

Respondee 1

From:

Sent: 03 October 2021 09:59

To: LICENSING <LICENSING@croydon.gov.uk>

Subject: Gambling Statement of Principles: consultation

Dear Croydon Council

I am writing to give feedback to the level of gambling in Thornton Heath where I have lived for 13 years.

There are five gambling shops along Thornton heath High Street and two more have opened since I have lived in the area. There is a William Hill gambling shop at each end of the High Street. In broad daylight I have seen people come out of the shop and urinate on the public pavement while there are children walking along the High Street.

It is known that gambling is addictive and glancing inside the shops it is possible to see it attracts people from a poor and deprived background.

This compounds their situation and makes them poorer. Thornton heath already has a number of challenges with deprivation and these betting shops make the situation worse.

I'm writing to request the council to take responsibility for this deteriorating situation and resolve this problem.

Best regards,

Respondee 2

From:

Sent: 27 October 2021

To: LICENSING <LICENSING@croydon.gov.uk>

Subject: Consultation on 'Revised statement of principles under the Gambling Act (2005)'

Please find below my comments on the 'Revised statement of principles under the Gambling Act (2005)'.

The document:

- 1) Fails to make any statement regarding the moral stance of Croydon Council with respect to gambling, i.e. whether it represents social behaviour that should be encouraged or discouraged and the effect on Croydon Council's actions.
- 2) Fails to make any statement regarding whether Croydon Council believes it is acceptable for Croydon Council to financially profit from gambling.
- 3) Fails to even mention addiction.
- 4) Fails to even mention the effect of gambling on families.
- 5) Only tacitly recognises the linkage between gambling and crime.
- 6) Fails to recognise that (in my opinion) gambling is one of a number of anti-social behaviours that mutually reinforce.
- 7) Fails to recognise the need (in my opinion) to remove gambling from the general public environment, in the same way as has been done for tobacco products. This is vital to change the perception that gambling is normal and acceptable behaviour. Adopting policies similar to those for the tobacco will reduce the risk that children will become gamblers.

I trust that you will take my comments into account such that you have not wasted my time, and are not just paying lip service to the concept of 'consultation'. I have experienced too many 'consultations' where the document, plan or policy in question is already fixed, and no account is taken of the comments, opinions and advice that were solicited only because this is demanded by 'the process'.

Regards