

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to strongly object to the application of Newmarket Entertainment Ltd to renew the Sex Establishment Licence for Heaven located 109 High Street Newmarket.

Grounds for refusal stated in West Suffolk Council's own policy include (d) that the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate having regard to:-

i. the character of the relevant locality;

The premises seeking renewal of the licence is in such a prominent position at the junction of the historical High Street with close proximity to the Jockey Club, King Edward VII Memorial Hall and many other surreptitiously hidden gems of Newmarket. The Avenue and junction of the High Street being the main route to Tattersalls and as people come down the hill entering Newmarket from Cambridge the premises seeking renewal of the license dominates this important gateway junction and is not a suitable position for such a business of this type and creates a negative impact being detrimental to the Town. In addition, since the license was last renewed, Forest Heath District Council purchased the adjacent building to be used as a unit for the homeless, adding weight to West Suffolk's own policy about the suitability of renewing the license of a sex establishment within an increased residential area, not only within the area but next door.

those specifically being that

\*The Council will not normally grant a license where any premises within the vicinity are used for the following:

(a) *school*; whilst there is not a school in close proximity many school children walk past the premises due to its Town location and surrounding residential area

(b) *place of worship*; The Memorial Hall is increasingly used as a place of worship, The Stable in the High Street, St Mary's Church and All Saints Church

(c) *family leisure*; The Memorial Hall, The Memorial Gardens both generates income to the Town. The Memorial Hall is a venue for hire, increasingly used by families at times that coincide with the operating hours of the premises seeking renewal. The Memorial Gardens are soon to undergo extensive refurbishment

(d) *domestic residential buildings*; Residential property of 105 High Street, residential homes in The Avenue. New residential homes opposite the sex establishment premises

(e) *important historic buildings*; The historical buildings of The Jockey Club, The King Edward VII Memorial Hall (directly opposite), National Heritage Centre for Horseracing & Sporting Art which is attracting visitors to Newmarket contributing to the economic growth of the area to which FHDC have made a financial commitment and support

(f) *youth facilities*; The Memorial Hall and gardens used daily and generates income to the Town

*(g) important public and cultural facilities; Newmarket itself is the international home of horse racing attracting visitors to the many facets of the industry that are situated within the Town and to soak up the atmosphere generated by the unique features of Newmarket. The High Street is not a suitable or appropriate location for such a premises.*

*Since the application was renewed (in my view wrongly) as headlined by the Newmarket Journal ~*

***A council has bought bedsit flats in its effort to combat homelessness in Newmarket.***

*Forest Heath District Council has spent more than £740,000 to buy 10 new sheltered accommodation units at The Avenue and High Street junction.*

*The location of this type of accommodation for the intended use adds weight to the fact that the location of Heaven Awaits is totally unsuitable and the license should not be renewed.*

*I wish to make it clear that it is the location of the premises that I object to, as described by FHDC in their policy being **inappropriate having regard to the character of the relevant locality and for the reasons identified above all related to LOCATION \****

*I am happy to provide details of my address for use by the Authority for purposes of consideration of the application but would be grateful if you could inform me of the progress of the application and therefore not divulge my details for public use or directly to the applicant without informing me of the need to do so, as I do not know the route this application will take to reach a decision.*

*I would like to draw your attention to the fact ( as reported at a FHDC Committee Meeting last month) that officers work within a suite of legal rules and policies. FHDC do not comply with their own policies in relation to continually renewing the License for these premises and I cannot understand the reason for doing so. What is the point of producing policies to just ignore them. The Licensing Committee should strongly consider this application adhering to the Council's own policies*

*Within the Council's papers when considering the application last year it was stated*

***Risk/opportunity assessment:Medium*** (potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)  
*Risk area Inherent level of risk (before controls).....Any decision reached which is not in accordance with the Acts and policy may be considered ultravires and could be subject to an application for Judicial Review*

***Controls Residual risk (after controls) Low*** *The Members should have regard to it's*

*Sex Establishment Licensing Policy and the associated legislation.*

*I think the RISKS are **high** for the Council in that they have no regard for Policy and any decision apart from the right decision is ultravires*

I hope the new committee formed since the combining of FHDC and St Edmundsbury will have take heed of their own policies and refuse the application.

*I would also like to draw FHDC's attention to the lighting at the front of the premises which is totally inappropriate in the Conservation area of Newmarket. I believe officers have not been aware of the manner in which the building is lit at night, stating that when visiting the only light was a small blue light ( I believe this is just a security light down the stairs at the entrance) , I state that lighting of the premises is an issue which needs to be addressed.*

*I believe that no application has been made for the use of signage in the form of barriers erected before and during opening times.*

Kind Regards