

APPENDIX D

Applicant Bundle – Index

Newmarket Entertainment Limited

	Document	Witness' Name
1.	Statement of Support	Gokul Swami
2.	Statement of Support	Becky Hall
3.	Statement of Support	Shani Cooper
4.	Statement of Support	Kyla Clarke
5.	Statement of Support	Michelle Easterbrook
6.	Statement of Support	Luke Watson
7.	Statement of Support	Bruno Taveres
8.	Letter of Support	Stonebay Developments
	Exhibits	
9.	Venue Floor Plan	
10.	Outside View of Venue	

**BEFORE WEST SUFFOLK COUNCIL'S LICENSING & REGULATORY
SUB-COMMITTEE**

RE: SEV RENEWAL FOR HEAVEN, 109 High Street, Newmarket CB8 8JH

WITNESS STATEMENT OF GOKUL SWAMI

Introduction

1. I am the operator of Heaven Gentlemen's Club & Late-Night Bar ('Heaven') located at 109 High Street, Newmarket, CB8 8JH.
2. I am the sole Director of Newmarket Entertainment Ltd, the current licence holder and the Applicant for the renewal of Heaven's sexual entertainment venue licence (SEV).
3. Heaven is Newmarket's only SEV.
4. I am now 43 years old and am a man of exemplary character with no previous convictions nor breach proceedings against me or my business.
5. I have always operated strictly within the law and terms of my licence. My venue only provides entertainment that Parliament has deemed to be lawful. I pride myself on maintaining and adhering to my obligations as the Operator and Designated Premises Supervisor of Heaven.
6. I have had an excellent working partnership with the local authority, police, licensing officers, environmental health and planning officers, in addition to local business owners and associations. There have never been any compliance issues at Heaven.
7. The responsible authorities are the Council's own experts in the field of SEV licensing. None have objected to the renewal of this SEV Licence. I am, therefore, saddened to find myself in the position of responding to individual objectors. These objections duplicate those received in relation to previous renewal applications I have made in previous years. I wish though to allay their concerns, however. My livelihood and those of my staff depend upon it.

8. Newmarket has a resident population of around 20,000 people. The 1 objection to this renewal application, even if they come from individuals with voices more powerful than my own, represent a tiny fraction of the people of Newmarket. I strongly believe that the overwhelming number of people who live in Newmarket are not troubled in the slightest by our discreet presence in the High Street. I also believe that the people of Newmarket are tolerant people who understand that just because some groups may not support a particular lawful activity, that is not a good or sufficient reason to ban it from a town of national repute such as Newmarket. Indeed, if we were closed Newmarket would be one of the very few racing towns in the UK without a similar Gentlemen's Club.
9. Although I am not one of them, I understand that there are many people who object on either welfare or moral grounds to gambling and gambling premises, and others who strongly object to the use of horses being used in sport for human entertainment. But I strongly believe that one group's preferences or prejudices should not be a reason to ban gambling or horse-racing from Newmarket as these activities give lawful enjoyment to many people. I would ask the Council to show the same tolerant and mature approach to my lawful business as it has done over the years.
10. I note that West Suffolk's Sex Establishment Policy, which would have followed wide consultation with interested parties, expressly confirms (at paragraph 15.5) that it will not take into account objections that relate to moral grounds. Nobody who objects to our presence need ever enter our premises unless they choose to.
11. I am a proprietor who takes my responsibilities for the local economy and business development seriously. We are paid up members of the local BID (Business Improvement District) and are committed to improving our town and improving the environment for all local business.
12. I am heartened that so many local businesses have signed a Petition supporting the renewal of Heaven's SEV licence because its presence on the High Street promotes the interests of Newmarket's business community as a whole and provides lawful entertainment to our guests who live, work or visit the town.

Background to the business

13. The club has been trading since 2006 as a bar and in 2012 when the council first started issuing an SEV, was when Heaven officially became a Gentleman's Club.
14. New owners, including myself, took over the operation in 2017. As soon as we did, I met with Council licensing officers who asked us to undertake changes. We immediately improved some of the rooms etc in order to make improvements. We complied with licensing's requests right from the start and that relationship has always been a good and co-operative one. I have been pleased and eager to work in partnership with the local authority and police at all times.
15. During the Covid lockdowns in 2020 we allowed our SEV licence to lapse because the large licence fee we have to pay each year to the Council would have put my company into administration. The business essentially went into "Covid hibernation".
16. Having then decided to re-open, we reviewed all aspects of our application in discussions with the Council. We resolved one matter in relation to oversized signage at the front of the premises to ensure that externally our venue does not impact on the High Street. The fascia of Heaven is now very discreet indeed and people passing by our venue will not view any adult-themed advertising or graphics whatsoever.
17. In 2021, we then had a brand new SEV licence granted by the Council. The conditions were even more stringent than before, and we have complied with all of them.
18. There have been no issues in the interim period between the grant of the 2021 licence and today.

