

Appendix K – Licensing  
Interested Persons  
Representations

<b>Objection 1</b>	<b>Received 01.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 2</b>
<p>I am writing to provide constructive feedback on the Local Gambling Risk Assessment for Golden Slots at 39 Church Road. I believe the assessment requires strengthening in key areas to ensure it fully addresses local risks and meets the licensing objectives.</p> <p>1. Crime Risk Analysis: The assessment correctly identifies Ashford's high crime rate but then concludes the risk is "Low." This apparent contradiction needs further justification. It would be helpful to understand how the proposed standard mitigation measures are sufficient for a recognised high-crime area, even within the 9 am to 11 pm operating hours.</p> <p>2. Protection of Children &amp; Vulnerable People: Given the venue's location directly opposite the library and near numerous schools, the "Low" risk rating for children and vulnerable people is a significant concern. A more robust strategy is needed that goes beyond standard policy to reflect the unique sensitivity of this specific location and protect our community's younger and more vulnerable members.</p> <p>3. Engagement with Local Context: The assessment would be stronger if it acknowledged the wider context that Spelthorne is the most deprived borough in Surrey, as this relates to potential vulnerability. Furthermore, acknowledging and outlining steps to address the significant community concerns (evidenced by over 500 objections) would demonstrate a clear commitment to being a responsible local operator.</p> <p>I hope these points are taken into consideration to develop a more robust plan that genuinely protects the Ashford community. A strengthened assessment would provide greater confidence that the venue will operate in the safest way possible.</p>		
<b>Objection 2</b>	<b>Received 01.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 3</b>
<p>I would like to object to this opening. It will encourage the wrong people to hang around the shops and will be terrible for the already problematic parking, encouraging gambling in an area that has already got a problem with ASB is not going to help.</p> <p>I certainly don't want to walk past crowds of people all standing outside smoking and hanging around on the corner of the road.</p> <p>This is not adding value to the area.</p> <p>Please consider the shops on church road that people will struggle to park and shop in. We have already seen far too many shops close. The noise from people coming and going all hours will be bad enough, waking people and alarming others. We do not need a gambling den, we need quality shops and restaurants that will encourage people to shop in church road, not make them leave which will happen. No alcohol, no drugs and no gambling is needed in Ashford.</p>		

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<b>Objection 3</b>	<b>Received 01.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 6</b>
<p><b>Protection of Children and Vulnerable Persons</b> The site is within walking distance of Clarendon Primary School (0.11 miles), St Michael's Catholic Primary School (0.4 miles), and Ashford Youth Centre (0.2 miles). This poses a safeguarding risk by increasing children's exposure to gambling activity and advertising. The area also serves older adults, low-income families, and individuals at risk of addiction groups particularly vulnerable to gambling-related harm.</p> <p><b>Crime and Disorder Risk</b> Introducing a gambling venue in this high-street location increases the likelihood of anti-social behaviour, loitering, and petty crime. With nearby ATMs and vacant retail units, the premises could attract opportunistic crime or illegal lending. The lack of evening policing makes risk mitigation difficult. Approving this could also set a precedent for further similar businesses.</p> <p><b>Policy Non-Compliance</b> The applicant has not provided a robust Local Risk Assessment as required by Spelthorne Borough Council's Statement of Principles and the Gambling Commission's LCCP. There is no clear mitigation plan for nearby sensitive uses.</p> <p><b>Public Concern</b> Despite planning approval, over 800 residents have signed petitions opposing this application. Licensing must independently consider the impact on public confidence and community wellbeing.</p> <p><b>Cumulative Impact and Risk of Clustering</b> Approving this licence would set a precedent for further gambling premises in Ashford's town centre. Evidence shows that clustering such venues in areas with socioeconomic challenges increases local harm. The Council must consider the long-term effect on the town's safety, character, and wellbeing.</p> <p>I object to the application and urge the Licensing Authority to refuse this application in line with its statutory objectives and community interest.</p>		
<b>Objection 4</b>	<b>Received 01.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 8</b>
<p>The area in which the gambling centre will be located is in an area where antisocial behaviour is rife. You can't walk through Ashford of an evening without seeing young people engaged in antisocial behaviour. Such an establishment is not going to improve this. This establishment is not wanted in this area and yet the voice of the local residents has been constantly ignored. While the application states that the centre will be over 18, clearly they have not witnessed the types of behaviour present most evenings in the town and it is hard to believe that the proposed cctv</p>		

