

19/09/2008

Head of Planning
Health and Environment Division
Duke House
Clensmore Street
Kidderminster
DY10 2JX

PH&E
22 SEP 2008

Dear Sir/Madam,

Renewal of licence for sex shop: Simply Pleasure, 51 Blackwell Street

I am writing to you regarding the above subject during its public consultation period. It is my opinion that its renewal should not be granted on several grounds.

As a constituent of Kidderminster I care extremely about this town, its people and its neighbours. The Wyre Forest District Council recently stated that they wish to improve the main gateways into Kidderminster. This is an excellent initiative as this is what visitors to our town will first see and therefore remember. This in turn reflects on Kidderminsters reputation as a clean, healthy, thriving town. The Horsefair and Broadwaters represent the gateway from Wolverhampton and Stourbridge. Blackwell Street, unfortunately, does not give a great representation of our town for visitors as it is dirty and heavily loaded with traffic. The area is infamous for drugs and drink too. That all goes without saying if the first thing a visitor sees is a sex shop, in the big lettering of Simply Pleasure. What picture does this paint of our town? I certainly do not find it an attractive one.

I would also like to call into question the number of sex shops appropriate for the locality. You will already be aware that another sex shop exists on the same street. I pertain that, due to the above and below reasons, that nil be the appropriate number. You should take into account that it is a shopping area, therefore will affect families and children, and it is near several places of worship (a mosque, the methodist church and the Salvation Army) who may also find it offensive. There are also schools and parks in the locality.

I also have several moral objections for the shop in question. I am aware that this is a larger issue but I feel obliged to mention them. The shop itself devalues sex and in doing so does not inform children of, in my view, its correct place. Many of those of particular faith, or indeed no faith, will find this offensive.

Please feel free to get in contact should you require any more information or my attendance at any proceedings regarding this.

Yours faithfully,