

06-04-2026

To whom it may concern, As a resident of Willesden Green, as a parent, as a professional, and as a tax payer I oppose the application/ licensing/ placement of a gambling establishment on Walm Lane. In the first instance, the gambling establishment risks the safety of our residents, as an example, in Dec 2024, a man was fatally stabbed outside the Ladbrokes in our area, following related issues of gambling and drinking, both of which can be easily accessed as the 2 business venues are close together in location. These two are literally just a few feet away from a local religious primary school with a nursery located nearby; parents, families and vulnerable young children should not be exposed to or at risk of being made victims of crime. The Willesden Green area including Walm Lane where it is proposed that this gambling venue be located, is populated by vulnerable persons, among them: persons with substance abuse problems who, although some of them receive the local authority's support for their addiction challenges, many remain deeply affected by addictions and a worrying number of them can be found wandering the streets in and around the Walm Lane, the tube station and the local gambling spots. There are also persons of all ages who can be found in the local gambling sites despite their financial difficulties, spending what little they have on gambling, which sinks them further into debt and instability. I have witnessed seeing elderly men with drink problems and an adult with learning difficulties frequenting the local gambling venues, which exposes another layer of vulnerable persons being exploited by gambling. Our area also has a significant number of low income residents, and surrounding neighbourhoods that suffer from a high crime rate and poverty. Our communities and neighbourhoods do not wish for these or any persons to be adversely affected by the lure of gambling nor the related problems that come with it-- addictions go hand in hand, and it would be very harmfully exploitative of these vulnerable groups in our community to have a gambling site especially on a road where families, the elderly, children, persons with special needs and disabilities, among others in our community carry out their peaceful daily duties, errands and shopping. I am also opposed as a professional educator, as this is no example to set for children and young people, and certainly extremely inappropriate to have this as a potential place that they would be curious about or lured to enter.