

The Canterbury Society

16 April 2013

Email to the Licensing Committee, Canterbury City Council

I am writing on behalf of the Canterbury Society to express our concern about the application for a "sex entertainment licence" for the former Farmhouse Restaurant in Dover Street.

This seems to us to be an inappropriate use for a building which is situated in an area which is both residential and populated by large numbers of students.

The Oaten Hill Society, which represents local residents, has consulted widely with those who live in the area. This has shown that over 90 per cent of those consulted opposed the proposal. Local businesses too, are concerned that this use of the building will bring the area into disrepute.

The students are mainly at Canterbury Christ Church University, and the CCCU Students' Union is also strongly opposed to the proposal. Research has shown that many lap dancers are in fact students supplementing their finances while at university; other students are likely to try out this form of 'entertainment'.

Canterbury is favoured by many parents as a place for their children to attend university because it is considered to be a safe and attractive place. If it were known that the city was becoming a venue for the sex industry, this could have a very damaging effect on student recruitment. Higher education is, of course, the most important economic activity in Canterbury.

We urge the council to reject this application.

Yours sincerely

Jan Pahl

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