

14-04-2026

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of an adult gambling casino at 1 Walm Lane. While I recognise the importance of economic growth and investment within our borough, I am deeply concerned about the broader social impact this development could have on our community. As highlighted by our Councillors, evidence consistently links the expansion of gambling venues with increased rates of addiction, financial hardship, and mental health challenges. These issues rarely affect individuals in isolation—they often have ripple effects on families, local services, and the wider neighbourhood. In addition to gambling-related harm, there are serious concerns about the secondary risks such establishments can bring. Areas surrounding gambling venues can become focal points for anti-social behaviour, including substance misuse and drug-related activity. This raises significant questions about the safety and wellbeing of local residents, particularly vulnerable individuals, young people, and families who live nearby. The introduction of such a facility risks undermining the ongoing efforts by the council and community organisations to create a safe, healthy, and inclusive environment. Instead of contributing positively to the area, this proposal could lead to increased pressure on already stretched support services, including mental health, addiction recovery, and community safety resources. I believe we have a responsibility to prioritise developments that enhance community wellbeing, cohesion, and long-term prosperity. The potential harms associated with this proposal far outweigh any perceived economic benefits. For these reasons, I strongly urge the relevant authorities to refuse this application. Thank you for considering my objection.