

The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

Please note that comments about this case need to be made within the timetable. This can be found in the notification letter sent by the local planning authority or the start date letter. Comments submitted after the deadline may be considered invalid and returned to sender.

Appeal Reference: APP/P4605/W/24/3356275

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference	APP/P4605/W/24/3356275
Appeal By	LUXURY LEISURE
Site Address	173-175 Soho Road BIRMINGHAM B21 9SU

SENDER DETAILS

Name	
Address	

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

In what capacity do you wish to make representations on this case?

- Appellant
- Agent
- Interested Party / Person
- Land Owner
- Rule 6 (6)

What kind of representation are you making?

- Final Comments
- Proof of Evidence
- Statement
- Statement of Common Ground
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

As a long standing resident of the area I have serious concerns and reservations regarding this application and any proposals to grant this development following appeal. I have previously petitioned and objected and therefore for the sake of clarity will surmise these below. If, however, you require further information or detail, please do not hesitate to contact me. This alleged Luxury Leisure causes concerns on the basis of:

1. Anti social behaviour in an area already riddled with the same. There is constant and public use of drugs and alcohol without much interference from West Midlands Police or the Soho Bid. Two entities which arguably should be taking exception to these activities.
2. Prostitution - over the last few years this has become rife within the neighbourhood, with most sex workers standing on various corners of the Soho Road. This in turn is causing "punters" / an excess of cars pulling up on double yellow lines, without any regard for local residents trying to go about their lives and shopping and even less regard for traffic laws. Notwithstanding an infinite amount of reports made to West Midlands Police this is an ongoing concern. In addition to the sex workers and their "punters" there is grave fear and anxiety caused to local residents when the men benefitting from these sex workers are lingering near by. They are rude, aggressive and have no regard for anything. As a female, I fear both physically, mentally and socially at risk. My morning commute has become one that causes great concern to me as the antisocial behaviour caused by this situation extends throughout the night and early mornings.
3. An elderly and ethnic local community - the Soho Road area is mainly made up of Indian and Muslim residents, who for religious and cultural reasons do not gamble. While to do so is each man's prerogative, the granting of this application would cause an influx of individuals who are not local and are more likely to feed into the concerns listed at points 1 and 2 above. This in turn will lead to further and significant chaos in terms of parking for an area which already struggles with none. Furthermore, I have myself witnessed and had to intervene when elderly residents who either do not speak English or speak very limited amounts are harassed by individuals under the influence of drugs and alcohol. This is highly intimidating for local and elderly residents who understandably feel threatened.
4. The level of muggings and violent crimes in the area are on the increase (I am sure you are privy to the data but please let me know if you require further direction). In addition to this I would like to add that the number of people "begging" on the Soho Road, especially outside these alleged entertainment centres is worrying and causes considerable angst to local residents. For example, I am not too intimidated to carry a handbag when walking along the Soho Road, my card and phone are hidden within an inside pocket and I have to think several times before using either. This is no way to live and I am more than sure that this would not be allowed to be the case in a different area / demograph.
5. There is no need for a Luxury Leisure within the neighbourhood, however it is sugar coated this is another betting facility in an area saturated with the same. At my last checking the following exist either on Soho Road or the immediate area (for the sake of argument I shall only list those within walking distance):
 - a) Paddy Power - 198 Soho Road
 - b) Ladbrokes - 154A Soho Road
 - c) Betfred - 262 Soho Road
 - d) William Hill - 209/211 Soho Road
 - e) Ladbrokes - 22/24 College Road

As advised above, I am prepared to be contacted further, should you require any further information or evidence.

In the interim, I thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

