

Emilia Matheou

From: LESLIE COOPER [l.cooper49@btopenworld.com]
Sent: 21 July 2010 17:06
To: Licensing
Subject: Betting License - Coral, 2 Monument Close,Rg14 6QW

Dear Sir /Madam

I would like to make a representation against the application by Coral Racing Ltd for a Betting License at 2 Monument Close, Essex Street, Wash Common, Newbury, RG14 6QW.

My details are Leslie Cooper, 11 Glendale Avenue, Wash Common, Newbury, RG14 6SG.
Tel :

The parade of shops in Monument Close are my local shops which I use nearly every day as do a lot of 6th Formers and other children from Park House School. I think it is inappropriate for there to be a betting / gambling shop which is so close to the school. There is no avoiding this betting shop as this is the only parade of shops which are used by the children from Park House School,(except for the Total garage shop literally opposite the school which to my knowledge is banned for School Years 7 to 11.) However, there is no such ban on children using the parade of shops, especially 6th Formers, at lunch time and after school. There is also a Fish & Chip shop which attracts the children anyway and so I emphasise the point again that there is no avoiding this location by saying that school children under 18 shouldn't be there in the first place.

As for the gambling itself, this is a temptation too far I suspect for some of the under 18s who are in Park House 6th Form and indeed the over 18s who will be in the Upper Sixth. Gambling can be addictive, as we know, by certain individuals who are susceptible to it. I know that once gambling takes a hold it is very difficult to stop. I do not think it is right to ask the older children who are at school (both under and over 18) to make a decision about whether to gamble or not just because the opportunity to do so presents itself in the form of this close proximity premises. The opportunity should not be there in the first place.

Based on this concern about children's' welfare with respect to gambling I would urge the Licensing committee to turn down this application.

Yours faithfully

Les Cooper.

22/07/2010

10 August 2010



C O U N C I L

Environmental Health and Licensing

West Berkshire District Council

Council Offices

Faraday Road Newbury

Berkshire RG14 2AF

Our Ref: 10/00993/LGF

Your Ref:

Please ask for: Emilia Matheou

Direct Line: 01635 503242

Fax: 01635 519172

e-mail: licensing@westberks.gov.uk

Mr Leslie Cooper
l.cooper49@btopenworld.com

Dear Mr Cooper,

**Coral Racing Ltd
2 Monument Close, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 6QW**

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of representation received on the 21 July 2010 in respect of the above application for a new premises licence.

We have received a telephone call from the Solicitors acting on behalf of the applicant disputing the validity of your representation and have asked us to reconsider the matter.

Firstly any party who makes a representation must be an interested party. The Gambling Act 2005 s158 defines an interested party is a person who:

- Lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities
- Has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities, or
- Represents person who satisfy the above.

As you do not fall within any of these categories, for the purposes of making a representation, you are not considered an interested party.

Additionally, the contents of your letter state that you think it's inappropriate for a betting premises to be close to a school and that you suspect gambling itself is a temptation for under 18's and as such your representations are considered to be 'moral objections'.

Moral or ethical objections to gambling are not valid reasons for licensing authorities to reject applications for premises licences. In exercising their functions under the 2005 Act local authorities must rely on reasons that demonstrate that the licensing objectives are not being, or are unlikely to be, met. Those objectives are:

- preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime;
- ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and



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11/01/07
Holy Day
01202 55 391
16



Coral Racing Ltd
Glebe House
Vicarage Drive
Barking
IG11 7NS

Environmental Health and Licensing
West Berkshire District Council
Council Offices
Faraday Road Newbury
Berkshire RG14 2AF

Our Ref: 10/00993/LGF

Your Ref:

Please ask for: Emilia Matheou

Direct Line: 01635 503242

Fax: 01635 519172

e-mail: licensing@westberks.gov.uk

Dear Mr Hawkins

**Licensing Act 2003 - Betting Premises Licence
2 Monument Close, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 6QW**

With reference to your application for a premise licence for the above location.

I have to inform you that following the submission of your application the following representations have been received:

Local resident - Mr Leslie Cooper

I enclose for your information copies of the relevant letter/fax/email(s) detailing the nature of the representations.

You will be notified in due course of the date and time when a hearing will take place before the Licensing Committee at the Council Offices.

You are advised that mediation, should you wish, must be directly through the representee and not via the Licensing Authority.

Yours sincerely

Emilia Matheou
Technical Officer



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Jeff Beck

From: LESLIE COOPER [l.cooper49@btopenworld.com] **Sent:** Tue 10/08/2010 23:10
To: Jeff Beck
Cc: Gwen Mason
Subject: Objection to Licence for Coral Racing Ltd
Attachments: Licence-Coral Racing Ltd.doc(43KB)

My Details : Leslie Cooper, 11 Glendale Avenue, Wash Common, Newbury, RG14 6SG.
Tel No:

To : Chairman of the Licensing Committee

Dear Clr Beck,

I originally made an objection to the application by Coral Racing Ltd for a gambling licence at 2 Monument Close, Wash Common, RG 14 6QW. I was given a date for the hearing which was 10th September 2010. This was rescinded by Emilia Matheou after she had a telephone call from the Solicitors representing Coral Racing Ltd.

