

## WILLIAM HILL KILBURN HIGH ROAD - RENEWAL OF LICENCE.

I am writing to the Licensing Panel to offer a true and honest view with regards to the problematic area surrounding the William Hill shop. The objections raised against William Hill are not a totally true, fair or honest description on the problems faced by the area as a whole.

For a fair decision to be made by the Licensing Panel, I will try to give an over view of the problems encountered in this location, to enable the Panel who may not know the area, to be aware of the full facts.

The area is a HOT SPOT for various problems and this area includes 4 roads making up the block:

1) Glengall Road, 2) Glengall Passage (which runs from Glengall Road to Priory Park Road, at the back of the William Hill Shop and other shops), 3) Priory Park Road and 4) Kilburn High Road.

- 1) Glengall Road – there are 2 shops who sell single can drinks to the Alcoholics, which causes them to loiter around the street corner and Glengall Passage. The shops sell this alcohol at all times of the day. This does not help the situation with anti-social behaviour. They then use Glengall Passage for defecation / urination. Once intoxicated, they then harass passerby's' by begging or just being a nuisance and often they have fights amongst them selves.
- 2) Glengall Passage – the drinkers and drug dealers hang around this junction as they have a clear view of Glengall Road/Kilburn High Road/ Priory Park Road. If they see any police or PCSO's they then have their escape routes. It is also used for defecation / urination / drug dealing and prostitution.
- 3) Priory Park Road – there is a hostel with numerous rooms let out and the occupants are on benefit or low incomes. There is a high presence of drug dealing and prostitution from these premises being carried out in Glengall Passage. Evidence is littered in the passage by condoms, needles and other merchandise.
- 4) Kilburn High Road – the drug dealers and pick pockets hang around by the bus stop and use the BT phone booths to drop off/pick up deals. The bus stop and the BT phone booths cause a bottle neck on the foot path which allows ASB to take place under cover away from cameras.  
There is also a shop, One Stop, on Kilburn High Road, which also sells alcohol, this also adds to the ASB problem. They then hang around this shop entrance blocking the pavement by the bus stop. The other shop keepers are harassed by these individuals also.

When William Hill had a public meeting with residents, they took on board what was highlighted as the problems surrounding their shop and has tried to address them.

In the past William Hill did not engage with the residents so this has led to them taking action. Although not ALL their fault, William Hill did makes some interim changes, such as :

- i) paid for street signs/furniture removed, - stopped being used as lean-to's/seats, deterring loitering,
- ii) CCTV cameras put up outside the shop- not liked by ASB perpetrators as data clear and helpful to the Police, evidence is captured which enables prosecution. Previously this was hard for police to press charges as there was no physical evidence only complaints by residents, now there is visual evidence.
- iii) accepting new layout needed for shop frontage to be altered / clearer for passersby's to see in and staff to see out of shop.

The shop's location on the corner has made this problem being laid at William Hill's door. This I feel is not totally accurate as I believe that it is just the location of the shop which is being highlighted as the cause, when in fact any shop, be it a shoe shop or a card shop, that was on this corner would also be blamed. It is just a problematic area as a whole.

The area needs the problems to be addressed as a combined resolution by ALL parties; residents, shops, police, council and licensing bodies to work together. By just getting rid of William Hill does not resolve these problems.

The view of the majority of people, when the above is explained, it that it is better to work with the known commercial occupant, William Hill, to achieve lasting resolutions, to build bridges with the community, and implement the above listed solutions. Another occupant would argue that the shop is their remit and what happens outside, is "not their problem". This would be detrimental to the Community and the fall-out could increase further problems.