

Nelson, Matthew

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 October 2014 16:39
To: Entertainment Licensing
Subject: Reference: SX/SEV/00013/14/01

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The Entertainment Licensing Committee, Leeds City Council

Reference: SX/SEV/00013/14/01

Sexual Entertainment Venue Renewal: Liberte, 10 York Place, Leeds LS1 2DS

I object to the renewal of the SEV Licence for the Liberte Lap Dancing Club club.

This establishment openly admits that the sexes will not receive equal treatment, whilst on its premises because it features entertainment where women are treated as sex objects for the purpose of sexually stimulation male members of the audience.

Bear baiting; animals in circuses; hunting with dogs; cockfighting and the like are things of the past. Are these dives any different? There can be fewer more pathetic sights than observing males, some with respectable employment in posts of public esteem, shuffling down grubby little back streets and crawling into such establishments which, on their own admission, are rapidly fading into obsolescence.

[REDACTED]

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION TO OBJECTION
AGAINST
SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE
RENEWAL OF LICENCE**

SX/SEV/00013/14/01

LIBERTE

**10 York Place, Leeds
LS1 2DR**



ORGANISATION OF MATERIAL:

The objection is organised into three sections:

1. The Lap Dancing Industry
2. The Area of York Place
3. Leeds City Council: Questions to answer

STATEMENT:

1. I am a resident of the city of Leeds, having lived in the city all my life
2. The statements in the following pages express my personal views
3. The information and quotations are from documents in the public domain, with one exception.
4. All photographs used are the result of field work undertaken in October 2014
5. I have no connection of any sort to any person, company or organisation in the area of York Place.



The Purple Door
 Leeds Most Exclusive
 Gentlemen's Club

Liberté
 Gentlemen's Club

1/2 PRICE ADMISSION

This flyer entitles you to **HALF PRICE** entry any night of the week at the hottest lap dancing venue Liberté, Leeds.

- Open Monday to Sunday
- from 10pm til late.
- See over for directions



Fig 1: Purple Door (top) Liberté (bottom). The two tickets were found on East Parade early on Sunday 9th November 2014. (Perhaps discarded by staff touting for trade near to the Town Hall).

1. THE INDUSTRY - THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE:

1.1 The operators of Lap Dancing Clubs have been in retreat for some years, as one newspaper has reported:

'Up and down the country, local authorities are at varying stages of implementing licensing changes to force clubs to close.' Its strap heading was **'Ten councils opt to refuse any new strip clubs.'**¹

1.2 Simon Warr, of the Spearmint Rhino chain has confirmed this retreat. Mr Warr will be remembered for telling MP's that his clubs *'are not sexually titillating'*.

'It's arse against the wall time for us,' he said. **'Sex screws our business model.'**² Just what 'business model' does he refer to? Perhaps the Bournemouth model where a punter claims to have been relieved of £7500 in one night!

1.3 Peter Stringfellow (late of this Parish) is on record as telling the same Committee: *'these are not sex encounter clubs.'*

1.4 A former Lap dancer, told M.P's that:

*'The reality is that the majority of times it's quite humiliating.'*³

1.5 When the two biggest names in this odious industry cannot agree about the definition of the clubs, how is the public supposed to react? So, just what is a Lap Dancing Club, or more accurately, a Sexual Entertainment Venue? Do the operators know?

1.6 The Leeds City Council explanation is that in an S.E.V.:

*'entertainment is provided before a live audience.....solely and principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the audience.....for the financial gain of the organiser'*⁴

1.7 If there is accuracy or validity in this definition, that the purpose of the venue is 'sexually stimulating any member of the audience', how can it be that the performance is not 'sexually titillating' and, since the audience is not alone, that there is no 'sexual encounter'?

1.8 The essential factor seems to be in the final phrase of the Council's statement:

'.....for the financial gain of the organiser.'

