

From: Abdi, Councillor Abdirazak <Cllr.Abdirazak.Abdi@brent.gov.uk>

Sent: 07 June 2020 19:36

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

Cc:

Subject: Objection to License for 141 Kilburn High Road, NW6 7HT - 18986

Dear Business Licensing,

I would like to object to the application for a gambling license at the above address. I would like to object in my capacity as one of the locally elected Councillors for Kilburn and as a local resident that lives near the address for the proposed business.

My grounds of objection are around those permitted by the Gambling Act:

-Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder and

-Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

From my experience of the cluster of betting shops and gaming centres on KilburnHigh Road. The gambling establishments have been at the centre of ASB and of other disturbances some of which are reported to the police and are therefore recorded.

Some of the existing betting establishments locally have been used as a focal point for gangs of youth and some of whom are exploited to distribute and sell drugs.

My concern is for these underage and vulnerable members of the community that could be exploited by criminal elements to pick up the habit of gambling and coerced to undertake further illegal activity for example by being given funds to gamble and when they become indebted being asked to pay off debts accrued by being forced to commit drug dealing.

It is well known that Kilburn is one of the poorest wards in Brent, and we have recently had a spate of muggings.

A significant contributing factor to poverty, is the number of individuals who have a gambling problem. Recent research has put the figure of problem gamblers Nationally at 500,000 individuals. It is not unheard of, for gambling addicts to commit crime in order to fund their addiction. Given the high incidents of mugging and crime on KilburnHigh Road, a further gambling establishment will undoubtedly attract gamblers some of who are addicted to gambling and are vulnerable for other reasons and this can lead them either to be perpetrators, or victims of crime.

Kind Regards

Abdi

Cllr A Abdi
Kilburn, Brent