Business operations and clientele

19. We operate as a gentlemen's club, although that is a misnomer because the club is frequented by both male and female clientele of all adult ages. We do not discriminate and ensure that anyone is welcome and can enjoy the entertainment in a safe environment.
20. We also cater for the full LGBTQ plus community.

21. We have disabled visitors and ensure that they are accommodated.
22. My legal advisors inform me that given the wide range of people with protected characteristics who we serve, and the fact that we are the only SEV in town, the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 is engaged.
23. Heaven is only open on three nights per week, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We are open Thursday, Friday and Saturday night from 9pm to 3.15 am. Our clientele mainly come to the premises after 11pm and do not come into contact with passing school children or traffic.
24. A significant number of our guests have visited other premises in town before they arrive at Heaven. Some have eaten at restaurants or enjoyed a drink in a bar and then finish their night in Heaven. Many use other services provided by locals including taxis, hotel and BnB accommodation.
25. Female customers of Heaven frequently speak of the venue as being a safe place where they do not feel threatened by others. We also pride ourselves on never having had a spiking issue or any violence or serious disorder in the venue. There are very few late-night licensed premises that can say the same in any major town or city.
26. We have well trained bar and waiting staff who are mainly female.
27. We employ well trained and experienced door supervisors who are there every night of operation for the entire time we're open.
28. The business contributes to the night-time economy of Newmarket and surrounds. It also enhances choice for a diverse base and supports the wider economy in the region. On race weekends our venue serves many racegoers and those who work at the races including jockeys, trainers and stable staff.
29. We have never had an issue with dancers or customers as we keep all users safe.

Premises

30. The premises we lease is a large 3 storey of around 14,000 square feet. Heaven is in the basement. There is a separate nightclub called "The Ark" on the ground floor with a 700-person capacity. This being the only night club in Newmarket.
31. Above the nightclub is a mezzanine cocktail bar trading as "The Gallery". All three business at that location share the property costs, rent, business rates and other day to day maintenance costs. This enables the ongoing success and sustainability of the three businesses. I believe Luke Watson, who operates the other two venues, has provided a separate statement.
32. I attach as my exhibit GS/1 an internal floor plan to aid the Committee.
33. If any one of the three were to collapse through being unable to operate, it would cause an adverse impact on the other two; jeopardising not only the staff employed at the business which ceases to trade, but the other 2 in the immediate building. The combined income of the building's occupants is approximately £1.5 million, with an estimated revenue for immediately affected business (taxis etc) of £3 million.
34. The operators for each of these businesses work closely together, have shared compliance values and seek at all times to ensure compliance so as never to jeopardise the business they run or of their neighbours.
35. Inside the premises is a stage. We do not allow customers to dance as we have mainly seated areas. See attached floor plan.
36. There is a private dance/performance area which is sectioned off with curtains.

Location

37. There is no other area in Newmarket as suitable for a SEV as this High Street location. That has been the case since we started operating and remains the case today. This location is the (only) night-time entertainment centre in town.

38. Heaven clearly benefits the local area as it ensures visitors to the town e.g. for racing have choices to make when they go out in the evening. It brings people from near and far to the town. This brings people to hotels and other accommodation venues together with its pubs, restaurants and shops.
39. This location is hugely important to Newmarket. It brings in additional trade for race events, meetings, restaurants, shopping, and accommodation.
40. Given the location, times of operation and fact we have a strict policy to check ages of customers, Heaven does not pose any risk to the licensing objectives. We do full due diligence checks on all dancers and staff too.
41. The fact our venue is in the basement of the building as can be seen in the photograph (exhibit GS/2, means that from the street just one door heading can be seen with absolutely no other indication of it being an SEV. Next door but within the same building is a betting shop with the bars above. Our venue is the most discreet of all.
42. There is nothing about our presence or appearance that would cause reasonable visitors to the nearby King Edward Hall or The Stable to be inconvenienced or affronted by our discreet fascia.
43. A passer-by cannot even see the door of Heaven unless they go to the top step and see the doorway. We also have no advertising posted or other flyers that show any of the club's activities. I produce some photographs accordingly. It is a very subtle exterior.
44. Newmarket is a gambling/horseracing town, and our clientele are capable of making adult choices. Nobody can inadvertently or innocently enter our premises unless they choose to.
45. Heaven offers choice to adults in a safe and controlled environment.
46. We are a responsible operator, we contribute locally to the economy, and it is an entirely suitable location, indeed only suitable location in Newmarket, for such a venue. Hence our request to be able to continue to operate from this location as we have done now for many years.