1.9 Asked by a journalist about family involvement in the industry, Simon Warr admitted that he would not like his daughter to become a lap dancer – *'you don't like to think that there are people looking at your daughter'* he said. **I agree (as will most fathers) but it well demonstrates the ambiguity in this business.**

1.10 **'Looking at your daughter'**, he said, admitting the depersonalisation of the dancer - an object to be 'looked at'; ogled over; a victim of a drunken stranger's addled fantasy; a 'thing' for sexual gratification. **Is this the way to treat human beings in the 21st Century?** Simon Warr, and all S.E.V. owners have become rich from the daughters of other people paying him money to be 'looked at' and presented as objects for sexual gratification.

1.11 A letter to The Times stated that:

*'Lap Dancing Clubs are in contradiction to efforts to promote gender equality.'*⁵ Indeed!

¹ Daily Mail, 30 December 2011

² The Observer 8 March 2009

³ Submission to Culture, Media and Sport Committee

⁴ Leeds City Council, Statement of Licensing Policy (2009)

⁵ The Times 2008

1.12 The Business Model of Lap Dancing Clubs is one of 'Commodity Economics': i.e. there is a price for everything and the Price List has to be prominently displayed.

Commodity 1 – the Dancer has to purchase the **RIGHT** to Dance

Commodity 2 – the punter has to purchase **THE DANCE**

Commodity 3 – is **THE DANCER**. Without the dancer there is no dance and without the dance no sexual titillation so the punter has to purchase the right to have the dancer remove her clothing. The removal of clothing comes at a price.

Commodity 4 – is **THE LEVY**. In order to perform, the dancer has to pay the club operator a percentage of the dance proceeds.

Without the dancer, there is no venue but **the dancer is exploited twice**.

1.13 The Dancer has to pay in order to entertain. **Would the operators of the Leeds Arena expect Barbra Streisand to pay to appear there – and pay an extra levy on each song?**

1.14 The times are changing. From Durham down to Portsmouth, people have protested about these clubs in their thousands. 30 towns and cities have reviewed their policies, **9 have declared zero tolerance of Lap Dancing Clubs and similar venues**.

1.15 Protests, petitions, marches and the like have not been uncommon. Some figures of the numbers of signatures on petitions to Licensing Committees make interesting reading - 600 in Accrington, 1100 in Cheltenham, 1000 in Crouch End, 1000 in Swansea. Some were successful, others less so. ⁶ All over the country, Clubs have been closed by the dozen in places country wide - near Bedford, Cambridge, Shrewsbury and Leicester. The one proposed in Scarborough never opened, because of access and safety issues. A club in Henley-On-Thames was closed by the Police, after public complaints.

1.16 Club owners and operators, aware that the goose that laid the golden egg is about to expire, have done desperate things to continue the profit flow – not just in Leeds but country wide.

1.17 **The defence of the industry** has been to gird its loins and say:

1. We have operated here for some years.
2. We have a licence and we should be automatically granted a renewal.
3. We operate within the law.
4. This is a quiet area away from the hustle and bustle.
5. We are not annoying anybody.

1.18 In accordance with The Policing and Crime Act (2009) the Metropolitan Police have stated that they are 'neutral' towards such venues but will pursue crime and disorder. However, lawyers are quick to affirm the position of the local police. The statement 'the Police are not opposing the application' is rather different from 'the Police are supporting this application. That there is often a cosy relationship between the two parties was not denied by one club owner from Birmingham.

1.19 The industry continues to 'trouser the money' and to pay fees to lawyers in the hope of another year of the same – **no change there but the wonga is no longer**. They have taken little heed of the warning by Jacqui Smith, when she said that '*you don't operate in a vacuum, you have an impact on the community around you.*'⁷

⁶ Various news sources – local and national

⁷ The Observer, 16th November 2008

1.20 In the Leeds area, a vigorous tactic of defence has been to attack the constitution of the Citizens' Panel. The Leeds City Council web site describes the Panel as:
*a group of several thousand people in Leeds who give their opinions about the services and issues that affect where they live. Their views are heard by local decision makers and they find out about new plans and ideas for Leeds. This is just ONE of the ways that Leeds City Council finds out what people think and need?*⁸

The implication here is that ordinary citizens make a response about their views to democratically elected Councillors, who take cognisance of their views. Although membership of the Panel is open to all citizens (see LCC Web Site) there is an effort to balance the social mix of the membership.

