

The Bolton News

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Sex shop staff vow to stay put after quit order

STAFF at a sex shop in Atherton have vowed to stay put after the local authority ordered it to close.

People and traders in the town welcomed news this week that Wigan Council had ordered the Hot Spot, in Market Street, to quit within two weeks because it did not have a licence.

But Mary Miller, who has worked in the shop since it opened 16 months ago, said staff would continue to work until they were forced out of the premises.

"This is the first I've heard about it," she said. "They are wrong if they think they can just close us -- they have got a hell of a fight on their hands."

Last month, Wigan Council gave the landlord of the premises 21 days to tell them what the shop was selling. The shop was told to show what percentage of stock was pornographic or face a fine of £5,000.

If they continued trading without a licence they could then face a maximum penalty of £20,000 -- an amount which has persuaded the landlord into telling the manager to quit.

Mrs Miller, who claimed she did not know who ran the shop, insisted that the Hot Spot had caused no problems in Atherton.

She said: "In the very first weeks a couple of the local traders wanted the shop to shut, but since then we have never had any trouble. Nobody from Wigan Council has been here for months.

"We do good business. A couple of our customers came in this afternoon and said they hope we don't close. There's nothing we sell here you couldn't find in an Ann Summers shop. I think it's pathetic."

Alan Holgate, whose photography store is next door to the Hot Spot, said he would be glad to see the back of the sex shop.

He added: "To be quite honest, we weren't happy when it first opened. It has been a bit of an annoyance."

But Bill Baldwin, Rector of Atherton, said it would make no difference if the shop closed.

He added: "It hasn't made any impact on the town. The people of Atherton have more sense than to bother with it."

It is not yet known if another sex shop in Hindley, believed to run by the same person as the Hot Spot, will be told to close as well

<https://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/6078350.sex-shop-staff-vow-to-stay-put-after-quit-order/>