

Name	Email Address	Objection Status	Objection
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Withdrawn	<p>I am objecting to this for the reasons below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On a school route 2. There's a drug and drink problem in Sidwell Street and the shops have a bad enough time and putting a sex shop will just exactly exacerbate the problems already there. 3. Sidwell street houses vulnerable people and it is nearly opposite the St Sidwell centre 4. Health centre, which would attract elderly vulnerable people.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Withdrawn subject to existing conditions being maintained.	<p>I am writing to object to the application of Simply Pleasure.Com, 156 Sidwell Street.</p> <p>I am a local secondary school teacher and it concerns me that a sex shop opening on a prominent high street in Exeter, could encourage even more young people to illegally engage in pornography. By having a shop of this category on the high street, it normalises the topic of sex for pleasure, which in turn normalises pornography, which people view for sexual pleasure. It could be argued that this topic has its place in an over-18 environment, but the high street can be accessed by all people, including under-18s. Having a sex shop on the high street therefore goes against the government's best efforts at making pornography hard to reach for under-age people, further normalising under-age sexual activity.</p>

			<p>Several of the shops in the area are charity shops, which sell products for the benefit of the community. Many families, particularly in the cost of living crisis, go to these shops to buy clothing, so the footfall of under-18s is high at peak times.</p> <p>Thank you for reading my objection.</p>
			<p>We would like to object in the strongest possible terms to the opening of a sex shop at 156 Sidwell Street. We live in the area and know from first hand the problems and poor social behaviour that can occur there. This shop may well attract even more trouble.</p> <p>Also Sidwell Street is a very well used thoroughfare with young children and their parents going to the nearby primary school and local families walking to the shops etc, so we do not think this is a suitable venue for a sex shop.</p>
			<p>I am writing to object to the application from Simply Pleasure.com at 156 Sidwell Street on the basis of the following relevant policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 . Exeter City Council Sex Establishment Policy July 2013 (the Policy) . Sexual Entertainment Venue Home Office Guidance . The Human Rights Act 1998 <p>discretionary grounds set out in Schedule 3 Paragraph 12 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.</p>

			<p>Paragraph 12(3)(c) that the number of sex establishments, or of sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality at the time the application is determined is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality.</p> <p>And paragraph 12(3)(d) that the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate having regard</p> <p>i. to the character of the relevant locality; or Page 5ii. iii. to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.</p> <p>paragraph 12(3)(c) of the Act and Policy 7 of the Council's Sex Establishment Licensing Policy headed 'The Number of Sex Establishments'. Policy 7 states that there is no locality within Exeter in which it would be appropriate to licence a Sex Entertainment Venue. Accordingly the appropriate number of this category of sex establishment for each and every locality within Exeter is nil.</p> <p>12(3)(d)(i) of the Act and Policy 8 of the Council's Sex Establishment Licensing Policy headed 'Character of Locality'. Policy 8states that sex establishments are unsuitable uses in localities whose character is or is significantly one or more of the following: educational, residential, religious, family leisure, late night entertainment and shopping.</p>
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		<p>Policy 9 of the Council’s Sex Establishment Licensing Policy headed ‘Vicinity’. Policy 9 states that the Council will not normally grant a licence where any premises within the vicinity are used for the following: School, place of worship, family leisure, domestic residential buildings, important historic buildings, youth facilities and important cultural facilities.</p> <p>Sidwell Street is one of the key pedestrian routes into the City Centre for visitors, residents and workers with a number of bus stops and the central Bus Station nearby. All of the above criteria is relevant as to why this type of premise’s is not suitable in this location.</p> <p>Residential</p> <p>Directly in the immediate location are multiple student accommodation blocks – approximately 1500 student rooms with further planning permission granted for more student blocks and co-living blocks in Summerland Street, The vast majority of university students live within the City centre (St James, Pennsylvania, Newtown St Leonards) and will pass through Sidwell St continuously throughout an average week.</p> <p>There are a large number of residential properties both on Sidwell Street and surrounding streets, residents of all ages live in the immediate area including families with children.</p>
