

Interested Parties - Representations

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21st September 2020

Licensing Dept
Enfield Council
Civic Centre
Silver Street
Enfield
EN1 3XA

Dear Sir/Madam

OBJECTION TO Amuse 2016 Ltd application relates: 45-47 South Mall, Edmonton Green Shopping Centre, London N9 0TT applying for a bingo premises licence under section 159 of the Gambling Act 2005.

I am writing to **object** to the license application on behalf of myself and the residents who live in the 188 flats in Pennine House. Pennine House is a residential block of flats with 188 flats with a mixed residency of children, teenagers, families and older people. The flats are approximately less than 50 meters from the entrance of the premises Amuse 2016 LTD want to turn into a gambling establishments.

Residents have reached out to me as I said I was writing to object to the license being granted.

The grounds why I am objecting to are as follows:

1. Prevention of Public Nuisance. Having the Amuse 2016 Ltd open a Bingo premises will cause additional noise nuisance from the premises while it is open, and that if the premises were allowed to stay open any longer, this would go on until an unacceptably late time. Noise at and after closing time is also a public nuisance problem, as is litter, people hanging around outside the premises and causing anti-social behaviour. There is already hordes of men (Eastern European) on the Concourse of Edmonton Green Shopping centre seven days a week hanging out inside and outside the Casino and Betfred betting premises. They congregate selling illegal cigarettes and counterfeit items from their shopping bags and underneath their coats. They have been seen selling drugs too

Many female residents are intimidated walking through the hordes of men the Concourse and frightened to walk through Edmonton Green at night-time when the rest of the outlets

have closed. Female residents have experienced harassment from men who hang outside the other three gambling establishments in Edmonton Green –BetFred, Paddy Power which are open until 10pm and Cashino which is open 24hrs all in the space of 200 yards. And many are frightened to walk home though the shopping centre due to the gambling establishments which attracts anti-social behaviour from men and the drug dealers.

2. Edmonton Green shopping centre even though it has a high population dwelling with flats/residential on the concourse and in close proximity to the proposed gambling premises. The shopping centre attracts young school and college people who hangout/pass through from school and use the library which is opposite the proposed premises 45-47 South Mall, Edmonton Green Shopping Centre, London N9 0TT. The shopping centre and surrounding vicinity has gang activity in where there is class A drug dealing around the shopping centre. And has had a problem with anti-social behaviour which has been reduce by diligent residents who complain to the police and shopping centre management. The resident **do not** want to see anti-social behaviour increase again.

With two murders in the last few years and regular stabbings and anti-social behaviour at the bus station and in and around the shopping centre.. The current betting shops at the centre attract gang members and they are regularly seen hanging around existing betting establishments at the shopping centre. Edmonton Green has seen an increase of homeless men from Eastern Europe, sleeping on benches in the shopping centre, even in the rubbish rooms of the three residential tower blocks in the Shopping centre. With a block of flats called Mendip House which is for elderly and people with health issues, just less than 20 yards away from the proposed premises. The residents of Mendip many have female carers which have to walk past the proposed premises at night time.

Men have been seen drinking in the shopping centre and hanging out outside other gambling establishments in the shopping centre which has led to a sharp increase in street drinking in the shopping centre area and the vicinity. In addition, many with mental health needs use the shopping centre on a daily basis and can be seen street drinking and begging. Empty containers and bottles are left on and underneath the benches when they hangout. The deadly combination of available alcohol from the two supermarkets – Asda and Aldi, vulnerable people, gangs, drug dealing make another betting establishment in Edmonton Green unwelcome. The addition of **another** Adult Gaming Centre will support more crime and disorder in the area. Vulnerable people such as the beggars and people with mental health needs at the Centre are at further risk from being confronted with more drug dealing on top of an additional gambling option.

Edmonton is correctly described as an antisocial behaviour “blackspot” and the problems of criminal damage. There are significant numbers of the ‘vulnerable’ people living in Edmonton Green. Their exposure to risk would be exacerbated by additional gambling opportunities, especially as a result of the inevitably increased promotion of gambling opportunities arising from greater competition.