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will stop underage individuals seeking to use the premises. This is an area which isn't as affluent as the application purports and will put vulnerable individuals at risk. I cannot see any good which this establishment will bring to the area and it will add to my shame at saying I live in an area where the council feels that this is in any way appropriate.		
<b>Objection 5</b>	<b>Received 01.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 9</b>
<p>I strongly object to the proposed Adult Gaming Centre at 39 Church Road, Ashford, on the basis of the following licensing objectives:</p> <p>Protecting children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling</p> <p>Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder</p> <p>Inadequate compliance with Spelthorne's Licensing Policy and Gambling Commission Codes of Practice</p> <p>Church Road is a high-footfall area with several primary and secondary schools nearby (Clarendon, St Michael's, Thomas Knyvett), as well as care homes, youth services, and a family centre within a short distance. While the applicant claims a low risk, the proposed 24/7 operation, combined with the shopfront's central location, will increase exposure to gambling and normalise it for young people and vulnerable adults.</p> <p>The risk assessment fails to address the cumulative impact of gambling premises. There are already two betting shops within 500 feet. This would add a third, shifting Church Road toward saturation. Additionally, Ashford has the highest crime rate of any medium-sized town in Surrey (102 per 1,000 people), including high levels of antisocial behaviour. The applicant's reliance on CCTV and locked doors during late hours is reactive and does not address broader community safety risks.</p> <p>Though the applicant cites data suggesting low deprivation, Ashford sits within Surrey's most deprived borough, and Church Road serves economically vulnerable residents. The area has a high density of ATMs and takeaway outlets, raising concerns about financial exploitation and impulse gambling.</p> <p>This application does not uphold the licensing objectives or reflect adequate consideration of local risks. I respectfully urge the council to reject it in the interest of public safety and community wellbeing</p>		
<b>Objection 6</b>	<b>Received 03.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 12</b>
I strongly object to the application by Golden Slots (Southern) Ltd to open an Adult Gaming Centre (AGC) at 39 Church Road, Ashford. The proposed location is entirely unsuitable—Ashford is a quiet residential town with a traditional high street, surrounded by homes, schools, and community facilities. Introducing a gambling establishment into this environment risks harming the character of the area and		

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exposing vulnerable residents to gambling-related harm.

Spelthorne already contains two of the most deprived areas in Surrey, and research shows that economically disadvantaged individuals are more susceptible to problem gambling. The presence of an AGC could worsen existing inequalities and negatively impact individuals and families already at risk.

There is overwhelming community opposition to this proposal. The vast majority of local residents do not support the introduction of an AGC in the town centre. This must be taken seriously as we, the residents, are the ones who will bear the consequences.

There are also concerns that an AGC could draw in customers from surrounding towns who may not respect the local area or its community standards. This could damage the welcoming and safe nature of Ashford's high street, particularly in the evenings. Many residents—including commuters returning from the train station and individuals walking home after social events—use Church Road at night. The presence of an AGC may increase the risk or perception of anti-social behaviour and discourage safe public use of the area.

The licence application itself lacks key safeguards. It includes no detail on staff training, levels of supervision, procedures for dealing with problem gambling, signage, or limits on operating hours. This suggests a disregard for community welfare and public safety.

I urge the Licensing Committee to reject this application. It is not in the best interests of the local area and will undermine community safety, cohesion, and wellbeing.

**Objection  
7**

**Received  
04.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing use  
only)  
16**

This area of Ashford has been highlighted as an area of concern for antisocial, behaviour . The licence for a gaming establishment will bring more trouble into the area . It is opposite a library that has a good history of activities for children and very near a local infant junior school. There is a new residential estate opposite as well .There is very restricted parking

**Objection  
8**

**Received  
04.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing use  
only)  
19**

Please see my formal objection to the proposed Adult Gaming Centre at 39 Church Road, Ashford.