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		<p>Educational establishments</p> <p>Exeter College is also located in the city and many students will be using Sidwell Street as their main route to the college or to access buses</p> <p>We have a number of primary schools located within this area – Newton Primary, St Sidwell’s Co of E, Stoke Hill Primary – some also have pre schools and the Grosvenor nursery is also located nearby.</p> <p>Many young people living in the locality will attend St James Secondary school and walk along Sidwell street daily to attend school.</p> <p>The Exeter Mosque is also located on York Road near to Sidwell Street and runs an Islamic school – this is very popular and many people use Sidwell Street to walk to the Mosque with their children to attend the school.</p> <p>As many bus routes are on Sidwell Street -or accessed via the bus station many school or college aged children will be walking through Sidwell Street daily to access public transport</p> <p>Family Leisure and Youth Facilities</p> <p>St Sidwells Point is located very close by – this is Exeter’s main family leisure centre and it offers a variety of family-based leisure activities at varying times of the day seven days a week. It would be impossible for many people to get to the leisure centre without access to Sidwell Street - and neither should families have to avoid a main road due to a premises of this nature.</p>
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			<p>The Bone Yard arcade is due to open its new premises at <u>108-182 Sidwell Street</u> – just yards away from this site. The Boneyard arcade is a much-loved family retro games arcade – it was mentioned by young people as being a great place for young teenagers to visit in a recent Customer Scrutiny meeting which focussed on safety in Sidwell Street.</p> <p>Positive light s project – this is a fantastic and very popular not for profit community arts based centre based on Sidwell Street which runs a number of activities for young people and children and families</p> <p>St Sidwells Community centre – this facility based in Sidwell Street is an invaluable recourse to families and the wider community, it offers training, meeting rooms, a café, inclusive events and support and mentoring services</p> <p>Both the Odeon and Vue Cinemas are located either on or near to Sidwell Street – these cinemas are used daily by families and young people both during the day and into the evening</p> <p>Religious buildings St Sidwells Chapel St Sidwells Methodist church Exeter Mosque – the mosque has around <u>2000-3000</u> users and many will access via Sidwell Street. Pentecostal Church</p>
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		<p>Sidwell street is of course only a very short walk to the cathedral which welcomes thousands of visitors every year – we would very much hope that these visitors also chose to explore Exeter shopping areas and this kind of premises is simply not suitable for a main shopping and pedestrian area of the city.</p> <p>Late Night entertainment Sidwell Street has a bustling late night economy – the road is often very busy until late in the evening The Duke of York recently successfully applied for a later licence and some food venues now operate with 24 hour opening Cafes and restaurants on Sidwell Street reflect the diverse nature of the area and appeal to residents, families, students, visitors – such as football fans, tourists, Other late opening premises include betting shops and supermarkets. Sidwell Street is also close to nightclubs such as Timepiece which operates <u>until 2am</u> Tuesday- Saturday – this is a popular club with students many of whom will be walking back through Sidwell Street late at night.</p> <p>Cultural and Heritage Exeter welcomes almost 120,000 visitors a year – many will be visiting the city to see cultural sites such as the cathedral which is just a short walk away from Sidwell Street or The underground tunnels on nearby Paris Street which attracts around 15,000 visitors a year. Sidwell Street is known for its diverse restaurants and attracts a lot of football generally</p>
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		<p>from passing visitors who may have parked nearby or be visiting Exeter for football or to attend the mosque, be family visiting students at the university.</p> <p>Local Crime</p> <p>Sidwell Street area has the 8th highest crime rate of 399 local areas in Exeter, it is considered a local crime hotspot. Overall crime levels in this area are significantly higher than in the surrounding streets and the wider area. Specific policing activity has been focussed on Sidwell Street to try and tackle some of the key issues of crime and Anti Social Behaviour</p> <p>The overall crime rate in the area around Sidwell Street (EX4 6RH) in the last 12 months was 792.2 per 1,000 residents and was 485.4% higher than the Newtown and St Leonard's average (135.3 per 1,000 residents). In the last 12 months, this area's most reported crimes were Violence and sexual offences with 188 offences recorded</p> <p>Reports of sexual assault and rape have increased across Exeter in 2024, instances of sexual assault and rape recorded in the postcode EX4 have increased in the past 3 years, rising from 146 in 2021 to 185 in 2023. Reports of sexual assault</p>
