

Gambling Act 2005
Representation Form from Interested Parties
(Please read notes on reverse before completing)

Annex 11









Your details (See notes 2 & 3);

Your Name	Harry McKeown – Head of Housing and Support
Your residential address	St James' House, 9 St James' Rd, Surbiton KT6 4QH
Your email address	harrymckeown@ymcaspg.org
Your phone number	
The name of the body or organisation you represent	YMCA St Paul's Group

About the premises;

Name of the premises you are making a representation about	Merkur Slots C/O Cashino Gaming Limited Seebeck House 1A Seebeck Place Milton Keynes Postcode: MK5 8FR
Address of the premises you are making a representation about	58 Station Road Hayes Postcode: UB3 4DF

The Licensing Objectives (See note 4);

Licensing Objective	Reasons for your representation and any supporting evidence
<i>Please tick;</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime	<p>Please see attached PDF documents which contain all of the details in relation to our objections on this ground.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Planning Objection - George Bergin - Ca </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Planning Objection - Alan Maphosa.pdf </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Case study.pdf </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Planning Objection - YMCA SPG - Hayes </div> </div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling	<p>Please see attached PDF documents which contain all of the details in relation to our objections on this ground (copy of above).</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Planning Objection - George Bergin - Ca </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Planning Objection - Alan Maphosa.pdf </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Case study.pdf </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Planning Objection - YMCA SPG - Hayes </div> </div>

The outcome you are seeking from the Licensing Authority (See note 6);

Reject the application.

Signed:

Date: 30th June 2020

Notes:

- 1) All representations must be submitted before the conclusion of the 28 day consultation period. This will be advertised on the public notices and also on the Councils website.
- 2) Persons who may make representation include; persons who reside near to the premises to which the application relates and who are likely to be affected by licensable activities; residents associations who are representing residents who reside near to the application premises; Ward Councillors representing their constituents; any person who lives or works in the area and has concerns about the application premises.
- 3) Please note that representations cannot be anonymous. Copies of all representations will be published in any Committee papers and will be sent to all persons involved with the hearing including the applicant. If you have concerns about the use of your information and would like to discuss this further, please contact one of our Licensing Officers for a discussion, on the contact details below.
- 4) In order to be considered 'relevant', the representation must relate to one or more of the 'Licensing Objectives'. These objectives are;
 - a) Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime.
 - b) Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way.
 - c) Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.
- 5) Upon submitting a representation, it is expected that you will attend the Licensing Sub-Committee hearing to deliver your representation verbally and answer any queries that the Committee may have. If you are unable to attend, your written representation will be considered.
- 6) You may wish to suggest an outcome to the Licensing Sub-Committee ie. grant the application with extra conditions; grant the application with fewer hours/activities; reject the application. Please note that the Licensing Sub-Committee will only make reasonable and proportionate decisions based upon the evidence they are presented with, and in line with the laws and regulations governing Licensing Hearings.
- 7) You may continue on separate sheets of paper if necessary and you may also attach any evidence which supports your representation.

- 8) Please submit all completed forms to:

**The Licensing Officer
Regulatory Services
London Borough of Hillingdon
Civic Centre
High Street
Uxbridge, UB8 1UW**

licensing@hillingdon.gov.uk

Tel - 01895 277433

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/licensing

Case Study

XX is a young single man aged 28, he had been a resident at YMCA Hayes and Ealing, whilst he was in Hayes he fell foul to all of the many betting shops that were in the Town Centre. Whilst in Ealing it was the same, except in Ealing there was an establishment called Merkur Cashino Ealing (I think this is similar to what is planned in Hayes).

XX was on benefits and he knew that after he had paid his rent etc, he would only be left with enough money to feed himself for 3/4 days; he would have to beg members of the public to be able to feed himself for the rest of the week.

XX eventually got so used to begging that he found himself gambling his money in the hope that he would win and avoid having to beg. XX is Dyslexic and illiterate, so when he was playing these machines, he would just put his money in and randomly press buttons, reducing any chance of winning to practically zero.

Occasionally XX would win and this led to him gambling more and more, having to beg more and more (more often than not XX would have to beg to feed himself for the whole week). This his would lead to him playing the machines more (can always beg more) and eventually he became so addicted to the machines that he would steal from shops to sell goods to fund his gambling habit, this then led to him becoming homeless and begging fulltime.

XX was now more vulnerable as he was on the street 24/7, he was often assaulted and robbed and he started to rob people himself, the more money he was getting, the more he gambled on the machines and in betting shops. XX was hospitalised on one occasion as a result of the lifestyle he had found himself in and eventually after being arrested several times found himself in Prison.

XX was even more vulnerable in Prison and was groomed to sell drugs to survive. When he was released, the same people that took advantage of him in Prison, were waiting for his release to put him to work on the streets selling their drugs. XX has been in and out of Prison three times now.

XX is now living in his own flat, but is still addicted to playing the machines, I find myself wondering how things might have turned out different if he had not had access to the establishment known as Merkur Cashino, Ealing. We do not want the same to be the same for any of our residents at Ventura House, Hayes.

George Bergin, Youth Programmes and Volunteering Officer – Hayes.

My concerns.

From one young person's perspective who I've supported at Ventura House; gambling is a pastime that slowly became a scheduled habit. After a few months it was part of their budget from universal credit. The addiction even made him look for job so that he could satisfy the urge to play regularly, bearing in mind he lost more than he won. This young person struggled for ages with this addiction, they have gotten to a stage where they are not highly addicted, but they still have the habit to gamble a fruit machine occasionally.

Many young people we work with start from hanging out with their friends in the betting shops, then eventually either get encouraged to try or it becomes a pastime while at the shops with friends. There are so many betting/gambling shops as it is within one high street, and would play a part in increasing loitering, petty crime, and hot spots for unorganized criminal activity. I genuinely feel it is not beneficial for any residents in the area and will only benefit the gambling shop itself and no one in the community.

Alan Maphosa, Youth Worker – Hayes

Case study

XX is a young man referred to the YMCA in 2016. He presented with Alcohol challenges and has a history of rough sleeping prior to being referred to the YMCA.

XX has found living in shared accommodation difficult; he has struggled to manage his tenancy for the following reasons;

- Alcohol Addiction challenges (referred to ARCH)
- Loss off employment due to Alcohol dependency
- Involved in Criminal Activity, stealing from local shops.
- Risk of becoming Homeless again due to Rent arrears
- Physically assaulted whilst intoxicated.

XX's Alcohol issues became apparent on moving into Ventura House, he was referred to ARCH (Hillingdon Substance Misuse support) and completed a program with Arch to be able to manage his addiction safely.

He continues to be supported by ARCH and continues to have occasional relapses.

XX has been proactive in finding employment and was able to secure 4 jobs in a short period of time. He was not able to maintain employment due to his addiction.

XX was caught shop lifting from a local business and subsequently banned from the store. He was referred to a Debt Advisor for support to help him manage and budget his money as at this point he was at risk of losing his tenancy.

Large amounts of money were being spent and unaccounted for. XX said he had been encouraged go into the Gambling shops in the high street by friends. He was habitually using the gambling establishments in Hayes Town and losing his money. He also felt that there was an element of gangs, substance users and sellers all congregating in the Betting Office.

XX becomes very vulnerable when intoxicated and has been the victim of assault in Hayes Town on several occasions. He was targeted by a group of men in the betting office because he was vulnerable and often intoxicated.

Staff continue to work with XX to support him to reduce his rent arrears, continue his support with ARCH and referred him to Gamblers Anonymous for support with his addiction.

XX does not support the opening of another gambling establishment in the local area.



Planning Objection

Background on the YMCA in Hayes

Ventura House is based on the high street, Station Road, Hayes.

We house young people and families who require support and guidance to gain independent life skills to enable them to live in the local community. Many of our residents arrive with underlying issues and addictions. YMCA SPG began to manage Ventura House in 2003.

History of Ventura House and the relationship with the local community

Over the years Ventura House have forged good relationships with the local community, Churches, local businesses, Councillors and the Police. Our residents are encouraged to volunteer their time to the local community with various events, activities and programs.

Objections

We have consulted with our vulnerable residents and they feel that if another gambling establishment is opened in the local area it would be detrimental to their community and vulnerable people who are already living unsettled lives.

The gambling establishments in Hayes Town already encourage crime, exploitation, assault, substance misuse, financial abuse and places vulnerable and young people at risk of mismanaging their money, which can lead to homelessness.

Our residents are a key group of vulnerable people who need protecting, and through them their wider circle of friends and contacts. The addition of another gambling outlet could worsen the ongoing (anti-social behaviour) linked to existing gambling outlets, causing more crime and increasing the fear of crime in the area.

The YMCA SPG work hard to support vulnerable and young people to make key transitional changes in their lives. Our residents feel that to add another gambling establishment is unnecessary and does nothing to add cultural or meaningful economic value to the town.

We thoroughly object to the request for planning permission to be granted, and attached to this objection are the signatures of 61 of our young, vulnerable residents.

We hope that the Local Authority support us in ensuring that the safety and prosperity of our town is maintained and that planning permission for this establishment is denied.