

Andrew Dismore

Putting Barnet and Camden first



LONDON ASSEMBLY LABOUR

Andrew Dismore AM
London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
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SE1 2AA

30/07/2020

Objection to planning application for 48 Ballards Lane London N3 2BJ, Ref: 20/3147/FUL

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to object to the above application in my capacity as London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden.

We should be under no apprehensions that "adult gaming centre" is in reality a casino, and so that is what I will refer to in this objection.

A casino is effectively a gambling and betting shop in a highroad context, and this is highly undesirable. Due to the large number of such betting shops around the Finchley area, it is clear that the market is at saturation, and no further permissions should be handed out.

A casino is of no benefit to residents or the town centre, and in fact is contrary to the Finchley Church End Town Centre Strategy (2012) which aims: to encourage positive change, renewal and investment, foster enterprise, protect the suburban character of the area and improve and enhance the quality of the public realm. Instead it will encourage gambling additions, which in turn will lead to a rise in crime, economic distress, poorer mental health and many other social and personal problem.

That is a contravention of policy CS6, which states: "we will promote successful and vibrant centres throughout Barnet to serve the needs of residents, workers and visitors and ensure that new development is of an appropriate scale and character for the centre in which it is located". It cannot be argued that a casino is such an appropriate character.

It is also a contravention of policy CS8, which seeks to support Barnet residents in accessing work and supporting local businesses. Casinos which encourage gambling addictions do not make people more employable, they make them less so. Casinos will also negatively impact the character of the town centre, doing damage to the other businesses there.

Finally, I am concerned that the impact of the Casino on neighbours will be more noise and increase in antisocial-behaviour and crime.

For all of the above reasons, this planning application should be refused.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Dismore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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