THE ISLINGTON SOCIETY

Jeff Scott
Trading Standards Support Team
Public Protection Division
Islington Council
159 Upper Street
London N1 1RE

by e-mail

23 February 2007

Dear Mr Scott

Gaming Act 1968 Permit Application456 Holloway Road, N7 (the Nag's Head public house)

The Islington Society objects to the application by Leisure World Ltd. for a Gaming Act Permit for 456 Holloway Road (the Nag's Head public house).

1. Effect of close proximity to an existing Amusement Centre.

   There is already an Amusement Centre / Gaming Arcade in very close proximity to (within 50 yards of) this proposed arcade. The congregation of Gaming Centre usages together, which this application seeks to do, would stifle the regeneration of the Nag's Head as a premier town centre in Islington, and tend to concentrate at the heart of the Nag's Head area the social and public order dis-benefits that Amusement Arcades bring.

2. Social effects

   Amusement arcades are a low-grade usage in town centres, creating a seedy appearance and character. They tend to give the impression of a run-down area in decline. With the recent development of an Area Management Group and the appointment of a Town Centre Manager, the Nag's Head area is embarking on a period of economic regeneration; the introduction of a Gaming Centre in this key position - on a landmark site in a building which gave the area its name - would tend to encourage decline instead.

   The effect of this is to encourage anti-social behaviour instead of the sense of pride and ownership which town centre regeneration brings

   There is a primary school close to site, a further education college nearby and a University hall of residence opposite. We are concerned about the effect that the seedy appearance of the activity, and the ever-present promotion of gaming in such a prominent position would have on the young children and those in education at a transitional period in their lives.

3. Public Order effects

In recent years, the area has suffered from significant public order problems, concentrated in the vicinity of this proposed usage; notably, it has been blighted by illegal trading in counterfeit tobacco products and, more recently, DVD's; there has been a need for the issue of Exclusion Orders to prevent anti-social activities.

These problems have been successfully addressed in recent months. By contrast, an Amusement Arcade here is likely to exacerbate the problems by providing a focus and a refuge for people engaged in these activities.

Summary

This very prominent position, in a building which has given its name to the area as a whole, is inappropriate for this anti-social usage. Because of the existence of another Amusement Centre in close proximity, this application would mean a concentration of an undesirable usage at a prominent position where it is most visible.

The use, by its appearance and by public perception, would stifle the regeneration that the area needs, and have an adverse social effect in the town centre.

We urge you not to grant a Permit for this proposed use.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Bosi
(*Chairman)*