Key concerns (licensing objective in brackets):

- 3 schools within 500m of premises (Protection of children from harm)

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site overlooks residential flats (Prevention of public nuisance)</li> <li>• Proximity to late-night bus stops = loitering risk (Public safety)</li> <li>• No demonstrated community benefit (General public interest)</li> </ul> <p>Data and location analysis strongly suggest the risks outweigh any proposed benefits.</p>		
<b>Objection 9</b>	<b>Received 04.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 22</b>
<p>Please see my formal objection to the proposed Adult Gaming Centre at 39 Church Road, Ashford.</p> <p>Key concerns (licensing objective in brackets):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 schools within 500m of premises (Protection of children from harm)</li> <li>• Site overlooks residential flats (Prevention of public nuisance)</li> <li>• Proximity to late-night bus stops = loitering risk (Public safety)</li> <li>• No demonstrated community benefit (General public interest)</li> </ul> <p>Data and location analysis strongly suggest the risks outweigh any proposed benefits.</p> <p>The problems that can arise from a gambling license being granted, would be extremely harmful to families, Children and young people; vulnerable people; people with mental health issues or addiction problems. There are no benefits of a gambling establishment to this community at all.</p>		
<b>Objection 10</b>	<b>Received 04.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 25</b>
<p>Need to protect young people from being exploited by gambling. Prevent the high street from further deterioration by the gambling centre attracting crime and antisocial behaviour. The centre of the high street is not a suitable venue for a gambling centre.</p>		
<b>Objection 11</b>	<b>Received 04.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 26</b>
<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I am a resident of Ashford and wish to object to the proposed Adult Gaming Centre at 39 Church Road.</p> <p>Key concerns:</p>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashford is a quiet, family-oriented neighbourhood with 3 schools within 500m of premises</li> <li>• Site overlooks residential flats - one of which is mine</li> <li>• Proximity to late-night bus stops and benches beneath my property which will increase loitering and antisocial behaviour risk</li> <li>• No demonstrated community benefit</li> </ul> <p>I look forward to hearing how this establishment would have any positive impact on this community when data and location analysis strongly suggest the risks outweigh any proposed benefits.</p> <p>Regards,</p>		
<b>Objection 12</b>	<b>Received 05.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 28</b>
<p>The risk assessment fails to take into account the premises proximity to a public library. If this application is granted, Spelthorne council have either chosen to ignore this or to accept that a public library is of no particular interest to children, therefore insinuating that reading is not important to children.</p> <p>There is also, I believe a potential link between socioeconomic factors of families who use a library and the risk of gambling addiction.</p> <p>Furthermore, the transportation route of several schools in the area to the nearest train station will pass this premises. Whilst there are other gambling premises in the area, these are historical. The ASA has in recent years developed strict rules around advertising in line UK governments gambling white paper (2023). With the number of schools in the area, being on the transportation route for a large amount of these schools and most importantly the proximity to Ashford public library, I believe that this application does not adhere to the Government guidelines and furthermore the omission of the library from the risk assesment list of places of interest to children realises this and was omitted on purpose</p>		
<b>Objection 13</b>	<b>Received 05.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 29</b>
<p>This site is very prominent, in the middle of the high street opposite the public library. The prominence of this site will normalise this type of non-productive, in fact dangerous, enterprise. Children who visit the library will see its ok to waste your money (some of it given to them by the state and the council), instead of being used for food, clothing and savings.</p>		
<b>Objection 14</b>	<b>Received 05.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 31</b>
Please refuse gambling license - 39 Church Road		

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As a parent of a child I am deeply concerned about the proposal to open an Adult Gaming Centre in our town centre.

Children pass the location daily. The idea that they might be exposed to gambling so visibly, in a place meant for families and everyday shopping is extremely worrying.

This application risks;  
- harming vulnerable persons including children  
- disrupting public safety especially at night

This venue does not serve the wellbeing of our community. Please consider the bigger picture and reject this application.

**Objection  
15**

**Received  
05.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing use  
only)  
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**Subject: Rejection to Gambling License - 30 Church Road, Ashford, Surrey.**

Dear Licensing Team

As a parent of 2 children, who regularly uses the high street and public transport I'm deeply concerned of the proposal of an adult gambling centre in the high street.

Children pass this location on a daily basis, including catching local transport and the daily exposure to gambling, groups of people hanging around, increased rubbish and adult language which will be clearly visible in a family orientated location is very worrying. This will not aid the high street businesses and will change the feel of the high street. I would expect many people will stop using the high street and would drive elsewhere. I live near the high street (walkable) but as a woman (with or without my children) I would not want to walk past the gambling site.