1.21 One ex-Lap Dance Club owner is on record as stating that the Citizens' Panel is 'a select few'⁹

How can 'several thousand' be a select few?

Have any members of the Lap Dancing industry joined the Citizens' Panel?

1.22 There is a contrary view, manifest since earlier changes in Licensing laws. The 'select few' has been club owners who have sought, via lawyers, legal actions and hints of legal actions, to get their own way. In recent months, they have discovered that the sands are shifting. These people are not democratically elected, some are not even Leeds residents, and the jobs that they say will be lost, if their operation is closed down, are low paid, mostly casual and temporary. In a city of three quarters of a million and a business base of low wage service outlets, the 'jobs' (if that is how they can be described) can probably be absorbed.

1.23 Concerning a club no longer operating, the owner had engaged a 'Design Consultant' who explained carefully how they could change the frontage so that nobody would know what the activities of the premises were. Only a matter of a few months ago another club said 'we'll paint the door and nobody will know that we are here'. Do you want to live in a city that has such secret places, where freedom of information is denied? To quote a blogger (next section) '*a certain Dr Goebbels would be proud*'.¹⁰

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK – THE BLOGGER & 'STRIPPING THE ILLUSION'

1.24 An anonymous blog has put up a defence for the industry. I can find no mention of it before June 2012. There are no more than four contributors, whom I will not name, to continue their anonymity.

1.25 The earliest blog speaks on behalf of the two clubs in York Place. It accuses objectors to these clubs, in very emotive language, of usingemotive language! Defending Liberte, it over-stated the population of the city - it is not 798,000 but 751,000 (2011 Census).

Among its points about previous hearings:

1. Objectors were a minority, quoting 33 objectors to a previous application. How many letters of support were there? (Only THREE other persons state any support for HIS views).
2. Objectors were referred to as 'God driven moralists'.....' with bigoted value judgements'. They were accused of making 'unsubstantiated claims' by people.....using unsubstantiated arguments.
3. Another contributor told us that 'most people will not have read the truth' but omits to tell us what that truth is.

⁸ Leeds City Council Web Site

⁹ Yorkshire Evening Post, 27th March 2014

¹⁰ Stripping The Illusion, 12th June 2012

1.26 The assertion of not knowing 'the truth', is a constant recurrence in this literature. Reference to 'the truth' also appears in the one letter of support for Red Leopard, Deep Blue and Wildcats. (Relating to Red Leopard, as one example, the truth was that 25 Objections were written and there was ONE letter of support.) **What is 'the truth'?**

1.27 The blog maintains that if all the S.E.V's in the city were to close, 500 people would become unemployed. Summating numbers given by lawyers and owners at recent hearings, the figure seems to be no more than about 300, perhaps the lawyers were wrong.

1.28 The main defence of the industry, put forward by the blog is to vehemently attack objectors and their organisations (Object, the Lilith Report etc) by name, whilst the few contributors to the blog maintain their anonymity. There are no substantiated interviews with dancers, punters or even owners to back their arguments and no evidence of any petition among users of the clubs to support their cause..

1.29 The Blog 'Stripping the Illusion' reveals little evidence of any cohesive and structured support for the industry at ground level. The blogger claims that the number of visits to the site (122,455 at 2nd November 2014) is evidence of the support 'for our way of life'. I have visited this site many times over the last twelve months, my visits will be included in those totals.

1.30 I find the site totally reprehensible, full of personal attacks, generalisations and expounding odious views. This blog contributes little more support for the industry than graffiti on the lavatory wall.

