amphill
Bedfordshire
[REDACTED]



Public Protection
Central Bedfordshire Council
Watling Street North
Dunstable
LU6 1LF
12th February 2013

Dear Sirs

Re: Application for extension of alcohol licence in respect of Sex Entertainment Venue at 4 Church Street, Amphill

I write with regard to the application to extend the alcohol licensing hours at the above venue.

I would ask that you reconsider the extension to this licence as it is not in the interests of the residents of the centre of Amphill, of which there are many living in and above the businesses within the town centre. We have experienced late night rowdy behaviour and the potential for problems to be extended to 4am seems unnecessary and if not controlled will only fuel the consumption of more alcohol at a time when the rest of the town has closed down for the night.

For customers to be leaving such a venue at 4am and of course potentially hanging around the town centre early morning could mean that they would be in contact with young people as part of paper rounds and individuals on their way to work, something which is not appropriate.

I understand that the alcohol licence for The White Hart has recently been restricted to 11.30pm as a result of problems encountered by late night licences. This means that we could potentially have a disparity of opening hours between venues of over four hours.

Please confirm that this letter will be read out before the Licensing Committee who will hear Mr Shayler's application and confirm when and where the Licencing hearing will take place.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Patricia Davies

From: Dave McBain
Sent: 12 February 2013 15:35
To: Patricia Davies
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 January 2013 14:55
To: Dave McBain
Subject: Re: Fw: sex establishment in ampthill

dear mr mcbain,my original objection to 4 church st,ampthill.any further extension re the licence must be refused outright as the antipathy previously was immense from residents.we have recently established a precedence re the centre of ampthill being residential(white hart),and a flat NO must be the response from the licensing panel- yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

--- On Sat, 8/9/12, [REDACTED]:

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: sex establishment in ampthill
To: james.jamieson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Cc: dorries@parliament.uk, staff.officer@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk, council@ampthilltowncouncil.org.uk
Date: Saturday, 8 September, 2012, 15:02

--- On Thu, 6/9/12, [REDACTED] wrote:

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: sex establishment in ampthill
To: kirbstone@btinternet.com
Date: Thursday, 6 September, 2012, 19:05

Dear Mr Jamieson,

I am appalled,dismayed,and utterly incredulous that the licensing subcommittee have granted a license to 4 church street,ampthill for a sex establishment.

In spite of numerous objections,including one from our own Town Council,and little evidence" of positive support for the applicant,the committee have ignored the people whom they represent-namely ampthill residents.

In your statement of licensing policy,(schedule3 local goernment act),it states that there should be a balance re commerce,and preserving local heritage and protecting local residents.It has taken centuries to create ampthill's heritage and reputation as an historic market town,now actively promoted by our town council.But it has only taken one meeting to potentially damage both heritage and reputation-shameful.

Listed in your licensing policy are criteria to be noted in helping you make your decisions,particularly,in this case

- a)residential area
- b)churches
- c)gateway to localities
- d)alcohol premises

These four out of seven apply to Ampthill.The market square is a crossroads and meeting place at all times of the day,for one and all.Including church

goers, and children who frequently congregate in the evenings. The intended opening at 7pm will not avoid or reduce the exposure to children—reduce is not an option, "avoid" should be mandatory. Neglect of the latter has potential for abuse, especially in such a prominent place as a market square (there is also a children's shop directly opposite). I wonder if the child protection agency would be interested?

As a result of previous licensing for late night opening at the White Hart in the centre of Ampthill, we have been subjected to antisocial behaviour late at night at closing time at weekends (noise, urination, vomit, discarding bottles and broken windows) since its inception. As a result, we have formed resident associations

to object to the town council, and had a meeting with the proprietor and police licensing officer—to no avail, it continues. The consequences of granting this license have been catastrophic. Our lives are disrupted already, and we do not need any further problems. The proximity of the White Hart to 4 Church Street should have had a major bearing on the decision to grant a license.

The police officer stated that there was "no significant crime in the locality". And yet, statistics gleaned from crime maps (www.police.uk) show the following figures within 1 mile of Ampthill, for the last 12 months—

- a) all crime=422 incidents
- b) re antisocial behaviour (asb)=164
- c) asb in centre of Ampthill=48
- d) asb along Dunstable Street=44
- e) violent crime=37, within centre of Ampthill=12

Hardly insignificant figures for a small market town, and if the facts had been known at the meeting, they might have had a bearing re your decision.

Ampthill's heritage and reputation should have been enough to have refused a license. The other criteria aforementioned, and statistics of crime should have added further weight for refusal. In July, Bedford Borough Council refused a license for an exactly similar request, purely on the grounds of locality!! I would argue that Ampthill has more heritage than Lurke Street in Bedford, and their council was using the same licensing policy. At the moment, there are plans to promote a visitors centre—a sex establishment is hardly conducive to adding to Ampthill's heritage.

We feel hugely aggrieved and let down by the committee. They plainly had no regard to the affect upon local residents, who are increasingly voicing grievances, anger and discontent. Unfortunately, in this incident, this tick box approach has negated any common sense when making their decision. Indeed, it appears that the reasoning was that a refusal might have led to a successful appeal, an act, lacking in courage, to make a correct decision for the right and just reasons—shameful, and it is us, not you, who have to live with the consequences of your decision. We have rights, but no right of appeal! The outcome of this quasi-judicial process is certainly not judicious.

Yours Sincerely,



ps I trust that the council will address the following

- a) double yellow lines have been painted by the applicant by the back entrance—(permission granted? does he own the land and therefore have a right to do so?)
- b) mirrored windows installed in an historic building—permission granted?
- c)? fire escape from the basement
- d)? planning consent for change of use—we can only hope that the planning committee acts with common sense, and refuses consent

[REDACTED]
Church Street
Amphill
Bedfordshire
[REDACTED]

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

12 February 2013

Dear Sirs,

Variation of Sex Establishment License – Shaylers, Amphill

We, the undersigned, wish to object to the proposed licensing variation for the above establishment.

The current license allows the establishment to be open until 01:30, and the application is for this to be extended until 04:00 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

In our opinion, this is far too late for any public premises to be open in a small town like Amphill. The centre of Amphill, as pointed out at the recent review of the premises license for the White Hart, which is less than a hundred metres from Shaylers, is partly residential: a surprising number of households, including those with children, live within 150 metres of Shaylers. All these households would be subject to the noise of departing guests at the ungodly hour of 4 am if the variation was granted, to say nothing of the comings and goings previous to that hour.

Having recently succeeded in our quest to compel the White Hart to close by midnight, we would like the other licensed premises in Amphill, including Shaylers, to be subject to the same restriction. This would allow the residents of the town centre, including ourselves, to sleep without being woken by traffic and human noise.

For these reasons we ask that the sex establishment license for Shaylers, Amphill, be varied to require it to close by midnight.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]