

25-04-26

Objection to Gambling Licence Application I am writing to formally object to the proposed gambling licence application in Kilburn. I am [REDACTED] and have lived in this area all my life. My mother has lived here since 1968, and our family has deep roots in NW6. I have seen many changes over the years, but I am deeply concerned that the area has deteriorated significantly in recent times. My objection is based on the following licensing objectives set out in the Gambling Act 2005: 1. Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder There is already visible drug use in the area, along with anti social behaviour and a clear increase in street level disorder. The presence of a gambling premises risks attracting further crime and disorder, particularly in an area already struggling with these issues. High street gambling venues are often associated with loitering, disputes, and opportunistic crime. Adding another such premises is likely to worsen the situation rather than improve it. 2. Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling Kilburn currently has a high level of visible vulnerability, including extensive homelessness and individuals experiencing addiction and hardship. Introducing or expanding gambling facilities in this environment risks exploiting those who are already vulnerable. People facing financial instability or addiction are particularly at risk of harm from gambling. The proximity of such premises to vulnerable individuals raises serious concerns about safeguarding. 3. Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way While I understand this objective is often less directly relevant to local residents, there are concerns about the transparency and social responsibility of operators in areas already under pressure. Residents need confidence that any operator will act responsibly and not contribute to further decline in community wellbeing. Additional Context The area is already facing serious environmental and social challenges. There is widespread littering, rubbish left on pavements, and a general decline in cleanliness and upkeep. These conditions contribute to a sense of neglect and make the area feel unsafe. Introducing another gambling venue risks reinforcing this negative cycle rather than helping to restore the community. Conclusion Given the existing levels of crime, disorder, vulnerability, and environmental decline in Kilburn, I strongly believe that granting this licence would be detrimental to the area and its residents. It would undermine efforts to improve community safety and wellbeing. For these reasons, I respectfully request that this application be refused.