

COMMENTS MADE FROM THE SEV CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 1) Residents in Blackburn with Darwen would have very little say on whether a lap dancing club could operate in the Borough should one apply to do so. Due to a legal loophole, lap dancing clubs are licensed in the same way as cafes and karaoke nights. Not only does this stop local people from having a voice, it would prevent Blackburn with Darwen Council applying vital regulations and restrictions to lap dancing clubs. Why does this matter? Because lap dancing clubs are part of the sex industry, not the ordinary leisure industry. Areas surrounding the clubs can become no-go areas for women, and they fuel a sexist culture in which it is acceptable to treat women as sex objects, not people. They impact on everyone in our community, yet only those who live within a 100-200m radius of the club can currently object to a license. But Blackburn with Darwen now has the opportunity to remedy this. Following a national campaign led by Object and the Fawcett Society, the government has changed the law so local authorities can now licence lap dancing clubs as sexual entertainment venues - meaning they can apply greater controls and local people would get a greater say. But to use these new licensing powers local authorities first have to pass a resolution to adopt them. I believe Donna that the new licensing powers should be adopted by Blackburn with Darwen Council which would better take into account the feeling of local communities (because councils would be able to consider the impact of such clubs on, say, nearby schools. and neighbourhoods.
- 2) I feel such places demure and degrade women adding to a culture where some see them as objects rather than people/human beings. I suspect they will open to further exploitation of vulnerable girls. I consider they will lower the moral values of our town and society. I would fully support the council taking a heavy hand in their licensing, location and advertising
- 3) This sort of activity should be situated in areas as where appropriate, ie out of town and sight of children. There should be door staff making well aware of the content in the venue before allowing guests in and an age limit of 21 - 25 with the possibility of only allowing couples in only and a quarterly review of the licence. My view is it should be barred.
- 4) Blackburn does not need these places or the people who frequent them. multi cultural towns, problems would arise, licensed trade struggling anyway. As long as the controls are there to control and not prohibit then I am in favour.
I personally want to see the borough to be a nice clean place for a family and zero tolerance for this kind of filth.
- 5) Should also be restrictions near libraries, leisure centres, KGH, museums. Please also consider the proximity to other venues where children and vulnerable adults may go such as KGH, libraries, leisure centres, museums, playgrounds, parks. These sex establishment premises set a tone for a neighbourhood or a business district. In some cases some business may benefit but a large number would not benefit.

- 6) Whereas these type of venues can be considered as part of the local economy catering for specific needs of some of the population, I think it is important that they do not infringe upon the rights of others to be free of any disturbance from them whether this be emotional, physical, philosophical, they must be sensitively located and managed and monitored.
- 7) Blackburn with Darwen town centre management would strongly object to adult entertainment venues on major high street/retail areas within Blackburn and Darwen town centres due to the impact that these would have on the general vitality and visibility as set out in planning policy statement PPSG. We would also be keen to see greater control over the operation and visual appearance of such venues where they are permitted, across the borough, due to the negative impact these venues can have on the urban design, place perception and visitor economy.
- 8) Why do we need this sort of venue, let us have good society and neighbourhood where people can live peacefully and happy. As it is we too many bookies where people gambling all the time.
- 9) The council should adopt the new Licensing Laws as it would not only allow 'greater control from residents and the Local Authority but would enable ourselves better control, engagement and enforcement opportunities.

I believe that greater control from Police, residents and Council would enable management of these venues and therefore would in itself limit numbers within the Borough without the need to specify actual numbers. Due to the degree of control, fees involved and a lack of demand we do not envisage large numbers of such venues within the Borough.

There should be zero limits on locations near to schools and places of worship but difficulties with shopping malls as most such venues are likely to be situated within town centres where the malls are. The degree of control the new laws will create will again allow management of location.

Restrictions on advertising are a good idea so that we can control the content of such material.

The public should be aware what kind of premises they are entering to avoid humiliation / embarrassment etc, but this would be facilitated and controlled via the conditions we could impose on their licences.