

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the Licence application of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 10 May 2019 13:34

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the Licence application of Spearmint Rhino

Hello

I wish to object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the license.

Notwithstanding the possible breaches that may have happened, the strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial commodity rather than a human being and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

The Council has the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license, something which the Council does not appear to understand. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

For all of those reasons given above I expect the Council to refuse this license application
Yours

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to SEV application

From:

Sent: 11 May 2019 21:00

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to SEV application

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to renewal of the Sex Entertainment Venue license for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I am a Councillor with Southend Borough Council and I have served on the Licensing Committee for two years, during which time the Sex Establishment Policy has been reviewed, a nil cap has been implemented and conditions have been changed for performers in the town's existing SEVs.

From my knowledge and experience of Sex Establishment licensing, it is absolutely clear to me that this renewal application must be refused and an immediate review of policy undertaken to include a nil cap.

Evidence has been made publicly available in the national press of breaches in conditions at this club, and at least one other with the same licence holder, which clearly indicates the licence holder and management team are unsuitable to hold a licence. I cannot see how the Licensing Authority can be satisfied that the applicant is honest, that they are qualified to hold the licence, that they understand the licensing conditions or that they are competent. Under these discretionary grounds alone the renewal of the licence must be refused. The applicant seems unable to monitor or enforce conditions of the licence and, if policies are in place to protect the welfare of staff and performer, these are clearly inadequate and not followed.

The fact that this club has been issued with a licence at all is shocking considering its location. A renewal must be refused on the grounds that the character and locality of the area is not appropriate or suitable for a Sex Entertainment Venue. Other premises in the vicinity include the Students' Union of Sheffield Hallam University, Together Women who are supporting vulnerable women and girls, UTC who are educating children and Freeman College which is serving young people. If the Licensing Authority considers this to be an appropriate area for the club I would like to know where they would consider inappropriate.

I would expect that all councillors who sit on the Licencing Committee or sub-committees to have had specialist, specific training around licensing of Sex Establishments and, in particular, Sex Entertainment Venues. Assuming this is the case, I would urge those members, in light of revelations about conditions with the club, to think carefully about how the performers are safeguarded from harm, especially acts of sexual harassment and sexual violence perpetrated by customers. It is clear to me that this club is not, and cannot ever, be a safe place for performers, staff or customers and I strongly urge the Licensing Committee to refuse the renewal application.

Best regards,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection letter re Spearmint Rhino's re licence

From:

Sent: 12 May 2019 16:16

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection letter re Spearmint Rhino's re licence

12/05/19

To the Licencing Service

I refer to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence. I call for the council to refuse it. I believe the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's SEV licensing policy on the following grounds.

- Sexual entertainment venues discriminate against women and objectify and dehumanise them. SEVs perpetuate inequality between the sexes.
- The year is 2019. We are well into the 21st century and SEVs should be a thing of the past. How do they help create a culture where men and women respect each other's humanity?
- The location of SR opposite Sheffield Showroom and near student accommodation places it where families, young people and children are exposed to it. Is this the role model of respectful adult behaviour we want to show children and young people?
- Sheffield Council have a chance here to make a stand against sexist and degrading practises. For those who say this is robbing women of the chance to make a living I'd ask, who is actually making the real money in this business? It's not the women on the ground floor!
- A recent undercover investigation revealed that in order to make money at SR the women there seem to be e pecked to perform 'extra' services that are in breech of the clubs licencing rules.

Thank you

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal Objection
Attachments: objection letter 2019.docx

From:
Sent: 12 May 2019 11:54
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal Objection

Dar Licensing,

Please find attached my objection to the licence renewal of Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield.

All best,

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD

11th May 2019

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable" [1]

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into

account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage” [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

“ . . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.” [3]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed in many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

I am sure that I need not remind the the Council of its duty under the Equality Act’s requirement to pay due regard to foster good relations between men and women.

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

“Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “Knowledge Gateway”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on [Sheaf Square](#)) directly adjacent to the club.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, many of whom will have PTSD.

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city. Housed in a converted 1930s car showroom, we're situated right next to the railway station in Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter." And further states that their "beautiful Art Deco environs are an ideal setting for the innovative businesses horned at the Workstation, and a perfect place for the determinedly independent and cutting edge cinema of the Showroom." The Showroom also hosts family events as well as many off the Shelf and Doc Fest events, the latter is internationally renowned.

It is also opposite the newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students not only studying in the surrounding the area but also residing in it. The 24/7 Addsetts learning centre is in the vicinity with Brown Street and Cultural Industries Quarter Square as direct access routes from numerous student accommodation blocks. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building) and backs directly onto student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for refusal

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

"Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license."[6]

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014)* was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

*"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: **'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'**"*
(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

- [1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- [2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- [3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- [4] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds
- [5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>
- [6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90
- [7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

From:

Sent: 12 May 2019 10:15

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

11th May 2019

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I am a frequent visitor to Sheffield city centre, with my family living close by. I do not think Spearmint Rhino should be allowed to continue to operate in its current location, right next door to a university, opposite the Showroom Cinema and near lots of organisations for vulnerable and young people. If my grandchildren decide to go to Sheffield Hallam University, what message does it send to them about gender equality and respect that there is such a club right next door?