This application risks:  
Harming vulnerable people; children and elderly being exposed to the above points  
Disrupting public safety; especially evenings and winter months  
Loitering risk; groups of people hanging around near bus stops and shops. Lack of safety for those using the high street, using the buses and those who live nearby  
No demonstrated benefit to the community

This venue does not serve the wellbeing of the community. Please consider the wider view and reject this application.

**Objection  
16**

**Received  
05.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
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Good Afternoon

I strongly oppose a license being granted for the new venue where Barclays Bank presently stands.

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This will bring more unwanted behaviour to our small town. Already local people do not feel safe walking down the street especially in the evening and this will add to our anxiety.  
We already have to tolerate adolescent behaviour and this can only add to the problems.  
There are a number of schools in the area and this will set a very bad example to young vulnerable children and teenagers. They will obviously be intrigued and wish to hang around the premises wanting a little taste of what's going on inside.  
We have a high number of drug users in the area and to add gambling to there daily existence is a disaster waiting to happen.  
Ashford used to be a lovely town that you should be working to bring back a sense of pride and community.  
Please take all of this into consideration

**Objection  
17**

**Received  
05.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing use  
only)  
38**

My first concern is that this application states that 'The premises will be open 24/7,' yet my understanding is that the Planning Inspector's approval came with a condition of operating hours from 9am -11pm. Are they hoping to override this at some point with this gambling licence.  
Secondly, the application states there will be 'at least 2 members of staff working on site at any given time on the basis of a maximum of 8 customers' this raises 2 questions.  
1) Why do they need the 32 machines shown on the plan?  
2) How much do these 8 people need to spend in an hour to cover the costs and generate a profit?  
Gambling related harms are now widely recognised as a public health issue. The convenience of high street gambling premises must contribute to an increase in people negatively impacted financially by gambling, including housing and homelessness which impacts the whole family and the local community, as well as the individuals directly affected by it.  
  
Ashford is a medium sized town and the location of this building, in a mainly residential area made up for mostly young families, cannot be seen by anyone as a good idea. There are flats immediately above, across the other side of Dudley Road and opposite in Church Road. There are 6 primary schools within 1 mile, 7 churches within half a mile many of whom have playgroups and offer safe meeting space to vulnerable people. The library, another sanctuary for local children and adults is immediately opposite this building.  
In recent years Ashford has been identified as the most dangerous medium-sized town in Surrey in terms of overall crime rate. Mainly, Shoplifting, Anti-social behaviour, Violence Against Women and Girls & Drug-related harm. Making it a place that many people will not visit alone at night, having this establishment open all day, 7 days a week will put public safety more at risk.



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In summary, I believe that the granting of the licence could lead to a further increase in crime and disorder, in what is

Further valid rep submitted 26.08.2025 (ref 168)

As a resident of Ashford, I am deeply concerned about the proposal to open an 24/7 Adult Gaming Centre in our high street

Gambling related harms are now widely recognised as a public health issue. The convenience of high street gambling premises must contribute to an increase in people negatively impacted financially by gambling, including housing and homelessness which impacts the whole family and the local community, as well as the individuals directly affected by it.

Ashford is a medium sized town and the location of this building, in a mainly residential area made up for mostly young families, cannot be seen by anyone as a good idea. There are flats immediately above, across the other side of Dudley Road and opposite in Church Road. There are 6 primary schools within 1 mile, 7 churches within half a mile many of whom have playgroups and offer safe meeting space to vulnerable people. The library, another sanctuary for local children and adults is immediately opposite this building.

In recent years Ashford has been identified as the most dangerous medium-sized town in Surrey in terms of overall crime rate. Mainly, Shoplifting, Anti-social behaviour, Violence Against Women and Girls & Drug-related harm. Making it a place that many people will not visit alone at night, having this establishment open all day, 7 days a week will put public safety more at risk.

In summary, I believe that the granting of the licence could lead to a further increase in crime and disorder, in what is a residential local shopping area and so totally unsuitable for such a venue. I am also concerned that children and other vulnerable people could be harmed and exploited should this application be approved.

**Objection  
18**

**Received  
01.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing use  
only)  
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To Whom It May Concern,

Please see my formal objection to the proposed Adult Gaming Centre at 39 Church Road,  
Ashford.

Key concerns (licensing objective in brackets):

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- 3 schools within 500m of premises (Protection of children from harm)
- Site overlooks residential flats (Prevention of public nuisance)
- Proximity to late-night bus stops = loitering risk (Public safety)
- No demonstrated community benefit (General public interest)

Data and location analysis strongly suggest the risks outweigh any proposed benefits.

