

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

Appeal By

Site Address

SENDER DETAILS

Name

Address

Company/Group/Organisation Name

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

Dear Birmingham City Council Local Planning Authority,

We, the Soho Road BID, strongly object to the proposed adult gaming centre at 173 Soho Road (Reference number 2024/03302/PA). Our objection is based on several critical factors that we believe will have a detrimental impact on our community:

1. We agree with Birmingham City Council's original decision that the proposed development would result in an increased fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and would fail to create a safe environment that promotes positive social interaction. As such, the application conflicts with Policy PG3 of the Birmingham Development Plan 2017 and the NPPF. Please also refer to Planning Application 2021/09176/PA for a very similar application in close vicinity to this case which was rejected by the Local Planning Authority on similar grounds.
2. Proximity to Educational Institutions: The proposed site is alarmingly close to two grammar schools, several nurseries, and directly opposite a college. This raises serious concerns about exposing young people to gambling activities, potentially normalizing such behaviour among our youth.
3. Vulnerability of Local Residents: Handsworth already has a high concentration of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). An adult gaming centre could unfairly attract and potentially exploit vulnerable adults in our community.
4. Alcohol Availability and Anti-Social Behaviour: The site's proximity to off-licensed retail premises could exacerbate existing problems with anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the area. The combination of easily accessible alcohol and gambling facilities is a recipe for increased social problems.
5. Existing ASB Issues: Soho Road already experiences a high volume of anti-social behaviour, including drug usage, street drinking, and loitering. The introduction of an adult gaming centre could potentially worsen these issues.
6. Police Concerns: West Midlands Police have objected to the proposal, stating that it could "adversely impact" the location and highlighting problems surrounding loitering and alcohol abuse that contribute to ASB.
7. Community Well-being: The presence of an adult gaming centre could have a harmful effect on the health and well-being of residents, posing a danger to pupils at nearby schools and vulnerable people in the area.
8. Economic Impact: Such an establishment could deter quality businesses from investing in our High Street, potentially leading to a decline in the area's economic vitality.

We urge the Planning Authority to consider the long-term implications of allowing this adult gaming centre in our community. The potential harm to vulnerable populations, increased risk of anti-social behaviour, and negative impact on local businesses far outweigh any perceived benefits.

We stand united with our community members, local schools, and law enforcement in opposing this application.

We respectfully request that you reject this proposal to protect the well-being and character of our neighbourhood.