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			<p>and rape in 2024 had reached 189 by September — in nine months already surpassing reports across the whole of 2023. This reached a peak in September with 29 reports of sexual assault and rape across the month.</p> <p>Sidwell Street also suffers from ongoing issues relating to street attached an homeless individuals, both in terms of behaviour caused by those who may be intoxicated or using drugs, but also recognising that street attached and homeless individuals are vulnerable and at risk of exploitation from prostitution, grooming and county lines as well as being at risk of being victims of violent and sexual crimes themselves.</p> <p>Violence against women and girls – the national picture</p> <p>A woman is killed by a man every three days in the UK. Violence against women and girls makes up just under 20% per cent of all recorded crime in England and Wales. In the year ending March 2023, police recorded 103,135 rape and serious sexual offences.</p> <p>In 2024, police chiefs declared VAWG a national emergency through a national statement, calling for a whole-system approach that brings together criminal justice partners, government bodies, health and education to collectively tackle the threat, through</p>
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			<p>earlier identification of perpetrators and prevention work.</p> <p>Exeter SWaN Charter</p> <p>Exeter City Council has made a very clear commitment to the safety of women and girls through the Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) Charter developed as part of Exeter's commitment to keeping the city a safe place, where women feel confident and safe at night.</p> <p>The Charter is a voluntary pledge to prioritise the safety of women in Exeter, and to acknowledge it is the responsibility of all of us to take practical steps together to keep our city safe for everyone.</p> <p>The Charter unites organisations in developing a whole-city approach to reducing violence against women and girls and keeping them safe at night in Exeter.</p> <p>The following Exeter specific factors illustrate why this Charter is important:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recent criminal convictions for murder and serious assaults against women in the city• The increase in women reporting rape and sexual assault during and post-lockdown• Growing concerns of drink spiking and assaults using needles• Predominance of city centre anti-social behaviour in the evening
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in numbers of homeless women in the city• Women at risk from County Lines gangs• Women have told us why they feel unsafe in Exeter through the SWaN survey <p>The survey, by the Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) project, asked 1,500 women their views. More than 85% of women feel unsafe walking alone down a street at night in Exeter city centre, a survey has found</p> <p>More than 70% of respondents said they were more likely to feel unsafe in outside spaces, such as making their way home, while more than 42% said they were likely to feel unsafe moving between establishments.</p> <p>A quarter of those polled also said they had been affected by a sexual offence while one third said they had been harassed in the last three years.</p> <p>The high violent and sexual crime number in Sidwell Street show that there is a serious issue in this area and women routinely report feeling unsafe walking through Sidwell Street – particularly in the evening.</p> <p>I can find no evidence to suggest that this business has even signed up to the SWaN Charter – perhaps this says a lot about how much of a priority they place on understanding</p>
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			<p>the issues relating to sexual violence and the specific impact on women and girls.</p> <p>These kinds of premises will do nothing to help women feel safe in Exeter – the irony is that the annual reclaim the night march also takes place in Sidwell Street- where this organisation feels is an appropriate place to have a sex shop. It is clear that they have either little understanding of the serious issues facing women regarding sexual violence or simply to not care about it.</p> <p>Women and girls have a right to feel safe in any place at any time of the day, a high street used by women and girls of all ages is a completely inappropriate place to even consider placing a venue of this nature.</p> <p>Two similar applications have been made in the past by a business also based on Sidwell Street. They were refused a license on both occasions for the reasons I have highlighted within this objection. Given the same circumstances apply to this application I hope that it will also be refused.</p>