

NO AUTHORITY TO BAN TORBAY CONCERT BY SEX PISTOLS

TORBAY'S recreation committee want to ban the Sex Pistols from the area, but there is nothing they can do about it.

When the matter was brought up at yesterday's meeting, Mr David Hudson, the town clerk, made it clear that as the concert was a private enterprise, and was not being held in a public building, the committee had no authority to act.

The discussion was raised by committee chairman Mr John Farrell who said he had been inundated by people complaining about the concert. One clergyman who telephoned him claimed to represent the views of 3,000 people who wanted the concert cancelled.

But the main attack came from Mrs Joan Cooper, who described the group as sickening.

"It is not enough simply to have them out of Torquay; we must publicly dissociate our borough from entertainment of this kind.

"It is one thing to recommend others what ought to be done to better the standards of behaviour in Torbay, but this is a circumstance when we must take action," she continued.

"I strongly deplore the kind of image publicised by this group: one of slovenly appearance, filth, and habit. There

has never been anything like this before.

"The trouble is that our own local youngsters who attend performances model themselves upon this so-called fashion. Entertainment to encourage anti-establishment attitudes while whipping up a state of frenzy and uncontrollable non-reason in youngsters is no good to anyone," she said.

"Let it be known that Torbay is not putting up with such sickening behaviour."

The topic was brought to a sudden close by Mrs Mary Thairwall, who suggested that any further discussion on the Sex Pistols would bring them publicity, which they did not deserve.

Meanwhile the letter sent by the Mayor of Torbay, Mr Walter Beesley to C. V. Tanna, owner of Penelope's, the Paignton club where the group are booked to appear, appealing for the cancellation of the concert, has brought a sharp retort.

"I don't think the mayor is

musically competent enough to advise me," said Mr Tanna. "How would you like a High Court judge to remove your appendix?"

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