

To: Haringey Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee

From: [REDACTED], Independent Trader, High Road N17

Subject: Investigating the clustering of betting shops in Haringey

Date: 2nd November 2010

I am a partner in the family business "[REDACTED]" which has been trading in Tottenham High Road since before the war. We are adjacent to Betfred bookmakers which was previously The Plough public house. Unfortunately I did not oppose the granting of their licence as I was totally unaware at that time of the problems that this bookmaker could bring to the local area and our business.

In areas of high unemployment such as Tottenham, betting shops can attract a significant number of people who will hang around the premises for some considerable time during which large amounts of alcohol and, in some cases, drugs are consumed. Whilst it is illegal for people to drink alcohol inside a betting shop it is often allowed to happen. The anti social behaviour that occurs largely as a consequence of this has recently become intolerable.

During Betfred opening hours there are usually 6-12 people hanging around outside and their behaviour frequently descends into violence. Just last Friday, for example, the police had to be called when one person was dragged out of the betting shop and beaten up in broad daylight. This was mid afternoon in front of a busy bus stop which, it being half term, included young children.

Due to the lack of toilet facilities in Betfred (why?) the area immediately surrounding our own premises is frequently urinated upon, which as a food retailer I find particularly unacceptable.

It is high time that Bookmakers took their social obligations seriously and took some responsibility for the various problems that their businesses can bring to an area.