

I am writing to object in the strongest possible terms to any decision to renew the license of Heaven strip club in Newmarket.

The nature of the activity at this site and the site's position on the high street are not only completely inappropriate and against the wishes of the vast majority of Newmarket residents, but it is also rightly in contravention of West Suffolk Council's own Sex Establishment Licensing policy. The location on a historic high street is an eyesore which detracts from our town's heritage and its amenity for all who live and visit here.

Under the West Suffolk Sex Establishment Licensing Policy section 6.3 the Council will not grant a license for any premises in the vicinity of: a) school; b) place of worship; c) family leisure; d) domestic residential buildings; e) important historical buildings; f) youth facilities; g) important public and cultural facilities.

Both the Town Council and I have noted that, under these parameters, Heaven strip club is too close to: a playground, a place of worship and the historical town hall, as well as other historical sites which are ruining the town's cultural and historical appeal. This means the site is in the vicinity of four sites which have been explicitly stated that this type of establishment should not be granted a license if it is in the vicinity of.

- Memorial Gardens play area – a playground – is just 18 meters away and is used every day by children and their families.
- The Stable place of worship is just 73m away.
- The Historical King Edward VII Town Hall is literally on the other side of the road.

A clearer breach of the guidance in this regard could not be found. There are no grounds on which the license could possibly be extended.

The Licensing policy under section 6.3.3 puts the onus on the council to determine at which distance such premises are determined to be in the vicinity of the applied site. The question I would ask is, if the other side of the road or 18 meters away, does not account for being in the vicinity of a building, what would in this context? There is a wider problem for the high street, which is one of image. Newmarket High Street is in desperate need of rejuvenation, which has been hard to facilitate under the recent economic conditions of retail. The inclusion of a strip club on the main high street is adding to an image which will have detrimental effects on Newmarket High Street's economy, and may prevent improvement to the retail market and future re-development.

Even if we were to ignore the complete disregard for council guidance, the fact that this institution is completely out of keeping with the high street and is highly undesired by the town should be justification enough in itself to remove it.

I ask in the strongest possible terms that you act in the interests of the residents of Newmarket and listen to the guidance which has been set down to safeguard against youth exposure, maintain cultural and historical preservation and protect our retail markets.

It would be a renegation of duty to re-grant this license and I implore you to refuse it.

Please could you keep me informed of all developments in this application, so that my material considerations – on behalf of my constituents – can be taken into account.