

Licensing Department
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House
King Street
Maidstone
ME15 6JQ

16 October 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Pillow Talk Application – 86 Bank Street

I am writing on behalf of Maidstone Town Centre Management to object in the strongest possible terms for the application made by Pillow Talk to trade at 86 Bank Street.

Not only do we feel that this particular type of establishment would not be in keeping with the general atmosphere of this historic area of the town, we also believe that Pillow Talk has adequate representation in Maidstone with their two existing branches in Sandling Road and Upper Stone Street.

Yours faithfully

Proposed application for Pillow Talk in Bank Street

It has been brought to my attention that this shop located in Upper Stone Street wishes to open a further shop in Bank Street.

I would object to this proposal for the following reasons –

1. The shop is already adequately represented in the town.
2. It is not a desirable shop to encourage younger children/people to take an interest.
3. By allowing the shop, the Council, as representatives of this town, is condoning and agreeing to what it represents.
4. It's proposed location is central and therefore easily accessible to young people who visit the town unaccompanied.
5. The proposed shop is a poor advertisement as to the quality of the town.

I would sincerely hope that this proposed application is rejected.

~~The Council~~
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House
High Street, Maidstone.
ME15 6JQ

20th October 2008-10-20

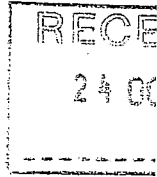
Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

I write in connection with an application from Pillow Talk for a new shop in Bank Street.

I understand that Pillow Talk already have two shops in the town. While I understand the need – as they see it – of some to frequent places like this, I don't think it adds anything to the good reputation of Maidstone. Furthermore, Bank Street is a town-centre location which would give Pillow Talk a more obvious exposure to the public.

I feel that to allow this application would tend to make Maidstone begin to look like the 'sex-capital' of Kent. I don't want my town to have any such reputation.

Please therefore don't agree to this application.



The Licence Committee
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House
High Street
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 6JQ

21st October 2008

Dear Sirs,

**RE: Application before the council from Pillow Talk to have a third sex shop
in the centre of town in Bank Street**

I understand that The Town centre Management has objected to this application on the grounds that Pillow Talk is already adequately represented in the area with two branches and I support their reasoning; that it is not in keeping with the area to have this shop in Bank Street.

I object most strongly to this application as I know will all the people in St Luke's Church. This represents approximately 600 members of our congregations because they believe in the importance of value-based relationships. They will object most strongly to the kind of shop which this is, which objectifies the human body, makes sex itself into a commodity and thus robs people of their dignity as human beings.

I would be grateful if you would convey our views to the committee in the strongest possible terms. I understand that all objections have to be in your hands by 2nd November. It is my intention to ask the people of St. Luke's to sign a petition against this application and I will endeavour to have that to you before the due date.

Yours Respectfully

Maidstone licence Committee
Maidstone House,
High Street,
ME15 6JQ

22ND October 2008

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to voice my objections to the application made by Pillow Talk to occupy a shop on Bank Street of Maidstone High Street in order to sell their stock.

Firstly, Pillow Talk has two premises in Maidstone already on Lower Stone Street and Granville Road in which to sell stock and therefore I do not see why a third premises needs be granted in the town.

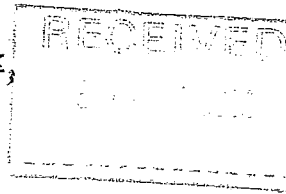
Secondly, considering the nature of this stock, for it to be located in the centre of Maidstone town would be completely distasteful and highly inappropriate. I have seen the premises which Pillow Talk has on Lower Stone street and it can only be described as sleezy. I would not like to walk past this shop with any of my family wherever it was located, but for it to be on a main road in the town centre would be even worse.

Thirdly I would like to ask the committee what kind of feel they want the town to have when people come into visit it? This kind of shop would not only bring down the image of the town but also spread the seediness that has emerged through the granting of licences to shops such as this to sell their stock on main public streets.

I do hope that you will not grant this licence for these reasons.

THE LICENCING
COMMITTEE,

MAIDSTONE B.C.,
MAIDSTONE HOUSE,
HIGH ST,
MAIDSTONE



Sex Shop Application, Bank St, Maidstone.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to object to the application by Pillow Talk for a sex shop at Bank St, Maidstone.

There are already two branches of this chain in Maidstone (which is too too many) & it would not be in keeping to have another branch in Bank St (or anywhere else in Maidstone Borough).

Yours sincerely,

P.F. Correspondence?	
REF:	Init'l
29 OCT 2008	
CHQ. DET. £	
DRAWER	

The Licence Committee
Maidstone Borough Council
Maidstone House
High Street
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 6JQ

Dear Sirs,

I understand that an application has been received for a second sex shop in Bank Street in the town centre. One sex shop in our town is more than enough but we already have one, an Ann Summers in the town centre. As the county town of Kent we should be setting an example of high moral and ethical standards to the community.

I object strongly to such a shop being part of the town centre business area. If we must have them let them be out of the public gaze.

I trust this application will not be approved.

Dear Sir

Application for licensed sex shop in Bank Street Maidstone

I have been informed that Maidstone town centre management have objected to the above application on the grounds that the applicant (Pillow Talk) is already adequately represented in the area and that it is not in keeping with the area to have this establishment in Bank Street.

I would like very strongly to lend my support to these objections.

It is extremely distressing to me that in our day and age it is not enough that the activities of sex shops mean that they will not be granted permissions. We seem to have lost sufficient moral compass that apparently one has to state reasons and make a case against even the most obnoxious uses.

In addition to the above my reasons for objecting to (not just the above application but the presence of the existing premises) sex shops are several. First they prostitute, cheapen and degrade what ought to be upheld as beautiful and central to human expression of love and worthy of protection by our public institutions. They cheapen sex and cheapen those engaged in the business of selling sex. Next they perniciously divorce sex from its correct context in loving relationship. Anyone familiar with pornography (and I had plenty of opportunity when I served in the in the Army) knows that the products these places sell aren't interested in human love, just sex as a commodity. The result is to brutalise and distort sex and to degrade women. The fact that women consent to appear is beside the point. They are doing so because of the money they can earn. Thirdly they deface the streets on which the premises stand so that it becomes an embarrassment to find oneself walking in the vicinity of them. How can one be proud of our town when you have to avert your gaze at certain points. Lastly but perhaps saddest of all are the health issues these places raise. Sex shops should I think have a health warning over the door as the mental health traps (and likely physical health traps as the encouragement they give to pursuing sex on a casual basis must increase the risk of infection for those lead by it) there undoubtedly are. Everyday it would seem one can find stories in the press or internet of people whose lives have been undermined or simply destroyed by indulgence in sex as a pastime. In theory they are consenting adults but

by their behaviour it is plain that they are addicted. This is also true of many of those engaged in the profession. They long ago lost the ability to withdraw consent having fallen into addictive or compulsive behavioural disorders; sometimes the sex itself or because earnings from it were necessary for other additions, or some combination of the two.

Do we really need another opportunity for incubating a view of sex as a toy or a view of women as a means to an end? For ripping off the lonely or for seeding unhealthy and degenerative thought lives in Maidstone's young men?

I very much hope that the License Committee will refuse permission for this application, especially in this town centre location.