

Objection 2

1st August 2023

Subject: Strong Objection to Betting Company's Gambling Licence Application for Deptford High Street - Jenningsbet, 80-82 Deptford High Street, SE8 4RT

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to emphatically express my strong objection to the application made by the Betting Shop Operations Limited for a gambling licence to open another betting shop in Deptford High Street. As a concerned resident, I firmly believe that allowing yet another betting shop in our local community would have serious consequences on various aspects of our neighbourhood, including socio-economic well-being, public safety, and the welfare of our school-going children.

Socio-economic Reasons:

Deptford High Street is already grappling with an over-concentration of betting shops, which has the potential to exacerbate socio-economic challenges in our community. As highlighted by reputable sources like the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), such clustering of betting establishments is linked to higher levels of deprivation and negative socio-economic outcomes. The addition of another betting shop could further strain already vulnerable households and impact the overall economic health of the area.

Negative Aspects of Gambling:

The detrimental impacts of gambling, particularly in areas with numerous betting shops, cannot be ignored. Extensive research conducted by the Gambling Commission demonstrates that high concentrations of betting establishments are associated with an increased risk of problem gambling and its associated adverse effects. This includes financial hardships, mental health issues, and strained relationships. The well-being of individuals and families in our community is at risk if we allow further proliferation of betting shops.

Impact on Local Community and Residents:

The presence of multiple betting shops in Deptford High Street poses significant concerns for the safety and security of our community. Studies by the Local Government Association indicate that areas with high numbers of betting shops may experience an increase in anti-social behaviours, including loitering, street disturbances, and an escalation in petty crime. These factors could potentially deter potential investors, negatively impacting the attractiveness of our high street to visitors and residents alike. An evidence of this type of activity can be seen on the Deptford Crime Map that is issued by Metropolitan police (<https://www.met.police.uk/area/your-area/met/lewisham/deptford/about-us/crime-map>) where we can see the majority of antisocial behaviour and shoplifting on or near the high street.

Proximity to Primary Schools:

Adding another betting shop in such close proximity to two primary schools raises serious concerns about the well-being of our children. Research shows that the exposure of young people to gambling environments, especially at an impressionable age, can normalise the behaviour and potentially lead to harmful consequences. We must prioritise the safety and welfare of our school-going children by creating a wholesome environment that shields them from exposure to gambling establishments.

Incidents Involving Betting Shops in Deptford High Street:

While I do not have direct access to current police records, I urge the Safer Communities Service to conduct a thorough examination of the police reports to fully comprehend the potential impact that granting this licence might have on public safety and law enforcement resources.

In light of these compelling reasons, I implore the Safer Communities Service to carefully consider the implications of granting a gambling licence to the Betting Company. Instead, I request the Council to prioritise the safety, well-being, and prosperity of our community by supporting diverse and sustainable businesses that contribute positively to our neighbourhood.

I trust that the Safer Communities Service will give serious consideration to this objection, which echoes the collective concerns of our community. We strive to maintain Deptford High Street as a vibrant, family-friendly, and safe place for all residents and visitors. Together, let us work towards fostering an environment that reflects the best interests and values of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I anticipate a thorough review of this objection and your commitment to safeguarding our community's interests.

In addition to my objection as a resident I am also making an objection as the Director of *****

In March 2023 I secured two funds from Lewisham Local for Food Justice Community grant of £6000 each. This is to deal with the immediate effects of food poverty. These funds were secured for Evelyn Community Store and the Salvation Army both running established weekly food banks less than 150 metres from 80 - 82 Deptford High Street.

It is incongruous that a council which is supporting and authored a Food Justice Action Plan [Lewisham Council - Food justice action plan](#) and invested funds with local organisations to combat food poverty can, at the same time support the licence of another betting shop within metres of two established food banks.

In June 2023 I secured £26,000 of emergency funding from MOPAC to support Violence against women and girls - some of this fund will directly support local residents of Deptford via support structures at the 999 Club, Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Service, Evelyn Community Store, Salvation Army and patients of The Waldron Centre - all within 200 m of 80 - 82 Deptford High Street.

Gambling as evidenced in the local resident objection below only fuels poverty and domestic abuse. I urge the council to consider how it can fund interventions on the doorstep of 80 - 82 Deptford High Street that combat poverty with one hand and with the other hand approve the gambling licence which will increase both poverty and domestic abuse.

I have secured £38,000 in a very difficult funding landscape to improve the lives of Deptford residents - it is not possible that another betting shop will do the same for the residents and will be counterproductive to the work that can be achieved with the £38,000.

Lastly Jenningsbet does not pay the London Living Wage - Lewisham's strategy is that all employers pay the LLW so approving this licence will not offer quality employment opportunities at the LLW to any future employees of this venue.

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