Sheltered accommodation

47. The sheltered accommodation is around the corner from our building, rather than being immediately adjacent as some representations appear to believe. Historically, prior to being sheltered accommodation, that premises was commercial on the ground floor with residential flats above. In 2018 the building changed to full residential premises to house the homeless. In other words the sheltered accommodation has long been used for residential purposes for homeless people in one guise or another. There has been no significant change to this use, and it has not previously been seen as a reason to refuse this SEV renewal applications.

48. We had an objection presented some years ago about the problems the homeless may pose at Heaven, so we have always asked our door supervisors to assess if someone (not just the homeless) is unfit to come into the club, we have never had any problems whatsoever.

49. It appears that certain representors, who have long wished to see our SEV licence refused, have focused on the sheltered accommodation as a factor that makes the difference. When, in fact, there is little significant difference to what was there before.

Other local business and organisations

50. To visitors using other local venues including King Edward VII Memorial Hall and The Stable there is nothing about our venue that would be detrimental to street-view or character of the locality.

51. Since we only operate at night, the club does not pose any risk to children. There is no inadvertent possibility for a school child to be passing by when we are open.

52. For similar reasons people going to a church in the town are unlikely to be impacted by our late-night operation.

53. But even when we are open, the premises operates discreetly. There are no dancers or adult entertainment visible from the street.

Our employees

54. The venue employs 20 dancers. They work of their own free choice making an income through their self-employment enabling them to carry out their vocation of choice. None of those dancers need to be patronised by others telling them how they should earn a lawful living.

55. We also employ a manager of the dancers whose prime consideration is the safeguarding and wellbeing of those dancers/performers. That works in conjunction with the safety principles that we enforce for those visiting the location.

56. I want to emphasise that the dancers go through a strict due diligence process. We only employ those over 21 years of age and many are in their later 20's. We only employ experienced dancers. Some have worked with us since we took over in 2017. We aim in most cases to employ British staff so that passports and right to work checks can be undertaken. For the avoidance of doubt, we do not countenance any form of trafficking or sexual exploitation. There is no touching permitted in the club between dancers and customers. Dances carry on in accordance with the most stringent conditions and the rules that are set out for all to see. We are a responsible business operation demonstrated by our exemplary good record.

57. Our dancers enjoy good working conditions. Our clientele respect the boundaries we insist on and enforce.

58. These are not exploited individuals but working people from the vicinity who use their income to pay the bills that any parent or responsible person must meet.

59. The evidence from those dancers demonstrates that this an income relied on to support their children and families and sometimes professional and academic studies.

60. We also employ 2 bar staff plus a bar manager and our resident DJ.

61. We operate an SIA accredited door staff. We have a minimum of 2 SIA door staff but employ extra SIA staff on busy race nights.

62. I am present at the venue regularly. I am the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) under the premises licence.

Conclusion

63. I ask the Council, with respect, to renew Heaven's SEV licence for another year.

I believe that the facts stated in this statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document submitted in court proceedings verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed

Gokul Swami

Dated:

**BEFORE WEST SUFFOLK COUNCIL'S LICENSING & REGULATORY
SUB-COMMITTEE**

RE: SEV RENEWAL FOR HEAVEN, 109 High Street, Newmarket CB8 8JH

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF
Becky Hall [REDACTED]**

I am the above named and live in Fordham.

I provide this statement in support of the application to renew the SEV licence at the above venue/premises.

I am an accredited and authorised member of the security industry or authority and have to maintain my good repute when acting with that capacity. I am, however, not employed as a security officer at the Heaven venue but as a waiting bar staff member. Recently, however, I do carry out security work at the Heaven venue occasionally. I have worked at that location since 2019 and work for Gokul Swami who is the owner and operator. I also work for the management team to include Bruno and Shani.

