

## **Merkur Slots – Resident Reps**

### **Rep 1**

We don't need yet another gambling hotspot in our town centre, there are already plenty causing havoc. Children as young as 11 are seen gambling. There is a school less than 500ft away No more gambling on our streets we are safer with empty shops.

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### **Rep 2**

This area is constantly used by many young children including toddlers to teenagers. There's already one gambling place at the corner of high street which attracts people with questionable behaviours e.g. drinking in public from early morning, some physical and verbal fighting. As a family with young kids living in the area, we strongly opposed to this development.

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### **Rep 3**

I object on three counts, 1 there is already multiple gambling shops, in fact a ridiculous amount for such a small town centre, Silver time, 2 ladbrokes (one right in front of Shoe Zone), 2 there is a school nearby and 3 this is not what you want if you want to curb gambling addiction within the community. This town needs an upgrade no further downgrades.

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### **Rep 4**

I object as there is a gambling establishment round the corner opposite jubilee clock, there is a school nearby and children would go past this gambling establishment during their lunch break and going home and the council should be doing more to help the community from avoiding gambling addiction not encourage it.

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### **Rep 5**

I am writing as a local resident, to object to the application of a gambling licence for 67 High Street Harlesden.

Harlesden town centre already has far too many gambling establishments and anti social behaviour is often in evidence around them with local drunks seen drinking, smoking, swearing and sometimes even fighting outside at all times of day.

I am also concerned of the effect on young people in the area as this part of the high street is frequented by school children waiting for buses before and after school who should not be exposed to either the gambling advertising or the antisocial behaviours.

It's clearly not what the area needs or the local residents want. As evidenced by previous successful campaigns to block other gambling establishments opening.

Please block this and all further applications for gambling establishments in Harlesden.

Many thanks

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### **Rep 6**

I object to Merkur Slots UK Ltd's application for a Bingo Licence for 67 High Street, Harlesden NW10 4NS.

I live nearby at .....My children and wife and I will be affected by this development:  
The reasons for my objections are:

1. To prevent crime and disorder. Harlesden is a poor area, featuring deprivation, substance abuse, criminal activity. Nearby Park Parade for example is a cannabis open market. Statistics show gambling establishments raise crime: people vulnerable to addiction find themselves unable to resist the temptation of gambling - this is why gambling companies like Merkur choose deprived areas like Harlesden - they lose money they don't have and or want more of the same, and often have to resort to crime to finance their addictions.

2. For public safety reasons. The above crimes usually involve street crime - begging, drug dealing, loitering - is of danger to the public.

3. Preventing public nuisance. On street crime, loitering, begging, drug dealing are all by products of gambling on slot machines (the most insidious, 4. Protecting children from harm. My children go to the library and the park through Harlesden. I want to protect them.

Yours faithfully

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**Rep 7**

We already have a lot of gambling establishments in Harlesden. They tend to prey on the most vulnerable and poorest members of our society, as well as encouraging anti-social behaviour. Adding another gambling establishment will exacerbate the existing problems in the area, both social and personal, just to make money for a company that has no roots here. If Brent Council is serious about supporting communities and safeguarding their future, they will reject this application,

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**Rep 8**

The high street already lost its purpose and gambling shops do not bring not any value, nor create healthy communities. Gambling is an addiction and should be banned in general. This area is already dealing with high rates of ASB and environmental issues, why to make it worse?

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**Rep 9**

Strongly object - there are enough gambling places in the area, too many some would say (including myself). Harlesden will never improve its crime rate nor its diversity within the area; something we do desperately need. This application will only have a negative impact.

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**Rep 10**

There is a similar business nearby, it is near a school and this is irresponsible to include further gambling establishments when there should be support to stop gambling addiction nationally, least of all in our local area

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**Rep 11**

This area really does not need another betting shop, with two just round the corner, schools near by. Antosocial behaviour is a standard in front of such establishments here.