1.31 When day centres close, libraries are cut, playground equipment in the parks not replaced, councillors are inundated with hundreds of letters, pickets are mounted, marches arranged. In the city centre every weekend there are several protest groups out and about, publicising their cause. Where is the picket of drunken men clad in grubby raincoats, waving flags and banners and shouting slogans about being deprived of their sweaty Thursday night? **Where is the support for these venues?** It is not on the street.

1.32 I have yet to read, from owners, lawyers or bloggers ONE cogent, disciplined and ethical justification to justify the existence of a Lap Dancing Club.

1.33 Indeed, the posterior rubs against the masonry for this industry!



Fig 2: York Place from the west

2. WHAT ABOUT THE AREA?

2.1 York Place has its own pedigree. Susan Wrathmell's study of the architectural merits of Leeds puts York Place into perspective:

Originally Cobourg Place, *'it began as an open path between King and Queen Streets..... Development at the west end of the street c.1834-50 provided houses for wool merchants but major warehouses and offices encroached on both sides. Most impressive is No. 1 (Aintree House) on the S side, by Stephen Smith c.1870.....Pevsner described it as 'the best of the functional warehouses in the area.'* And.....

2.2 *'York Place Buildings (Nos. 6-8) is a refronting of 1902 with brick pilasters and moulded terracotta architraves.....Nos. 11 and 12, a matching pair of three storey red brick houses over basements.....On the N side, the former Hepper & Sons, Horse and Carriage Repository.....with attractive frontage.'*¹¹

York Place was once in the area of highest esteem within the city, it contains properties of both quality and design. (Fig 2)

2.3 **York Place is part of the Leeds City Centre Conservation Area** (Fig 3). But for the quality of the buildings, York Place could have become a very 'down-market' area. It has not.

2.4 Leeds is a city of constant change, fluid in its movement. What once were rat-infested warehouses are now highly desirable residences. Soot blackened buildings have been cleaned and the whole character of areas, particularly around the city centre, has altered dramatically. These changes can be seen clearly in York Place when the usage of property is studied.

2.5 The Development Department of Leeds City Council have published the following analysis of the usage of buildings in York Place:

Commercial Companies = 47 (now probably 42)

Flats/Apartments = 91

Parking Spaces = 92

Empty Rooms/Suites = 43

New Ellington Hotel (west end)

There are 9 To Let/For Sale boards in York Place at 1st November.

Apartments and flats can be found at all parts of the street and there are 14 Grade II Listed Buildings in York Place.

2.6 The figures above demonstrate that the usage of properties in York Place has changed and much commercial/office space is empty. Why is this? A probable reason is that in the constant regeneration of the city centre much office accommodation, at very competitive rates, has come on to the market.

2.7 It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that, with thoughtful investment and following current trends for city-centre living, York Place could return to its previous residential use. A usual defence, promoted by club owners, has been that 'they are not here when we are open'. **There are probably more people in York Place between 10.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m. than during the working day.**

2.8 If Leeds City Council agrees that York Place is/and is moving towards being a residential area then it must take cognisance of the fact that 1282 members of the Citizens Panel (92% of sample) voted that **an S.E.V. would not be acceptable in a residential area.**¹²

¹¹ Wrathmell, S (2005) Leeds – Pevsner Architectural Guides, Page 110

¹² The totals and percentages are summated from Strongly Agree and Agree responses from the consultation exercise

