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address below

6th December, 2001

The Licensing Officer,  
Corporate Services,  
Civic Offices,  
Portsmouth,  
Hants. PO1 2AL

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Campaign to support the application for a licence to open a sex shop at 379, London Road, North End.

These premises are on a wide main road, where it would be easy for police and trading standards officers to monitor the stock and the customers to ensure that they complied with the law.

The nearest schools, Northern Parade Infants and Junior, are for pupils of eleven years old and less. It is not a question of mature-looking but under-age schoolchildren regularly trying to obtain goods that they could not legally buy.

The applicant has assured local residents that the premises will be discreetly advertised. (There is in any case legislation controlling shop window displays.) The worst that could happen would be that some parents of small children might be embarrassed by being asked what was inside - as they might ask about the betting shop next door. We suggest that that is not sufficient reason to refuse other adults the opportunity to enhance their enjoyment of the oldest leisure activity of all.

Film censor Andreas Whittham-Smith is on record as saying that there should be many more sex shops in this country. This is an opportunity to look ahead to a more enlightened future, rather than back to Mrs. Whitehouse and the Victorians.

Yours faithfully,

E.A.C.Goodman  
(Chairman of CAC)