My role is to work behind the bar serving a mixture of clientele and also to deliver drinks throughout the venue where required.

This brings me into contact with numerous members of the public and I can state that it is a really pleasant place to work and one that I feel is extremely safe given the high levels of compliance that we must all adhere to.

The working conditions I have absolutely no complaint about. I work at the club Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and it is my sole income. I have been working there whilst also undertaking a Level 3 equine care course in college. I have completed that course. Living local to Newmarket, I would like to work in the equine/racing world but will also want to continue to work at Heaven. This job provides me with my income

that is necessary for me to embark on my future career and has assisted me through college and supporting me financially. It may take me a significant amount of time before I can get any other work if the club was not allowed to operate. It would impact on me personally and my livelihood. I rely fully on it for my income and for all of the payment of my bills.

The club provides a great deal to the local economy and provides a late-night establishment for people to have a drink, for example on a Thursday evening. It is a central part of our community as part of the licence trade. The licence trade is going through real difficulties at the minute and I would hate to see any changes to Heaven.

I fully support this application and know that it would have a real detriment and impact on the local and wider region if it were not able to operate. It gets particularly busy during race nights and race weekends from Newmarket racecourse and is a really well used venue.

I am very happy to support this matter and would be willing to attend at the Bury St Edmunds committee hearing on 31 January 2023,

I believe that the facts stated in this statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes or causes to make a false statement in a document submitted in court proceedings verified by a statement of truth without an honest and belief in its truth.

Signed:
Becky Hall

Dated:

**BEFORE WEST SUFFOLK COUNCIL'S LICENSING & REGULATORY
SUB-COMMITTEE**

RE: SEV RENEWAL FOR HEAVEN, 109 High Street, Newmarket CB8 8JH

WITNESS STATEMENT OF SHANI COOPER

1. I write in support of the application for the renewal of the SEV Licence at Heaven in Newmarket High Street.
2. I feel very passionate about writing this support and will be at the committee hearing on Tuesday 31 January 2024 where I would be happy to expand on anything that I have said in this letter.
3. I live in Suffolk and am employed by the venue as a manager. I am an experienced manager in the licence trade and have responsibility for bar staff, the numbers of which fluctuate dependent on how busy the season or whether the races are on and also have responsibility on weekend nights for the dancers. As a female and with experience in this business, I ensure the welfare of the performers from the diligence that we carry out in respect of their identification and their health and overall wellbeing. I also work closely with them as well as monitoring customers and their welfare during performances. We have between 10-20 dancers the number of which varies dependent on whether or not the local races are on. We certainly need 20 dancers during race events because we get substantial numbers of customers made up of staff from those race events including riders, trainers, veterinarians, race-organisers, stable staff and so on. Moreover throughout the year those involved in buying and selling racehorses come to our venue for the entertainment we provide. It is a venue that appeals to a great many law-abiding people who live and work in Newmarket.
4. I feel very strongly about the continuation of this licence given that it is widely misunderstood. We provide a highly compliant safe venue for a whole range of

clientele to enjoy. I have got to know regular customers, some of whom are simply lonely, elderly individuals who want to be having a late night drink and be entertained by dancing performances and good company.

5. We ensure our premises is highly secure and our security staff are in full operation and we expect our clientele to behave to the highest level. This is demonstrated by the excellent rapport that I have with the Council's licensing officers who have regularly visited and we have had no trouble in the four years that I have been there as a manager.
6. Newmarket relies heavily on this venue and the venues above us in the same building. I work closely with the above venues, management and staff as well as security and I would say that the location itself is so secure for the reasons that there are three licensed venues in close proximity. This makes it a highly useful central location to enable us to carefully monitor security and safety at all times.
7. Quite frankly, I am shocked and cannot believe that these similar objections are used year after year when we are doing our very best to demonstrate that this is a highly compliant location.
8. I wish to reiterate that Heaven is a sanctuary for a number of people. It is not just about the dancing but provides a location for a whole range of people to attend. We welcome females, those from the LGBTQ+ community as well as those with disabilities and special educational needs. This is because it is a safe and compliant and secure environment and I wish to get across in the strongest terms that it is not a sordid location where people anticipate certain behaviours. There is no contact between dancers and customers. This is a place where people can come along to have social meetings and gatherings in a safe environment.
9. I pride myself on the welfare checks that I carry out for the dancers. These are women who in the main rely fully on their income from working at our venue and have made free choices to work at a club in that capacity. These dancers all work lawfully and pay their taxes. They are not exploited people in any sense of the word. Our dancers are overwhelmingly confident and proud women who choose

