

**Nelson, Matthew**

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**From:** Garthwaite, Cllr Al  
**Sent:** 21 October 2016 15:14  
**To:** Nelson, Matthew; [entertainmentlicencing@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:entertainmentlicencing@leeds.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Application for premises and SEV licence for Black Orchid

I originally sent this to entertainment licencing but it was returned as undeliverable so here it is again, directed to you as the Case Officer.

Al

Cllr Al Garthwaite  
Headingley  
Leeds City Council  
[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Garthwaite, Cllr Al" [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 21 October 2016 at 15:09:14 BST  
**To:** "[entertainmentlicensing@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:entertainmentlicensing@leeds.gov.uk)" <[entertainmentlicensing@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:entertainmentlicensing@leeds.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Application for premises and SEV licence for Black Orchid

PREM/03858/001

I would like to object to this application for the following reasons:

1. This is an area where there are a lot of hotels where visitors to the city stay. They may have children with them, or be women travelling on their own for business or other reasons. It is inappropriate to have SEVs in areas where the general public, including children, may be going about their lives, and also in areas where women on their own are likely to be. Many women report feeling unsafe in areas where men are congregating for the purpose of visiting, or leaving, SEVs. These men are often in a state of general arousal or excitement which is likely to be directed at women, resulting in street harassment and worse. Women visiting Leeds should not be subjected to such treatment, or fear such treatment - nor should those who work in hotels and clubs.
2. The suggested venue is near the Market, shops and bus stops. The issues raised in (2) also apply to this.
3. The venue is on a bus route into Leeds and an area which is being redeveloped. A SEV here presents a tawdry image of Leeds to the general public and also makes it feel unsafe, as described above.
4. The police have identified this area as a crime hot spot and I understand are objecting to licensed premises expanding in the area on the grounds that there are enough premises in the area providing alcohol in any case. I agree with this.
5. The hours of opening and serving alcohol, 6pm to 5am or 6am, are excessive. In the evening many people are leaving work or setting out for a night's entertainment and do not wish to be caught up in a crowd of over-excited men, or men leaving on their own in a state of arousal. It is not safe, and will not be perceived to be safe. I myself have worked in Dock Street for many years and walked up to the Corn Exchange to catch a bus home afterwards; I would not wish to have to walk past an open SEV. The same applies to the early morning, when people are coming into town to start their day. Proposals for the expansion of South Bank to make it a people friendly, child friendly place to live will be severely compromised

by this development.

6. As a councillor for Headingley, I am well aware of the amount of harassment young women, including many students, report as taking place in and around clubs and bars in the centre of Leeds. This club would only add to the level of harassment they experience. I am concerned for the safety of vulnerable young women who have had some or a lot to drink. Men leaving this establishment, tanked up and quite possibly behaving badly, present a real threat to the safety and feeling of safety that we want all women to have in Leeds.

7. The Gay Quarter is a vibrant and enjoyable venue for LGBT\* and others. This's establishment would seriously detract from its appeal, and also cause the Gay Quarter and the people who go there to be equated in some people's minds with seediness, danger and nothing but sexual behaviour. It has taken a long time for the LGBT\* community to shake off these negative associations and for Black Orchid to open here would be a backward step.

8. This week I attended the unveiling of a Blue Plaque at the New Penny pub, which has provided a safe space for the LGBT\* community for many years. I fear that the clientele associated with Black Orchid may very well not be LGBT\*-friendly and present both a real and a perceived threat to the people who go to the gay quarter. The Chair of the Civic Trust, in her speech at the unveiling, talked about how when she was young this part of town was a no-go area to her as it was "not very nice". I would hate the opening of Black Orchid to bring about this reputation once more, as I fear it may.

9. I am aware that a number of people working in the immediate neighbourhood are not aware of this application. I know that a notice has been pinned to lamp-posts etc but given the importance of this application I think that more needs to be done to raise awareness of the possibility of this new club.

Yours

Al

Cllr Al Garthwaite  
Headingley  
Leeds City Council  