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**Rep 12**

I overwhelmingly object. There are enough gambling establishments in Harlesden, which bring with them anti-social behaviour, loitering outside and drug dealing. I have a young family, I have seen the progress made so far in cleaning up Harlesden but there is much more to do, another establishment of this kind undermines these efforts.

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**Rep 13**

One is more than enough in this small area which we have already. Gambling is an addiction and these encourage youngsters to get into these voices. Please put something worthy and useful for the community there. No more chicken shops, Pound shops or betting shops.

Please bring Harlesden up and not down all the time. A hardware shop like Robert Dyas would be useful.

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**Rep 14**

How can we curb anti social behaviour and make the area safer and more thriving if we keep allowing gambling shops to open up within close distance from one another.

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**Rep 15**

I strongly object to this application. There are already gambling sites in Harlesden, there are schools nearby and I really don't think this will help those in the community trying to curb/avoid gambling. No!

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**Rep 16**

They are already a few betting shops around Harlesden High Street. Gambling addiction is already destroying families and the community at large. 18 to 23 year old young adults are getting addicted to slot machines There are few High schools near by and the presence of betting premises can only bad new for this future generations

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**Rep 17**

Honestly! Give up already... we have too many of this around in an area where we have lots of schools and a high level of poverty. You need to stop preying on those that can help themselves. I object on three counts, 1 there is already various on the area, 2 there are many schools nearby and 3 we need to help those with gambling addiction within the community and this would only make the situation worse and bring more daytime drinking in the streets.

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**Rep 18**

Please could we have no more adult gaming centres in Harlesden. They do nothing to enhance the area, or keep us save from the increased levels of crime experienced on a daily basis. They simply promote poverty, particularly in an area vulnerable to the effects of addiction. I have written already numerous times to object to other 'late night ice cream shops', and other undercover money laundering establishments. Please could these be removed from the area.

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**Rep 19**

We do not need or want any more gambling establishments in our community. It encourages antisocial behaviour and is not good or healthy for the community on any level.

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**Rep 20**

there are already lots of gambling places. There is already a lot of antisocial and criminal behaviour associated with existing places. Please do not add more gambling places to an area that already has an issue.

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**Rep 21**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally object to the application for a gambling licence for the premises located at 67 High Street, Harlesden on the grounds of public safety, health, and wellbeing concerns.

As a local resident, I have observed that our area already hosts several gambling establishments. The saturation of such venues can contribute to several significant issues within our community. An increase in gambling establishments is often correlated with higher

incidences of crime and anti-social behavior. The concentration of such venues can attract criminal activities, including theft, fraud, and other related offenses. This increase in crime not only affects the immediate vicinity of the gambling establishments but can also extend to surrounding residential areas.

The presence of multiple gambling venues can compromise public safety. Frequenting these establishments, individuals might become targets of crime, or engage in behavior that threatens the safety of others. Ensuring the well-being and security of residents should be a priority, and additional gambling venues would undermine these efforts. Moreover, gambling establishments can contribute to noise pollution, littering, and other forms of public nuisance, disrupting the peace and order of the community.

Gambling addiction is a serious public health issue that can have devastating effects on individuals and families. The proliferation of gambling venues exacerbates this problem, contributing to mental health issues, financial distress, and family breakdowns. Our community needs more support services and healthier recreational options, not additional gambling facilities.

There are several schools in our district, and the presence of a new gambling establishment poses a significant risk to young people. Exposure to gambling at a young age can lead to harmful behaviors and addiction. Ensuring that children and young persons are protected from such influences is paramount for their healthy development. With multiple schools in the vicinity, the establishment of another gambling venue is inappropriate and harmful. Children should not be exposed to gambling-related activities or environments on their way to and from school, as this normalises gambling behaviour and poses a risk to their well-being.

In light of these points, I urge Brent Council to reject the application for a gambling licence. The potential negative impact on crime rates, public safety, health, and the welfare of young people far outweighs any benefits that such an establishment might bring.

Thank you for considering my objections. I trust that the council will act in the best interest of the community and its residents.

Best regards,