to earn their living by dancing. All the dancers I have spoken to, ironically, find it extremely patronising that others have made representations telling them how and where they can earn their living. They rely on their income and I am deeply concerned that if there were ever to be a risk of the venue's licence, the impact that there would be on bar staff (many of whom live locally), the security staff and all of the secondary businesses that benefit from Heaven. In a way, I would say that it is highly essential to race events. We have a great deal of people coming along that have used the hospitality at the race venue and then conduct their meetings and their gatherings so that they can enjoy late night drinks.

10. I fully support this application and will be in personal attendance at the committee hearing.

I believe that the facts stated in this statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document submitted in court proceedings verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed:

Dated:

**BEFORE WEST SUFFOLK COUNCIL'S LICENSING & REGULATORY
SUB-COMMITTEE**

RE: SEV RENEWAL FOR HEAVEN, 109 High Street, Newmarket CB8 8JH

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF
KYLA CLARKE [REDACTED]**

1. I am the above named.
2. I provide this statement in support of the application to renew the SEV licence at Heaven Gentleman's Club.
3. I have been a professional dancer for eight years, seven of which I have been working at the Heaven Gentleman's Club in Newmarket.
4. The working conditions at this venue are really good and I would not have worked at that venue, or for the management there, for so long had they not been. There are strict rules for staff and clientele to follow, ensuring the safety of all.
5. The employees at Heaven are like a close-knit family and it is a wonderful working environment. I feel well supported by the staff at all times. I feel very safe working there. I work at Heaven out of my own choice, no one is forced to work there.
6. Dancing at Heaven is my only job and I rely on that employment solely for my livelihood. Working at Heaven has changed my life for the better, both financially and regarding my mental health. If I was unable to work at Heaven, I would be very depressed and I am not sure how I would cope financially.
7. Additionally, I am willing to attend the committee hearing because I fully support the renewal of the licence at that venue. I will do what I can to attend the 31 January 2024 meeting in support.

I believe that the facts stated in this statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes or causes to make a false statement in a document submitted in court proceedings verified by a statement of truth without an honest and belief in its truth.

Signed:
Kyla Clarke

Dated:

**BEFORE WEST SUFFOLK COUNCIL'S LICENSING & REGULATORY
SUB-COMMITTEE**

RE: SEV RENEWAL FOR HEAVEN, 109 High Street, Newmarket CB8 8JH

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF
Michelle Easterbrook [REDACTED]**

1. I am the above named.
2. I provide this statement in support of the application to renew the SEV license at Heaven Gentleman's Club.
3. I have been a professional dancer working at Heaven Club in Newmarket for 11 years. I work at Heaven 3 nights a week on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.
4. The working conditions at the venue are really good and they have provided my financial income which has supported me in my education.
5. The venue upholds extremely safe working conditions, everyone is so supportive. Staff at the venue walk us out to our vehicles at the end of our shift to make sure we are safe and secure at all times.
6. The staff as well as clientele have strict rules to adhere to.
7. I do have another job but still rely on my employment at Heaven for my income and livelihood.
8. I am willing to attend the committee hearing if required because I fully support the renewal of the licence at the venue.
9. I have been feeling a lot of anxiety over the licensing renewal application hearing as I depend on my job at Heaven for my financial livelihood and well-being.

10. I would like to add how detrimental not renewing the license would be to the hospitality industry as the venue also supports the nightclub business above, The Gallery and The Ark.

11. I will be attending the Committee hearing on the 31 January 2024 in support of the application.

I believe that the facts stated in this statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes or causes to make a false statement in a document submitted in court proceedings verified by a statement of truth without an honest and belief in its truth.



Signed:
Michelle Easterbrook

Dated: 11 January 2024

**BEFORE WEST SUFFOLK COUNCIL'S LICENSING & REGULATORY
SUB-COMMITTEE**

RE: SEV RENEWAL FOR HEAVEN, 109 High Street, Newmarket CB8 8JH

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF
LUKE WILSON**

1. I am the owner and operator of two licensed venues in Newmarket High Street. I am a Director of ARK NEWMARKET & GALLERY NEWMARKET

These are both at 109 High Street and are on the floors directly above Heaven Gentlemen's Club. They are "The Ark" nightclub which has a 650 person capacity and "The Gallery" which is a cocktail bar with a 65 person capacity. I employ locally over 40 people and numerous contractors including, handy men, decorators, plumbers and electricians to name a few. These premises usually operate on Fridays and Saturdays. The Gallery is open 8.00pm to 3.00am and The Ark is open 10.00pm to 3.00am.

