

From:

Sent: 07 June 2020 23:36

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

Subject: Objection to new gambling venue on Kilburn highroad and Glengall road

Dear Sirs,

I would like to raise my concerns and objections to the proposed opening of a new gambling premises on the corner Glengall Road and Kilburn high road. I have lived on [REDACTED] for 12 years [REDACTED] less than [REDACTED] from the proposed venue

The most obvious challenge is to do with street nuisance around the venue. The new premises proposes to occupy (all or part of) the site of a previous William Hill bookmaker. This venue was routinely associated with informal gathering of patrons, street drinking, acute drunkenness, littering and broken glass. There was frequent disorder and fighting that required police interventions as the police will no doubt corroborate. This is particular concern with the immediate proximity of a primary school - and near proximity of several other schools and nurseries.

More subtly, but perhaps more seriously - is the overwhelmingly negative impact of welcoming yet more gambling venues in Kilburn. we already have 4 bookies and 3 other fruit-machine gambling venues in the immediate vicinity on Kilburn Highroad

- Betfred at 127 Kilburn High Road, NW6 6JH,
- Ladbrokes at 205 Kilburn High Rd, NW6 7HY,
- Ladbrokes at Kilburn Bridge House, Kilburn High Rd, Kilburn, NW6 6HY
- William Hill at 40A Kilburn High Rd, NW6 5UA
- Cashino at 130 Kilburn High Rd, Kilburn, London NW6 4JD
- Palace Amusements at 108 Kilburn High Rd NW6 4HY
- City Slots, 89 Kilburn High Rd, London NW6 6JE

Like off-licenses and levels of alcohol consumption there is a clear and link between the geographical density of gambling venues and the amount of gambling. The presence of so many venues increases impulse gambling and normalises gambling for the wider community. The shops themselves serve as huge billboards that are visible to all, including children and young people, and other vulnerable people. Why else would they seek to open more shops in an area already seemingly saturated with them?

Despite the attempts at PR from the gambling industry that it is just a bit of harmless fun - the harms of gambling are well documented by numerous independent academic and NGO research and government agencies (indeed growing concerns have led to a major new inquiry into gambling related harms being launched <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gambling-related-harms-evidence-review/gambling-related-harms-evidence-review-scope>)

They are fundamentally exploitative - preying on vulnerable and economically marginalised individuals and actively locating in higher densities in areas with high populations of economically vulnerable individuals. The rising economic challenges created by the coronavirus pandemic have only served to increase such vulnerability - that such gambling venues are so effective at exploiting by holding out the fantasy prospect of an escape from

poverty that they invariably only entrench. They bring nothing positive whatsoever to the local community, only hardship and misery. There is never a good place to add yet another bookie in Kilburn, but this moment in time would be particularly negligent and irresponsible.

Almost any business would be preferable. Please respect the concern to the immediate locals residents, families, schools, and the wider community and reject this application.

respectfully