



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sent via email to licensing@enfield.gov.uk

Our Ref: BC71086

19 June 2026

Dear Enfield Council Officers,

Re: Palace Amusements at 101-103 & 105-109, Greens Lanes, Bowes Park, London, N13 4SP

I am writing to raise objections to the licence application made by East Kent Leasing Limited for an Adult Gaming Centre at 101-103 & 105-109, Greens Lanes, Bowes Park, London, N13 4SP.

I have been extremely concerned to learn of another adult gaming centre seeking to establish premises in the area. There is already an oversaturation of betting shops and adult gaming centres, with the following premises located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed site:

- Ladbrokes, 131–135 Green Lanes, N13 4SP (174 ft)
- Paddy Power, 45 Green Lanes, N13 4TB (499 ft)
- Jenningsbet, 27 Green Lanes, N13 4TN (0.1 miles)
- Ladbrokes, 108 Myddelton Road, N13 4SP (0.6 miles)
- Merkur Slots, 292 Green Lanes, N13 5TW (0.6 miles)
- Paddy Power, 314 Green Lanes, N13 5TT (0.6 miles)

I understand that the local authority has an 'aim to permit' applications where they are in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005 and the licensing objectives.

I wish to object to the licence application on two grounds: the prevention of crime and disorder and the protection of children and vulnerable persons.

a) Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime

The Commission on Crime and Gambling Related Harms found that people with gambling disorders report engaging in illegal acts to fund, and as a result of, their gambling, including theft, criminal damage and drug-related offences.

I am therefore concerned that the introduction of another 24-hour adult gaming centre will have a negative impact on crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

Bowes is currently a designated Cumulative Impact Zone, with Enfield Council finding that it has "demonstrated a sufficient level of cumulative impact (in terms of violence, public order and criminal damage) due to the sale, supply and consumption of alcohol." Police UK statistics show that between May 2025 and April 2026 there were 255 recorded violent offences and 145 incidents of anti-social behaviour in Bowes.

Granting a licence for another adult gaming centre therefore risks exacerbating the very issues that Enfield Council is seeking to address and reduce within the area, posing further safety concerns for residents and placing additional demands on resources.

b) Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

Green Lanes is a well-used route for families, with large numbers of parents and children passing through each day during school drop-off and pick-up times.

There are several schools and nurseries in the vicinity of the premises, including:

- Tottenhall Infant School, Tottenhall Road, N13 6JB (0.1 miles)
- Brown Bears Nursery, Palmerston Road, N22 8RA (0.2 miles)
- St Michael at Bowes Church of England Junior School, Tottenhall Road, N13 6JB (0.2 miles)
- St Anne's Catholic High School, Oakthorpe Road, N13 5TY (0.5 miles)

I am deeply concerned that permitting another adult gaming centre on a route frequently used by families risks normalising gambling among children and young people in the area.

Gambling premises should not form part of children and young people's everyday landscape, and such frequent exposure to these establishments risks creating the impression that gambling is normal, acceptable, and encouraged in our community.

Our high streets are the heart of our communities and should be a source of local pride. Our community is working tirelessly to protect and maintain viable high streets.

I have been working alongside residents to support these efforts and have recently presented a petition to Parliament to tackle illegal activity on our high streets, as well as organising walkabouts and public meetings with Enfield Council and the Metropolitan Police to highlight local concerns and improve safety on our high streets.

Granting approval for the premises would undermine the work being done in our community to ensure our high streets are safe, vibrant, and thriving.

While discussions about 'aim to permit' are taking place in Parliament, with efforts to give local authorities greater powers to refuse applications, it should be noted that an 'aim to permit' does not prevent the refusal of licences where necessary to minimise risk to an area (*Royal Amusements v Sheffield City Council*).

I implore Enfield Council to minimise the risk that the premises presents to the area and to ensure that our community and high streets thrive.

Yours sincerely,



Bambos Charalambous MP