2. I am a local man with young children who go to a primary school one mile away. I live and work locally with my address only being a few minutes away from the premises referred to.
3. I am a tenant at that location and my business relies entirely on the overall leisure and entertainment offering at that location. I would emphasise at the outset that the closure of Heaven would be devastating for my business and others associated with the property and the High Street's evening and late night economy.
4. I have been the manager and latterly the owner of The Ark and The Gallery for 16 years. I run an excellent venue and work closely with Gokul Swami, the operator of Heaven, at all times both in respect of our licensing obligations and security. We work closely with the police and feel that we have jointly, as well as individually, excellent relationships with the licensing officers.

5. Being in a communal building, many of the significant property costs are shared between my business and Mr Swami's business. We ensure that all bills are met including our business rates and we generate what I would estimate to be approximately £3 million in revenue for the town each year. We pay taxes on our income. I am deeply concerned at any prospect that the licensing committee could refuse to renew Heaven's licence. There is no question that it would lead to my immediate closure of The Ark and The Gallery. I simply could not afford the running costs of the building on my own. Running any form of licensed premises is extremely difficult in current times and I have given my entire business life to the licence trade and the local economy and I rely on Gokul's working partnership, the shared values and costs that we abide by.
6. Many people come to the High Street for a night out precisely because it has a variety of entertainment offerings. Customers will regularly start their night in one venue on the High Street and then make their way to another to end their night. Heaven is an integral part of Newmarket's night-time offering. If the Council were to remove part of this night-time "eco-system" many venues and service providers will suffer too. The closure of Heaven would have a real knock on effect on other businesses that rely on the night-time economy such as taxi drivers, hotels, Air B&B providers, restaurants, bars, local nail bars, hairdressers and the like.
7. I am a local businessperson and work closely with a whole range of businesses in the area. Both myself, and many other business people in the area I have spoken to (some of whom have been deterred from speaking out because of the publicity this matter has received in the press), are deeply concerned that there would be a significant adverse impact on the night-time economy of Newmarket if Heaven's licence renewal is refused.
8. Given the devastating impact of the Covid lockdowns on the hospitality industry, from which we are all still desperately trying to recover from, the additional customers who are attracted to the High Street because of its wide entertainment offering (which includes Heaven) can be the difference between whether my business and others are profitable or become financially unviable. Covid , coupled with the cost of living crisis, creates uncertainty. Our venues provide continuity, jobs and a direct input into the economy of the town and region.

9. Given the importance of Heaven's continued presence in the High Street to the viability of my business I am assisting in obtaining further signatures on a Petition from those in support of Heaven and I am committed to providing these.
10. There is no other location in Newmarket that is more suited to a discreet Gentlemen's Club than the High Street location where Heaven is now located. It has operated from this location without issues for many years. I plead with the Council to renew its licence for the sake of many High Street businesses and the jobs that rely on them.
11. I attach to this Witness Statement a Petition of signatories from local Newmarket businesses on the High Street who support the licensing application of Heaven. (Exhibit "LW1").
12. I am going to attend the committee hearing in January in support of this application.

I believe that the facts stated in this statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document submitted in court proceedings verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed:

Luke Watson

Dated:

BEFORE WEST SUFFOLK COUNCIL'S LICENSING & REGULATORY
SUB-COMMITTEE

RE: SEV RENEWAL FOR HEAVEN, 109 High Street, Newmarket CB8 8JH

WITNESS STATEMENT OF

Bruno Tavares

1. I am the above named and was born on [REDACTED]. I live at [REDACTED].
2. I am employed by the Heaven Gentlemen's Club and Late-Night Bar at the High Street in Newmarket. I have been working at that location for some eight years, formerly as a security industry authority accredited doorman and over the last two years as one of the managers.
3. The work I undertake is to have general management oversight working with another senior manager but also then liaising with bar staff, the SIA door staff, and ensuring the overall safety and compliance with our licencing requirements.
4. My colleague, Shani Cooper deals predominantly with the dancers but I still ensure that our clientele adhere to the stringent regulations that we uphold and also ensure that all club users are safe.
5. I work Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, from approximately 9pm to approximately 3:30am/4am. I also help with overall cleaning as we take a great deal of pride in the venue and its appearance.
6. I also monitor money, whether it be for door tickets, bar, or for the private dancing.
7. Whilst I do not live in Newmarket, I am wholly familiar with the local night-time leisure industry and also the impact of horse racing to the town. Our venue gets particularly busy during race events as it is used by a broad range of clientele.
8. We operate as a gentlemen's club but that does not mean that it is only gentlemen that is services. We enjoy the company of our clientele who are a mixture of adult ages and whilst predominately older males, there is frequently a number of ladies and members of minority groups who visit. It is a safe and enjoyable environment for all.

9. I am aware that the licence is awaiting renewal and fully support its grant. Without its licence, I for one would immediately be out of my job as would a number of other staff who are employed at the club.
10. The venue is a central part of the local entertainment industry for Newmarket and reaches out to both locals and visitors from further afield.
11. We have always cooperated with the authorities, and I hope that my ongoing commitment to my management obligations at the venue will be taken into account by the committee.
12. I believe that the facts stated in this statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document submitted in court proceedings verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.
13. I will be in attendance at the sub-committee hearing.

Seamus Mc Conalogue
Stonebay Developments Limited
88 Dunlade Road
Greysteel
County Derry
BT47 3EG

Tel: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]

10 January 2024

Dear Sirs/Madam

Re: The Heaven Club SEV, 109 High Street, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8JH

I am the director of Stonebay Developments Limited incorporated in 2002. I am aware that the renewal of the license to operate at 109 High Street, Newmarket an SEV is being considered at a licensing sub-committee. I have supported this application continuously and remain in full support of the renewal of the license to operate an SEV at that location.

I am fully familiar with the location and Newmarket. I have been in business in that locality since 1999 and therefore speak with over 24 years of local knowledge both in the community and the economy.

I am the owner and landlord of the premises and note the application has been made by Mr Gokul Swami for the continued operation of that premises. Mr Swami is an excellent tenant and I have had no issues at the location knowing that he is a highly responsible operator.

The premises concerned have been rented out since 1999. They are an essential contributor to the local trade. The contribution to the local licensing trade and therefore both to the nighttime economy and the overall economy of the town is paramount. This location and its economy are important in servicing both the people of the town, its visitors and to those further afield. In my capacity as the landlord, I also have a betting shop in the premises as a tenant in that building. They themselves have been there for 30 years. Mr Luke Watson is another tenant operating venues above Heaven and I have had no issues whatsoever with anyone of them in particular Mr Gokul Swami and his business operation. Those collective businesses must not only benefit one another but numerous businesses in the town and further afield. They provide choice and a central part of the local business economy.

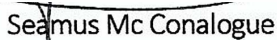
I wish to ensure that my tenants act responsibly in my building and give full support to this renewal application. I have no concerns surrounding public safety or anything that would bring the building and my reputé into question. I am in full support accordingly.

