

[REDACTED]

From: Ros Cassy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 13 September 2019 09:52
To: Licensing
Cc: Forrest, Andrew
Subject: Casino Licence/statement Extension Aspers Ref 2014/02548/70SLCP

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I am writing to express concern at the application to extend the casino license/statement granted to Aspers 5 years ago as part of a proposed Royal Pier Waterfront Development.

At that time I submitted comments on behalf of Friends of Town Quay Park as I was Chair of the group at that time.

I now convene the Old Town Community Forum and am canvassing views urgently of members. In view of the extension granted for representations I will submit these within 14 days.

In the mean time I wish to log the following concerns:

- I cannot understand how a licence for a project now cancelled can be extended. The licence was part of the proposed RPW development which has recently been withdrawn and as far as I am aware no other development is currently being considered. How then can a licence be granted for something which doesn't exist?
- This is a largely residential area whose population has increased over the last 5 years due to further development of apartments. The tension still remains – indeed is heightened by this increased development in the immediate area – between regenerative benefit and improving people's quality of life through green spaces as well as overall health and wellbeing. If the proposed development is dependent on the casino I would urge the licensing panel to recognize that the world has moved on in 5 years and both the extensive development of this site and inclusion of a casino is even less acceptable to local people.
- Safety – crime, noise, disruption on dispersal and the impact on local policing and health services. As a resident I remain very concerned at the drift into neighbouring streets as people leave premises in the early hours of the morning and if a casino were developed in the area of Mayflower Park how managing public safety will be achieved with reduced public services. It is well established that police numbers have declined over the past five years so this would be an even more acute problem. How would this be managed?

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From: Ros Cassy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 19 September 2019 09:57
To: Licensing
Cc: Forrest, Andrew
Subject: Casino Licence/statement Extension Aspers Ref 2014/02548/70SLCP

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Further to my email of 13th September I have now had comments from a number of members of the Old Town Community Forum.

There is strong public disquiet about the situation. Every single one of them is opposed to the development of a large casino on moral and economic grounds. There is a strong sense that the increased information about problem gambling and the ruin it can cause in people's lives should be accepted by Southampton City Council and that the licence should be withdrawn. There was strong local resistance to the original proposal and this has now hardened and the impact on local people whether as potential at risk gamblers or local people is of greater concern. Forum members realise that this may not be an allowable objection, within the legal licencing framework, to the statement extension but are very keen that these views should be noted.

The issue which does affect the extension is our total incomprehension as to how an extension can be given to a proposal which was linked to the development of the Royal Pier Waterfront which has now been shelved. The licence appears to be location specific to the Mayflower Park site. There remains strong resistance to the proposal to change this much valued open green space with its access to the waterfront into a commercial space. As there is no building, or indeed imminent prospect of a building, in which to site a casino surely therefore the licence should lapse?

Ros Cassy

On behalf of Old Town Community Forum