I also understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the license.

Notwithstanding the possible breaches that may have happened, the strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial commodity rather than a human being and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

015P2

The Council has the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a licence, something which the Council does not appear to understand. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

For all of the reasons given above I expect the Council to refuse this licence application.

Yours sincerely

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licensing Application

From:

Sent: 11 May 2019 14:41

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licensing Application

Hi

I wish to object to the licence application for Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I believe it is totally inappropriate and incompatible with any aims for Sheffield to be regarded as a forward thinking, inclusive, safe city to continue renewing the licence of this establishment. We should be celebrating and further enhancing the Cultural Industries Quarter in which it is located; the area cannot realise it's full potential whilst Spearmint Rhino continues to operate at the heart of it.

Thank you for your time.

Many thanks

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

0178

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino objection letter
Attachments: Spearmint Rhino objection letter 2019.docx

From:
Sent: 13 May 2019 09:41
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino objection letter

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find my letter, attached.

Regards,

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

13th May 2019

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable" [1]

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage” [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.” [3]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed in many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

I am sure that I need not remind the the Council of its duty under the Equality Act’s requirement to pay due regard to foster good relations between men and women.

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

“Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “Knowledge Gateway”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on [Sheaf Square](#)) directly adjacent to the club.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, many of whom will have PTSD.

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city. Housed in a converted 1930s car showroom, we’re situated right next to the railway station in Sheffield’s Cultural Industries Quarter.” And further states that their “beautiful Art Deco environs are an ideal setting for the innovative businesses homed at the Workstation, and a perfect place for the determinedly independent and cutting edge cinema of the Showroom.” The Showroom also hosts family events as well as many off the Shelf and Doc Fest events, the latter is internationally renowned.

It is also opposite the newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield’s international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children’s media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students not only studying in the surrounding the area but also residing in it. The 24/7 Addsetts learning centre is in the vicinity with Brown Street and Cultural Industries Quarter Square as direct access routes from numerous student accommodation blocks. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building) and backs directly onto student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for refusal

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”[6]

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014)* was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'.”

It is further reported:

“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: ‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’” (emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

References

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) ‘The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings’ Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: ‘Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city’ April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: ‘Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision’ July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

From:

Sent: 13 May 2019 09:44

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhin, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I work as a Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University and as such I attend events in various buildings around the campus, including The Hubs, our Student Union building. I, and other staff and students at Sheffield Hallam feel uncomfortable about the presence of Spearmint Rhino so close to our Students' Union, and in the heart of our campus.

The middle of a university campus and the city's Cultural Industries Quarter is a completely inappropriate location for a strip club.

I feel that the normalisation and mainstream promotion of such venues is very harmful to women. These venues promote a dehumanised view of women, sending out the message that women's bodies are for male consumption. In the context of a society in which there is widespread misogyny and violence against women, I think Sheffield Council need to be taking responsibility and thinking about the role they have to play.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the **Discretionary Grounds** for refusal (under the Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy), and on the grounds of the **Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality**.

I was also concerned to hear that there is evidence of serious breaches of the licence at the club. This is something we were assured was not the case at last year's hearing – and is surely something the council must take very seriously.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 13 May 2019 19:35

To: Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: Objection to spearmint rhino

Dear Emma Rhodes,

To the Licencing Service

I refer to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence. I call for the council to refuse it. I believe the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's SEV licensing policy on the following grounds.

- Sexual entertainment venues discriminate against women and objectify and dehumanise them. SEVs perpetuate inequality between the sexes.
- The year is 2019. We are well into the 21st century and SEVs should be a thing of the past. How do they help create a culture where men and women respect each other's humanity?
- The location of SR opposite Sheffield Showroom and near student accommodation places it where families, young people and children are exposed to it. Is this the role model of respectful adult behaviour we want to show children and young people?
- Sheffield Council have a chance here to make a stand against sexist and degrading practises. For those who say this is robbing women of the chance to make a living I'd ask, who is actually making the real money in this business? It's not the women on the ground floor!
- A recent undercover investigation revealed that in order to make money at SR the women there seem to be e pecked to perform 'extra' services that are in breech of the clubs licencing rules.

Thank you

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 13 May 2019 22:32

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Xxxx xxx xxxx is an independent group which campaigns against street sexual harassment and we object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street Sheffield.

We believe that everybody has the right to feel safe as they go about their lives, whether at work, in school or in a public place.

A University of Kent study concluded that sexually objectifying a woman can lead to aggression towards women and to the harmful perception that women are solely to be seen as sexual objects.

If not challenged, casual misogyny and sexual harassment create a cultural environment that normalises inappropriate behaviours, and can lead to problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour towards women and girls.

The strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial

commodity and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them.

Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which they have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. This duty can not be upheld by granting a license a strip club.

Councillors have the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license. The legislation allows for local

people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

For all of those reasons given above I expect the Licensing Committee to refuse this license application.

Chair of