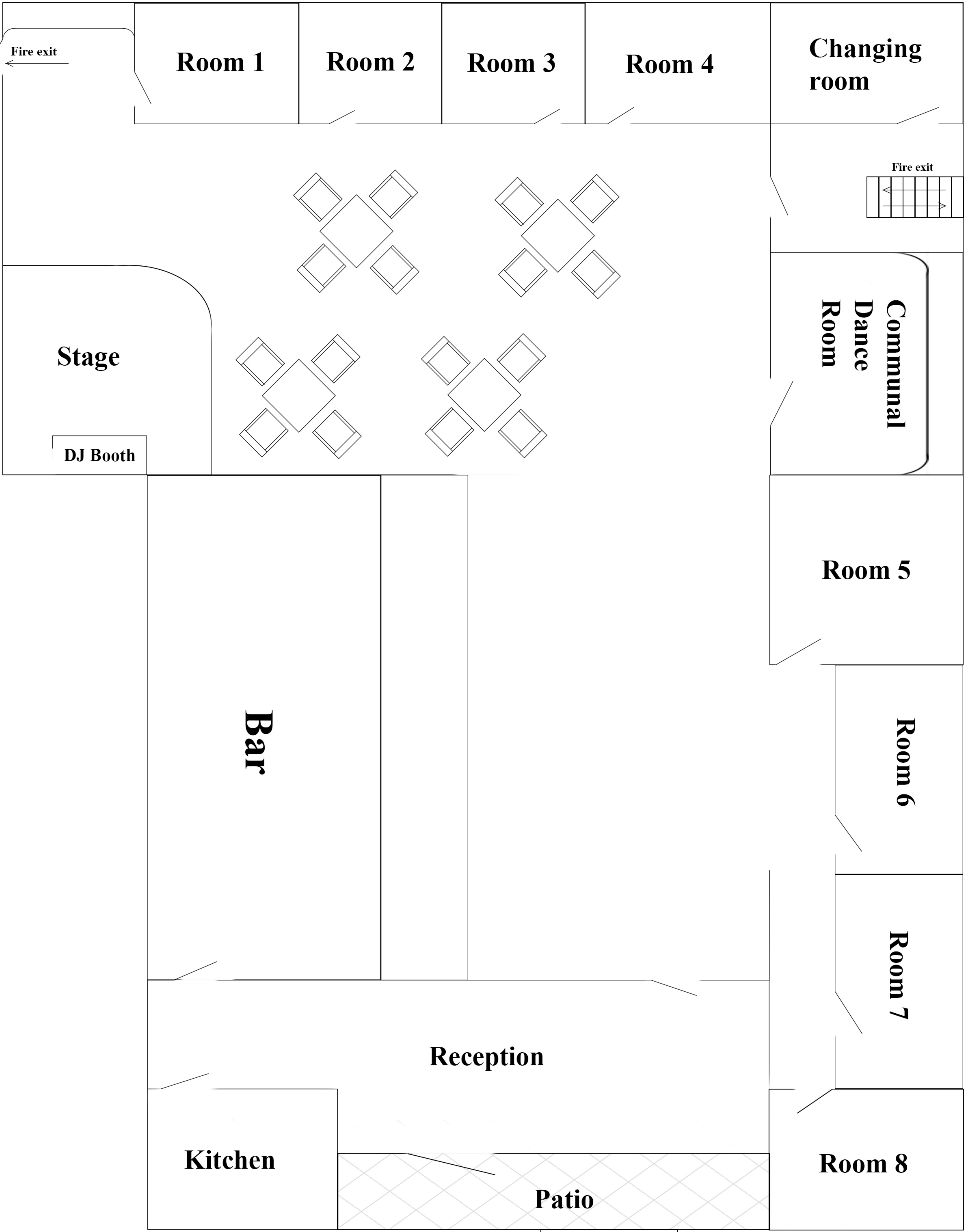
I run a property business and have no complaints about the tenancy or nature of the Heaven operation. In fact, I find Mr Swami to be an ideal business tenant.

I am deeply concerned what the potential impact would be on the local economy particularly the nighttime economy should this application be refused. Having a responsible tenant in one property working closely with the other business tenants and other business persons in the locality means that they can be more sustainable especially during periods of continuing business uncertainty. Last year we were still emerging out of the covid pandemic issues and this to some extent continues. We are now hit with the cost of living changes and as a result spending has without doubt changed and it is essential that we keep continuity of businesses in the locality to ensure that those are sustainable not just for the businesses themselves but those that use them and benefit from them.

I have no doubt that a refusal of this renewal application would have a direct impact on the overall business operation, the tenants within the property and those surrounding. It is a clear application of commonsense in my opinion that multi tenants within the building with clearly defined locations provide support to each business, both within the building but also within the vicinity. The businesses there provide an essential offering to those living in the town, those servicing the town and those that visit the locality. I firmly offer my support to this application and invite you to contact me if you have any further questions. I would like to point out that I am aware that there seems to be a yearly renewal and I implore the Local Authority to grant this application and to enable this business to continue to contribute to the nighttime economy of the town.

Yours faithfully


Seamus Mc Conalogue



Fire exit

Room 1

Room 2

Room 3

Room 4

Changing room

Fire exit

Stage

DJ Booth

Bar

Reception

Kitchen

Patio

Room 5

Room 6

Room 7

Room 8

**Communal
Dance
Room**

Entrance / Exit

WISDOM CLASSICS
WITH A
LIVE PERCUSSION
SATURDAY 7TH
AUGUST 2009
ARK

CIRCUS
BERLIN
CAMBRIDGE
9 - 13
SUMMER
COMMON
DAILY 7.10

Heaven Gentlemens Club

Blank white poster