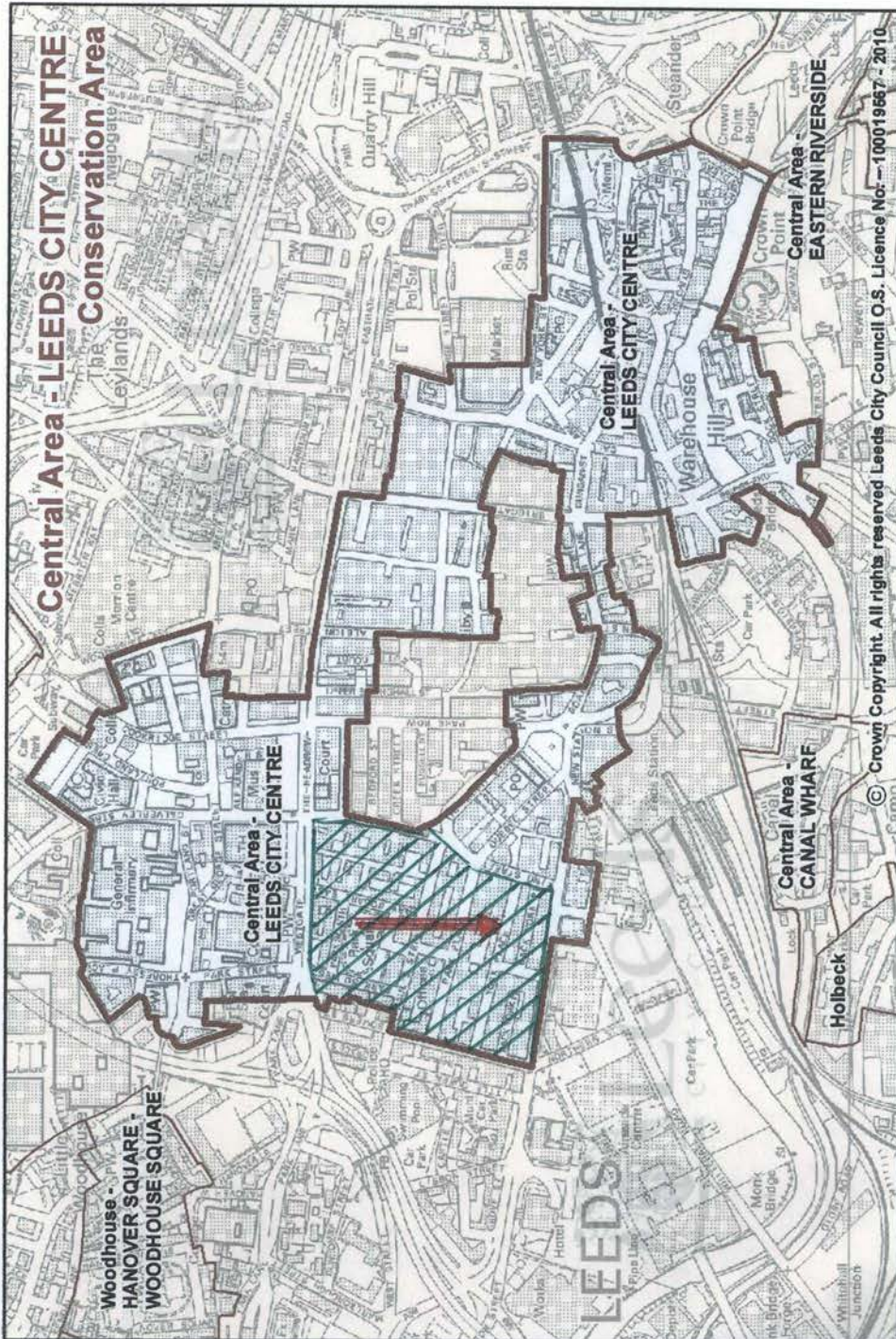


Fig 3: Leeds City Centre Conservation Area – Central Area
 GREEN SHADING: Historic Area
 RED ARROW Approximate position of Lap dancing Clubs:

2.9 The 'quadrilateral' bounded by Queen Street, Westgate, East Parade/King Street and Wellington Street (shaded in green in Fig 3) contains 85 Grade II Listed Buildings, 16 in York Place alone. What other compact area of the city (about 600 sq metres) contains 85 Grade II Listed Buildings? Susan Wrathmell¹³ praises the frontage of Hepper & Sons building on the N side of York Place and two houses, Lion House and Devonshire House by George Corson (1870). In Park Place she highlights the two houses flanking Central Street – 'each of local red brick with stone detailing' - and in St Paul's Street, she extols the Moorish Gresham House and, of course, St Paul's House, by Thomas Ambler. This house graces the crown jewels of Leeds city centre – Park Square – less than 200 metres from a Lap Dancing Club. **A truly historic area** and Citizens' Panel figures (1031 members, 75% of sample) voted that **an SEV in an historic area would not be acceptable.**

2.10 Park Square is our city park and is 167m from the door of Liberte.¹⁴ 1260 members of the Citizens' Panel (93% of sample) voted that **an SEV near a park would not be acceptable.**

2.11 East Parade is 207m from the door of Purple Door. 646 members or 50% of the Citizens' Panel voted that **It would not be acceptable to locate an SEV on or near to East Parade.**

2.12 **These two SEV's are now in the wrong place at the wrong time.**

2.13 **What do 'clients' think of the two clubs at York Place? ¹⁵**
(- an exercise in Customer Service)

Of Liberte it is written:

(24th August 2014):

'nice club, none of the girls talk English, love the dog behind the bar, if you like snail trail on your legs come here. £50 she said she would meet me after work, anyone offered to go here must avoid.'

Three weeks later:

(16th September 2014):

'.....it is full of girls who don't speak English. The staff are rude verbally abusive.....some of the girls will do drugs while at work and other extra services outside of the club.....one member of staff particularly is very abusive.....will attack customers physically and verbally as well.....avoid this club at all costs.'

An objector, in 2012, had said that 'dancers solicit men'. The 'Blogger' berated this and maintained that 'they are dancers, not prostitutes.'

Two facts arise:

1. The Blogger does not comprehend the widest meaning of the word 'solicit' AND
2. Prostitutes are at work at Liberte.

Does this club operate within the law?

The Purple Door, with the black door, attracts an interesting contribution:
(2013)

'The Purple Door is a gentlemen's club (I use the term loosely). We were invited by a rep off the street under the guise of entry, a free dance and two 'free' drinks for £20. which seemed reasonable.

Upon entry we were greeted with an atmosphere more akin to a brothel set up in a gulag than any strip bar I've ever been in. The room was small dark and filled with a class of girl that are more likely to feature in a David Attenborough documentary than Page 3.

¹³ Wrathmell, S. (2005) Leeds, Pages 111 & 112

¹⁴ Distances over 100m are computed from the O.S. Map of the area 1:10000 Scale

¹⁵ All these views are freely available on the internet. They are public knowledge

The girls were unfriendly and demanding instantly, with none of the usual chit chat. They point blank refused to accept the voucher for a free dance and instead aggressively pursued us for drinks from the bar, which were horrendously overpriced at £5 per bottle. Our second free drink was elusive and not fulfilled until we had spoken to the manager. He failed to make the free dance ever materialise and when I asked if I could have it with the one girl who did not look as if she was out on parole he said she was for VIP's only. His lack of English and the general ambience gave the impression the girls' demeanour may have derived from how he ran the operation. We left after 30 minutes.'

Is this 'responsible' licensed activity?

2.14 What about the residents' views?

Whilst conducting my survey I was challenged by a man who, quite rightly, wanted to know the business of an old geezer, a camera, his front door and his street.

We spoke for a few minutes and then I asked him if the two Sexual Entertainment Venues created any disturbance. **He gave a less than favourable opinion of the two establishments.**¹⁶ With this in mind, how do female residents feel if they have to pass these two venues on their way to their homes?

2.15 The views expressed both in the clubs and in the street do not give the impression of 'a good night out' at either establishment. It explains, perhaps, the many cards scattered around the pavements of East Parade, near to the Town Hall, on the Sunday morning of 9th November 2014.

¹⁶ This is the one statement that I cannot substantiate. There were no other witnesses.

