



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sent via email to: licensing@enfield.gov.uk

Our Ref: BC63316

19 September 2025

Dear Enfield Council Officers

Re: MERKUR Slots at Ground Floor, 12 The Broadway, Southgate Circus, London, N14 6PH

I am writing to raise objections on behalf of constituents relating to application for MERKUR Slots at Ground Floor, 12 The Broadway, Southgate Circus, London, N14 6PH. I note notice of this application was published on 27th August and there are 28 days to respond from this date as per the Gambling Act 2005 (Premises Licences and Provisional Statements) Regulations 2007.

This application has caused concerns across the community as constituents wish to protect our high streets as valuable community assets.

Having met with NatWest in August 2023 ahead of closure of the Southgate site in October 2023, I shared my concerns that the building should not be sold on to become a gambling premises. The NatWest team understood concerns and made reassurances that such a move would not occur within their control.

I note since this time that Enfield Council has updated its gambling policy to include adult gaming centres, which I understand to include MERKUR Slots.

Concerns raised by the community have been threefold:

- The character of Southgate town centre;
- Prevalence of existing gambling premises; and
- Ensuring vulnerable constituents were not exposed to unnecessary harm with additional gambling premises.

Whilst I understand permission for Police Station 25 Chase Side London N14 5BW to have a change of use to become a 65-room hostel under planning reference 24/00732/FUL was refused on 3rd September 2024, vulnerable adults are currently living within the premises. Having received requests from residents of the property on individual concerns, I note residents require support from our community. An additional gambling premise is not supportive of allowing vulnerable adults the community space to thrive and become independent.

The proposed premises is also within a short walk of Priory Hospital North London, where treatment for addiction issues is offered.

Southgate town centre currently has three gambling premises within close proximity to the proposed MERKUR Slots site;

- Ladbrokes, 1-2, Dennis Parade, London N14 6AA.
- Paddy Power, 2 Chase Side, London N14 5PA.
- William Hill, 8 Chase Side, London N14 5PA.

With MERKUR Slots already on high streets across the borough we run a further risk of undoing Enfield Council's work in Southgate, such as recent additions of the parklet, rain gardens and art trail.

Should MERKUR Slots be granted permission, the borough risks homogenising each of our town centres. Our high streets should, and can, offer unique experiences and reflect the preferences of the community who live and work there.

It is imperative that constituents feel a sense of pride, for it encourages participation and fosters ownership of their high street. Any proposal for gambling premises in our borough should be considered against current licensing criteria and how to showcase Enfield at its best for all residents to thrive.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bambos Charalambous". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Bambos" and the last name "Charalambous" clearly legible.

Bambos Charalambous MP