I have once more requested that my objection stands and have sent Ms Matheou an e-mail letter to this effect.

I enclose this letter as an attachment to both yourself and Gwen Mason out of courtesy since I have also requested that if my objection is still turned down then it was with your approval or that of your Vice Chairman.

Unfortunately I did not inform Ms Matheou that I was sending you the letter as well and I apologise for not doing so.

Yours Faithfully
Leslie Cooper
Your

2nd rep accepted.
Solicitor informed.
Acknowledged 13/8/10

Copied to applicant 13/8/10

Reference : Licence for Coral Racing Ltd , 2 Monument Close, RG14 6QW

11 Glendale Avenue
Wash Common
Newbury
RG14 6SG

Date : 10th August 2010-08-10 Tel 01635 43429

Dear Emilia Matheou

Thank you for your e-mail reply. I am a bit surprised that you did not contact me first before cancelling the September 10th hearing for this licence application. I wish to clarify some mistakes and blatant assumptions you have made which (you think) gave you the right to say that my objections were not valid under the Gambling Act 2005.

Firstly, I am not surprised that you have been telephoned by the solicitors for Coral Racing Ltd about my objection but what I am surprised about is that you now deny me my right to speak at a hearing based on what their solicitor said. Of course they (Coral Racing Ltd) will say that I have a moral objection to betting; as I understand it that's always their first line of attack against objectors. Nowhere in my letter of objection do I use the word 'moral' or 'morality' or 'crusade' or 'morally corrupt' in the context of betting so I am at a loss as to where you have decided that part of the sentence " this is a temptation too far I suspect for some of the under 18s who are in Park House 6th Form" constitutes in your view an overwhelming 'moral' stand against gambling.

For the record, I am not against gambling in general or gambling shops in particular that are for adults. I have never made an objection before against any licence application by this firm or any other organisation lest it be said by them that in their opinion I am on a 'crusade' to stop under age gambling. I am not, but what I am about is my right to object to a betting shop which is likely to affect me by their activities for the reasons stated in my original letter.

I live close to the premises which are a ten minute walk away from my house. There are no other shops in this area for at least a 1 ½ mile radius. I cannot avoid this proposed betting shop when I visit this parade of shops on practically a daily basis and I have good reason to believe that I will be affected by their activities sooner rather than later. The reason why is based on the potential for 'young people' to bet there based on its close proximity to the school. Last year the gambling commission found that a staggering 98% of betting shops allowed under-age gambling. The Coral organisation does not have a good record of stopping 'young people' from entering their premises and placing a bet. The gambling commission found that over 43% of Coral shops surveyed allowed under 18 year olds to place a bet.

I have been a teacher for over 35 years, eleven of them in West Berkshire so I know that it is very difficult for betting shops to judge the age of 'young people' between the ages of 15 years and 18 years. I am also not a policeman so am I to say nothing when I see young people who I know are under 18 going into this betting shop?

One of the reasons why applications come under public scrutiny is that it gives ordinary people, like me, a chance to object on reasonable grounds. Now we come to the crunch! The reasonableness of my case is not up to you or the solicitor from Coral Racing to decide between you that I don't have a case for objection. That is surely up to the Licensing Committee to decide. I cannot predict what they may or may not think about my objection until I have put it to them. At the very least they may decide that the proximity of this betting establishment is so close to a school that it may well set a horrible precedent for later applications. I don't know how they will think and with respect neither do you.

Emilia Matheou

From: Emilia Matheou on behalf of Licensing
Sent: 13 August 2010 15:24
To: LESLIE COOPER
Subject: <v9_SmartSaved/> Coral Racing Licence
Categories: SmartSaved

Dear Mr Leslie Cooper

Representation concerning Betting Premises Licence 2 Monument Close, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 6QW

Thank you for re-submitting your representation in respect of the above application. Your comments have again been made available to the applicant and their Solicitors and as discussed with you earlier today, the hearing previously set for the 10th September will take place, unless all parties involved agree otherwise.

Regards

Emilia Matheou
Property and Public Protection
Environmental Health & Licensing
Tel: 01635 519184 Ext: 3208

From: LESLIE COOPER [mailto:l.cooper49@btopenworld.com]
Sent: 10 August 2010 17:01
To: Licensing
Subject: Coral Racing Licence (attn Emilia Matheou)

Dear Emilia,
Sorry but I sent you my research on the topic instead of my letter.
Please find this attached.
Regards
Les Cooper

13/08/2010