

From:

Sent: 07 June 2020 23:36

To: Business Licence <business.licence@brent.gov.uk>

Subject: Application for a premises licence

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to make representation about a notice of application for a premises licence under the Gambling Act 2005.

This is an application by the company Future Leisure Limited for an Adult Gaming Centre Premises Licence under section 159 of the Gambling Act 2005. This relates to the premises at 141 Kilburn High Road, Kilburn, London, NW6 7HT.

I note that the application has been made to the London Borough of Brent Licensing Service (Regulatory Services), specifically 'Regeneration and Growth'. I have to say that the granting of this premises licence would do little to assist in regeneration and growth in Kilburn in particular or Brent in general. I am happy to expand on that viewpoint.

I have been a resident of [REDACTED] since 2015 and am very familiar with the business premises at 141 Kilburn High Road and its former incarnation as a branch of William Hill Bookmakers. What I witnessed was how significantly these premises contributed to the anti-social behaviour that is such a negative part of living in Kilburn..

While operating under the William Hill name, 141 Kilburn High Road attracted a constant stream of alcoholics and various other unsavoury individuals and groups. They did not congregate on the High Road but instead would gather along the Glengall Road side of the building, extending from the entrance door to the premises down to (and indeed, into) Glengall Passage.

These gatherings took place at all hours of the day and night and were characterised by swearing and shouting, public drinking, frequent physical altercations and littering. Of particular concern was the frequent public urination that came with these gatherings, due to the alcohol being consumed but with no access to public lavatories. The level of brazenness was such that I once witnessed an inebriated individual leaning with his back to the wall of number 141 and urinating almost half the width of the pavement, in full view of anyone walking past. The reaction of customers sitting outside La Diva Café echoed my own revulsion on that occasion.

A more disgusting example of this behaviour involved my children. I have [REDACTED] and who are pupils at Kilburn Grange School on Priory Park Road. Glengall Passage is the shortest route from Glengall Road through to the school but it was not feasible to use it as many of those gathering outside number 141 would urinate there. Consequently, Glengall Passage became akin to an open sewer and the smell was truly dreadful even when simply passing by and having to take the longer route round to the school via Kilburn High Road. One morning in particular, I went to walk my children down Glengall Passage and we were confronted by the sight of a drunken middle aged man, with a can of beer in one hand and his penis in the other, urinating openly against the wall barely

two feet from Glengall Road. I quickly moved my children away and was genuinely furious to have witnessed this sort of behaviour being displayed on the street that we call home.

The area outside Number 141 was also a focal point for criminal activity when it was a bookmakers, with several individuals openly exchanging drugs and money. An organised gang of Eastern European beggars has been operating on Kilburn High Road for the past year and several of their members would also congregate outside 141. They would walk further down Glengall Road asking people for money and I have witnessed them sitting outside the main door of Academy Court, the residential flats, arguing with each other.

Since the closure of William Hill at 141 Kilburn High Road and the premises remaining vacant, there have been no further gatherings on Glengall Road. I have not witnessed any further instances of public exposure or urination in the vicinity of Glengall Passage and the level of littering, primarily empty bottles and cans and cigarette ends, is now almost non-existent. Granting a premises licence for 141 Kilburn High Road would inevitably attract the same type of characters back to the area and would make Brent Council directly responsible for any anti-social behaviour that was subsequently to occur.

Kilburn High Road already has an excess of gambling establishments. These range from several outlets of William Hill, Ladbrokes and Paddy Power through to several 24 hour slot machine arcades. Therefore, the granting of a premises licence for 141 Kilburn High Road would be a regressive decision that would facilitate greater access to gambling opportunities in an area of London where many parts of the community suffers from social disadvantage and destructive addictions.

In closing, I would urge Brent Council to reject the application for 141 Kilburn High Road to become an Adult Gaming Centre Premises. Instead, number 141 could and should become a key part of the wider efforts to regenerate Kilburn. I would welcome most any other type of business taking over 141 Kilburn High Road and, for the reasons listed above (among others), I am sure my fellow residents in Glengall Road will overwhelmingly share this view.

Please confirm that this e-mail has been received. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully,