

As a long-standing resident of Deptford (I have lived here for 35 years), I am deeply troubled by the licence application for an adult gaming centre on Deptford High Street and wish to register a strong objection to it.

I have seen the High Street change over the decades, and nothing has been more detrimental than the betting shops that proliferated when other shops went out of business. These shops encouraged gambling (obviously) but also drug dealing, street drinking, groups congregating near betting shops and abusing passers-by, and begging – some of it pretty intimidating.

I can't see that an adult gaming centre would be of any benefit to Deptford. It would encourage vulnerable people to get into debt and lead to some of the disbenefits listed above. I understand that premises for betting/gaming provide a warm spaces in which people can shelter – but this comes at a cost. It would be irresponsible to approve the licence. Its effects would also be harmful to other businesses on the High Street, trying their best to make a living in very difficult circumstances.

I hope that the application for a licence will be turned down and the premises used to better advantage.