3. LEEDS CITY COUNCIL: QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

3.1 In its Statement of Licensing Policy, the Council says:

*'Leeds City Council.....is a major provider of facilities for public recreation.....Leeds has a long established reputation for the encouragement of community and diverse cultural events and public entertainment as an essential aid to community involvement and an increasing sense of common identity.'*¹⁷

3.2 Considering the city centre area, there are the treasures of the Town Hall, the Grand Theatre, the West Yorkshire Playhouse, the Leeds City Varieties, the Carriageworks Theatre and the two cinemas. It has been my pleasure, over many years to enjoy these venues. All are open on most evenings and on any Saturday evening there will be as many as 6000 patrons enjoying live performance - with another 13,500 at the Arena, if it is operating.

3.3. The central area of the city also contains full range of restaurants and bars (at least two seem to open every week) and a vast choice of night-spots for all ages and tastes.

3.4 There is a down-side to this wide spectrum of choice – the drinking culture of Leeds. More and more people are avoiding the city centre at night. Of course, the change is almost imperceptible given the vast numbers who do come in, not only Leeds residents but from other towns and cities.

3.5 We returned to Leeds from a day out in Manchester, a few weeks ago. On the walk from Leeds Station to our bus stop, near to Holy Trinity Church, we were constantly accosted by drunken men. It was not long after 9 p.m.

3.6 It is an absolute fact that the city centre of Leeds, on most nights of the week, is not the place of choice for many people after about 9 p.m. Indeed, whereas at one time we would see a show and then stay on for a late supper, we now go straight home. Women, in particular, feel very vulnerable in town at night.

3.7 Lap Dancing clubs usually open for business at about 10.00. The condition of the clientele at that time of night does not bear thinking about.

3.8 My daughter worked a shift that finished at midnight and she would walk home to her apartment, which is on the edge of the city centre. She had to pass two (now defunct) lap dancing clubs. She was regularly harassed at both of them, not usually by punters but by the door staff. One of those clubs was hailed as 'the best' by a local lawyer but my daughter still passed on the other side of the road.

3.9 Continuing to praise the culture of the city the Statement of Licensing policy says:
*'The.....Leeds Arena.....has an iconic external design that can change appearance through an ever changing kaleidoscope of coloured lights.....Spread across a tapestry of arcades that traverse three of the busiest shopping streets in Leeds..... Trinity Leeds is a retail beacon.....(it) seamlessly joins daywith night, ushering into the city a new era of world-class entertainment and culture.'*¹⁸ That is the Leeds of 'the haves'

3.11 There is another Leeds – a Leeds of poverty, ill health, unemployment. This is the Leeds that relies on family support, food banks – a Leeds that is very near the end of its tether and a Leeds of very very vulnerable children. Consider a recent headline from the Yorkshire Evening Post (Fig 4). **That is the truth, the reality for many children of this city.**

¹⁷ Leeds City Council, Statement of Licensing Policy. Sections 6, 6.1 and 6.2. Page 16

¹⁸ Ibid Page 17, Sections 6.10 and 6.11

YORKSHIRE
Evening 
Post

YORKSHIREVENINGPOST.CO.UK

YOUR LEEDS, YOUR PAPER

THURSDAY OCTOBER 23 2014 65P (52P TO SUBSCRIBERS)

POVERTY CRISIS

- Growing number of residents being pushed over financial edge
- Scores of city people turning to foodbanks and payday lenders
- No wage increases for 6 out of 10 workers in more than a year

YEP SURVEY REVEALS PLIGHT OF CASH-STRAPPED LEEDS FAMILIES: SEE PAGES 4 & 5

FIG 4; Yorkshire Evening Post – Thursday October 24th 2014

3.12 The Council's stance, guided by the Citizens Panel, deemed 'sensitive' areas of the city where SEV's are inappropriate. These are listed in Section 7.11 of the Statement of Licensing Policy. It has meant that:

1. The Town Hall and its environs is a sensitive area, children attend functions there – Red Leopard lost its SEV licence. Beside the Town Hall is the Central Library and Art Gallery.
2. Parents taking their off-spring to the Arena, or to the Vue cinema Complex, or just shopping at the top end of town, on the Headrow, passed Wildcats. The Headrow is classed as a sensitive area and Wildcats lost its SEV licence.
3. The Leeds Station was judged to be a 'sensitive' area. Deep Blue lost its licence.

