
From: Ros Cassy
Sent: 09 June 2022 11:30
To: Montague, Hayley
Subject: Re: Casino application extension 2022/01538/7

Hello Hayley
Yes
Normandy House
45 Bugle Street
SO14 2AG
Thanks
Ros

Sent from my iPhone

On 9 Jun 2022, at 11:26, Montague, Hayley

wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for your below representation, is your address for correspondence as per the previous representation in 2019?

Kind regards,

Hayley Montague
Licensing Enforcement Officer
Southampton and Eastleigh Licensing Partnership
Southampton City Council

Web: www.southampton.gov.uk/licensing
Post: Licensing - Southampton City Council
Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY

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From: Ros Cassy
Sent: 09 June 2022 09:29
To: Licensing
Subject: Casino application extension 2022/01538/7

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Dear Licensing Team

2022/01538/70SLCP

I am attaching an objection to the extension of the application for a casino from Aspers.
Please will you ensure it is presented to the licensing committee.

Thank you

Ros Cassy

Ros Cassy

Convener

Old Town Community Forum

Representation from Old Town Community Forum and Friends of Town Quay Park regarding extension of Casino Application 2022/01538/70SLCP June 2022.

This representation is made on behalf of both Old Town Community Forum, a voluntary group established in 2019 for residents, visitors and business in the Old Town of Southampton and Friends of Town Quay Park (FTQP), a membership organisation representing the community of people who use Town Quay Park, SO14 2AT and the adjoining Cuckoo Lane Park.

FTQP has submitted objections to the original casino application and the extension in 2019. The views of both organisations have not changed since the last extension application in 2019

In view of the fact that the original proposed development was shelved a number of years ago and there are no plans for replacement development, there is no location for a casino in the Royal Pier/Mayflower Park area. As this extension applies to a specific (but non-existent) site we urge the council to **refuse** this extension for what is a very unpopular proposal for a large majority of local people.

Our concerns about the Royal Pier/Mayflower Park location remain the same and are even stronger now

Protecting the environment

We need to preserve the peace of Town Quay Park and Mayflower Park as protected open space which is highly valued by local people. Since the Covid Pandemic the parks are even more important as a place to nurture physical and mental wellbeing

Safety – crime, noise, disruption on dispersal and the impact on local policing and health services

There is much increased awareness of harm of problem gambling and the undesirability of yet another casino in the city given the negative social impact. It's well documented that the proximity of casinos encourages problem gambling & associated costs.

Urban casinos tend to draw large numbers of local residents to them, meaning that social costs remain within the community. This leaves no doubt that adverse social effects of gambling will be picked up by already stretched local services in Southampton.

The proposal to introduce a super casino – a large 'resort' style casino into the centre of Southampton is therefore the worst possible combination.

Public Health Southampton on the Council's website is clear about this stating that 'in recognition of falling wages in Southampton, & that problem gambling disproportionately affects certain groups in the population, the casino operator should avoid targeting socially disadvantaged groups'.

The potential of a Casino in such proximity to Mayflower Park could target just such socially disadvantaged groups, whether or not this is intended.

Community Impact

Mayflower Park and Town Quay Park are heavily used by ordinary people of Southampton – and are valued most by lower income groups, particularly those living in densely populated areas, in flats, in rented accommodation, without cars. High levels of minority ethnic groups use Mayflower Park, often meeting there in large groups to maintain contact with their communities. Families, groups of teenagers & young people, children use Mayflower Park in particular and the school children from St

Johns School are often in Town Quay Park. As we've seen this adds to their sense of wellbeing, their health, with a positive economic benefit to the overstretched public services of this city.

The proximity of a casino to both these parks would directly contradict this health & well-being ethos & benefit, by normalising gambling as a pastime, increasing the potential for general gambling & the risk of problem gambling amongst lower income & socially disadvantaged groups. The social & economic costs of this will be borne by the City of Southampton.

This is an opportunity to re-imagine the future of Mayflower Park in line with the Council's Green City strategy, Health & Wellbeing strategy & aspirations to develop its cultural offer, and support local people who are working to protect Mayflower Park and Town Quay Park for the people of Southampton.

As this licence is tied to a specific site for which no development is planned and in the light of further understanding of the negative impact of problem gambling we request that it is turned down by the Council.

Ros Cassy

Convenor Old Town Community Forum

June 8th 2022