

Cllr Erica Gbajumo

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I write to formally object to the proposed development of an adult gambling casino at 1 Walm Lane. While I recognise the importance of economic development and investment in our borough, this proposal raises serious concerns regarding its potential social and community impact. Evidence consistently shows that the expansion of gambling facilities is associated with increased rates of problem gambling, financial hardship, and related mental health issues. These harms do not remain confined to individual users but often extend to families and the wider community, placing additional strain on local support services. Local residents, including vulnerable individuals and young people, may be disproportionately exposed to the risks associated with gambling environments. The development risks undermining ongoing efforts by the council and community organisations to promote wellbeing, reduce inequality, and support those already at risk of addiction. As a councillor, I have a duty to advocate for the wellbeing and safety of our residents. In this case, the risks posed by the introduction of a casino significantly outweigh any purported benefits. I therefore strongly urge the relevant authorities to refuse this application and instead prioritise developments that contribute positively to the health, cohesion, and long-term prosperity of our community.

Cllr Erica Gbajumo