3.13 There are children in this city that will never experience 'a wide range of cultural activities'. **Where do they go?**

3.14 They go to the one local charity that has stood out as a beacon in Leeds for 111 years. Formerly known as the Leeds Poor Children's Holiday Camp, because of its camp at Silverdale, it is now **The Leeds Children's Charity**.

3.15 **Where is the base of the Leeds Children's Charity?**

Its Office Address is 6 – 8 YORK PLACE. (Fig 5)

(Purple Door is at 5 York Place and Liberte is at number 10.)



Fig 5: Leeds Children's Charity Offices , 6-8 York Place, Leeds

3.16 Visitors at the offices of the Leeds Children's Charity in mid October could not see the carpet on the office floor. The whole room was full to bursting with food parcels, three tiers deep, all being prepared for delivery to the poorest people of the city.

3.17 The door of Purple Door is 17 metres from the office of Leeds Children's Charity. (Fig 7)



Fig 7: Purple Door to Leeds Childrens' Charity (Representation)

The door of Liberte is 30 metres¹⁹ from the office of Leeds Children's Charity. (Fig 8)



Fig 8: Liberte to Leeds Children's Charity (Representation)

¹⁹ All distances under 100m are taken from the O.S.Map 1:1250 Scale

3.18 This is a building of sensitive use.

These are vulnerable children, some will be abused children, some will be in the care of social services, there will be children with statements of educational needs, some in care, some without any love in their lives and they have to pass two Lap Dancing Clubs to access help. They are just the sort of children who could be ensnared by this odious industry.

3.19 It has been maintained, and I agree that:

*'The presence of strip clubs.....sends damaging messages to children and young people in the surrounding area, given they portray male and female roles and relations. It is naive to think that the clubs only affect people who enter them,'*²⁰

3.19 The defence will be **'but we are not open when children are about.'** That was the defence of Red Leopard, Wildcats and Deep Blue. This Committee took that into consideration but the Panel refused to renew the Licences.

3.20 The site of Red Leopard is 60²¹ metres from the Town Hall; the site of Wildcats is 115 metres from the corner of the Art Gallery; the site of Deep Blue is 110 metres from the entrance to Leeds Station (by the Queen's Hotel). These clubs were refused a renewal of their S.E.V. licences in 2013.

3.20 The Council will be fully aware that the Licensing Act (2003) contains the objective 'the protection of children from harm'. **The Best City for Children**, outlined in Section 5 of the Statement of Licensing Policy has a dilemma – **York Place is more of a sensitive area than any of the other three**. Children pass within a few metres of these two clubs as they go to pass on their details, before a holiday at Silverdale. The Council says: that it has *'taken special consideration of the **location** of sex establishments,'*²² The Policing and Crime Act (2009) *'allows an Authority to reject a licensing application, if they believe that to grant a licence for a lap-dancing club would be inappropriate given the area.'*²³

This is an inappropriate area.

SUMMARY:

BBC News, 15th August 2008

'Our towns and cities should be shaped as far as possible according to residents' wishes, not by the presence of unwanted lap dancing clubs in the heart of them.'

Can there be any part of the city of Leeds nearer to 'the heart' than the York Place area?

²⁰ The Observer, 28 January 2014

²¹ Distances over 100m are taken from the O.S. Map Scale 1:10000

²² Leeds City Council: Statement of Licensing Policy. Section 5.7.

²³ Policing and Crime Act (2009)