2. There are already **SIX** existing Gambling Establishments very close proximity to the application site:

- a. Cashino (AGC Premises) The Concourse, Edmonton Green shopping Centre**
- b. Labrokes (Betting Premises) , the Market Square, Edmonton Green Shopping Centre**
- c. Coral (Betting Premises), Market Square, Edmonton Green Shopping Centre**
- d. Paddy Power (Betting Premises) South Mall, Edmonton Green Shopping Centre**
- e. William Hill (Betting Premises) The Market Square, Edmonton Green Shopping Centre**
- f. Betfred (Betting Premises) Thec Concourse, Edmonton Green Shopping Centre**

Opening and closing times – Edmonton Green shopping centre is a residential area and where the proposed licensed gambling premise which to open has caused residents to be extremely concerned about the noise. As when the proposed gambling premises' customers will be passing through the shopping centre. It will cause noise nuisance caused by customers when they are arriving at or leaving the premises, and the disturbance will go on far as long as the premises is open. Winter time residents are already concerned with the men that hang out in the shopping centre outside the gambling premises. Because the shopping centre is inside and covered it attracts men to hang out avoiding the cold and bad weather. However, women feel very unsafe and intimidated walking the shopping centre especially and where men gather in front of gambling establishments.

Edmonton Green does not need another gambling/gaming establishment. Edmonton Green has been through a huge regeneration and it is still ongoing. Many residents take pride in the area even though they feel they have been forgotten by the Council. And object to another gambling establishment. Gambling contributes to the social disorganisation and social deprivation of many communities and especially, those marginalised communities in Edmonton Green

Edmonton Green Shopping centre has gone through a regeneration project improving homes and facilities for residents and shoppers. The shopping centre owners are now going through a consultation to refurbish and improve the shopping centre. Residents who live in the shopping centre want to live in area which they can be proud to call home.

Deprivation in Edmonton Green

Highest population of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents compared to the rest of the borough **% BAME - 2019 57.1 36.6 Enfield Council Estimates 2019** and Edmonton Green has the highest deprivation in the borough

Deprivation score The Indices of Deprivation 2019 – produced for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government– can be used to calculate the likely deprivation ranking of the ward. Analysis carried out by the Local Government Association indicates that, within Enfield, **Edmonton Green is the most deprived of the 21 wards in the Borough**. The same analysis estimates that it is within the 10% most deprived wards in England.

Low income households

Edmonton Green had the lowest average (median) household income of the 21 wards in Enfield, as estimated by CACI in 2020. Average household income in the ward is below the median level for the borough as a whole and also lower than the London median. The proportion of households with an income of less than £15,000 was put at 31.4% compared to a Borough average of 15.6%. This was the highest proportion of the 21 wards and higher than the London average.

Resident have witnessed individuals go into the current gambling establishments and within minutes lose example £600. Gambling addiction has led to increase domestic violence and families being deprived of everyday resources such as food because the parent has lost the money gambling building up debt.

Benefit Claims

At July 2020:

- The claimant count²in Edmonton Green was 1,570, representing 12.7% of the local working-age population.
- 34% of households in the ward (2,588) were claiming Universal Credit – this includes working households.

Economically active people

The estimated proportion of people in work or looking for work (the economically active) was much lower than the borough average in 2011.

Crime data dashboard by Safer Neighbourhood between September 2018 -August 2020

***Edmonton Green 5,101 Criminal Offences**

Lower Edmonton 2,358 Criminal Offences

Enfield Chase (a much larger area than Edmonton Green) 2,232 Criminal Offences

**As you can see Edmonton Green has a serious issue with crime. Issuing another gambling/gaming licence can and will lead to increase crime, which residents do not want!*

The residents in the 188 flats in Pennine House **do not** want Enfield Council to grant a gaming/gambling licence to ***Amuse 2016 Ltd application relates: 45-47 South Mall, Edmonton Green Shopping Centre, London N9 0TT applying for a bingo premises licence under section 159 of the Gambling Act 2005.***

Yours faithfully

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On behalf of residents who live in the 188 flats in Pennine House, 20 South Mall, Edmonton Green Shopping Centre.

IP2 Representation

I live at [REDACTED], and I work in pennine house at 20 southmall n9 0te. I am a cleaner of this building. I was attacked twice in the shopping centre. I was lucky enough, because I was rescued by my friend, who was on his to work. That why I am against opening the bingo/ gambling shop.

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To whom it may concern

I'm [redacted] hereby writing this letter to inform that I am against opening Bingo/gaming venue where Bright house used to be in Edmonton Shopping Centre.

Here are the reasons:-

- ① In the shopping Centre (3) Betting Shop and Casino Shop.
- ② The level of crime is increasing
- ③ If the Bingo/Gaming is opened. It will allow the youth to involve in gambling and also there will be more break-in.

I have been living in Edmonton since 1999 and I work in Pennine house for more than 8 year, which I love and like my Edmonton, that I don't want the level of crime to increase.

I hope you will take this letter into consideration.

Yours faithfully
[redacted]