

Dear Sirs,

I note that Merkur Slots have submitted an application for a Bingo Premises Licence at the above address on Sidwell Street.

As a local St James resident I wish to lodge my strong objection to this application.

As you will be aware from recent press, Sidwell Street has a long history of social disorder and is an area deemed to be less affluent than other areas of Exeter.

Recently Sidwell Street has been trying hard to remove this reputation, it has become more multicultural and appealing with independent cafes and shops.

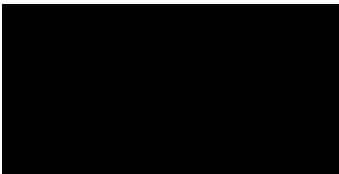
A gambling establishment serves no purpose in this mix other than to extract money, potentially from some of the most vulnerable in our society.

Given the social issues on Sidwell Street, this type of establishment does nothing to address them and has the potential to make the worse.

Sidwell street is mine and my young children's main walking route to the city centre and I feel it would be made less safe with this type of establishment, that offers for our family.

It's my sincere hope that you refuse this application.

Regards,



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 9:49 AM

To: Licensing Team <licensing.team@exeter.gov.uk>

Subject: objection to MERKUR Slots application for 47-48 Sidwell St

I am writing to formally object to the planning application for the establishment of a new gambling premises at 47-48 Sidwell Street. As a resident of Exeter, I have serious concerns about the potential negative impact this development could have on our community.

Gambling establishments often target vulnerable groups, including individuals with addiction problems and those facing financial hardship. The presence of such a premises could exacerbate issues related to problem gambling, potentially leading to financial distress, mental health issues, and social problems.

And the introduction of a gambling premises can negatively affect the local community's wellbeing. There are concerns that such establishments may lead to an increase in anti-social behavior, crime rates, and other social issues. Sidwell Street already has long-standing issues with anti-social behaviour, drug misuse, public intoxication, and a general reputation for feeling 'unsafe', and the addition of yet another gambling venue could make this worse.

In light of these concerns, I urge the planning committee to reject this application. The potential harm to vulnerable individuals and the negative impact on community wellbeing and safety all provide strong grounds for refusal.

Thank you for considering my objections. I hope the council will prioritize the long-term interests and welfare of our community in making its decision.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Hi there

I'm writing to place an objection to this application.

There are many studies which support evidence around gambling premises and increased anti-social behaviour. There are obvious links to other addictions such as alcohol and drugs, crime, violent behaviour and poor mental and physical health.

I have attached PHEs gambling report.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6151b034e90e077a2db2e7f4/Gambling_risk_factors.pdf

Given the serious ongoing issues we face in Sidwell Street with street attached individuals, violent crime and other related anti- social behaviour we should absolutely not be supporting a premises which is likely to cause further challenges and exacerbate the existing problems.

I would be happy to make a representation to the licensing committee to object to this application.

With very best wishes

