
From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 22 October 2010 13:35

To: Scrutiny

Subject: 10 November 2010 meeting - Betting Shops issue

I am strongly opposed to the growing number of betting shops being set up in our borough. Gambling is an addiction and not a demand. To say that not feeding this demand would drive it underground is like saying not keeping crack dens open would drive crack addicts to operate on the street. Underground gambling would be a crime and would be dealt with as such. It is a pity that the recent government has decided to start a national lottery (thus condoning gambling and compounding the problem - almost making it into a family passtime) under the guise of helping charity. Gambling is traditionally run by cartels of gangsters making very tidy profits whilst preying on the vulnerable and less educated factions of society offering unfair odds. The small number of employees hired by the gambling shops is irrelevant when taking into consideration the high number of clients frequenting their premises who are spending their unemployment benefit/incapacity benefit/DLA in the vain hope that it will gain them a better life instead of taking that money home to support their families. Demands are often created by those with commercial interests, it doesn't necessarily follow that if the supply was not on every street corner the demand would be as high as it is.

Let's not dress it up in a suit and try to make it look respectable. Gambling is exploitation and needs to be stamped out in order for our community to become healthy and productive again. Failing this it should be responsibly regulated so that the "odd flutter" does not mean someone spending all their worldly goods on pipe dreams, much to the delight of the greedy betting shop owners and interested council members.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED] (Haringey resident)