Further rep received 21.8.2025

Please see my formal objection to the proposed 24/7 Adult Gaming Centre at 39 Church Road, Ashford.

Key concerns:

- 3 schools within 500m of premises (Protection of children from harm)
- Site overlooks residential flats (Prevention of public nuisance)
- Proximity to late-night bus stops = loitering risk (Public safety)
- No demonstrated community benefit (General public interest)

A 24/7 gambling centre in our small high street does not support the wellbeing and safety of Ashford.

Data and location analysis strongly suggest the risks outweigh any proposed benefits.

**Objection  
19**

**Received  
05.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing use  
only)  
42**

This representation is made under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, specifically concerning:

- Objective 1 – Prevention of crime and disorder
- Objective 3 – Prevention of public nuisance
- Objective 4 – Protection of children and vulnerable persons from harm

The location in question is inappropriate for such a venue due to its proximity to vulnerable populations , high foot traffic from minors, and lack of any mitigating community benefit.

The planning conditions already confirm concern about noise and disruption.

I respectfully request that the application be refused on the grounds of its likely negative effect on the licensing objectives.

**Objection  
20**

**Received  
05.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
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Subject: Gambling Licence Objection – 39 Church Road TW15

To Whom It May Concern,

Please see my formal objection to the proposed Adult Gaming Centre at 39 Church Road,  
Ashford.

Key concerns (licensing objective in brackets):

- 3 schools within 500m of premises (Protection of children from harm)
- Site overlooks residential flats (Prevention of public nuisance)
- Proximity to late-night bus stops = loitering risk (Public safety)
- No demonstrated community benefit (General public interest)

Data and location analysis strongly suggest the risks outweigh any proposed benefits.

All of this will lead to an uplift in crime and antisocial behaviour.

**Objection  
21**

**Received  
05.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing use  
only)  
45**

I am writing to express in the strongest terms my objection to the gambling license for the proposed 24 Adult Gaming Centre in Church Road Ashford.

In my opinion, this is likely to lead to an increase in traffic in the area at all hours of the day and night, particularly arriving from Bedfont/Hounslow/Feltham areas and therefore accessing the town centre via Parkland Grove from Clockhouse Lane. Our road is already a dangerous rat run and we certainly don't need the noise and added danger to pedestrians that the traffic will bring.

In addition, allowing a 24 hour license for what is acknowledged as an addictive and destructive activity in the heart of a community that is home to many families and young children borders on the negligent. There is already enough temptation on line and the damage wrought by gambling is a recognised and increasing harm to many. Why on earth would anyone think it sensible or responsible to allow such a premises to operate in a town where so much hard work goes into fostering a safe and friendly community?

People arriving 24 hours a day also increase the possibility of public nuisance in the immediate and surrounding area and therefore a likely increased pressure on already stretched police resources.

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In summary I urge you in the strongest terms , and in the interest of our community, to reject the gambling license application.

**Additional objection received 21.08.2025**

Further to the two emails below, I note from a press release that Golden Slots claim that they will restrict opening hours to 9 - 23.00 hours and say that this will limit potential risk to the community.

It may limit the hours during which potential nuisance might occur but the damaging influence that this business will have on children and young adults will still be most visible during the days as they walk to and from school, travel to college or the gym across the road. What kind of example are we setting to our young people by allowing a business which can cause such well documented harm to be sited in the midst of our community?

<b>Objection 22</b>	<b>Received 05.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 47</b>
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Having a 24hr gambling venue in Ashford is inviting undesirables to visit Ashford. They would normally not come within 20 miles of the place as up until now there is nothing to attract them. What police presence is there likely to be in the Church Rd vicinity? I am sure it won't be long before, for whatever reasons police will be called. Pupils coming from the local schools may be drawn to the premises; will there be any proper checks on their ages? The number of young people gambling has increased, and many have not even entered the world of work yet. I am sure those using the premises will 'spill' outside, and I cannot think they will be silent when doing so, this will be especially disruptive to those living close by. Would premises such as these be allowed in the areas where local councillors live?

<b>Objection 23</b>	<b>Received 05.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 49</b>
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I would like to submit my representation against the gambling licence application for 39 Church Road, Ashford.

While I appreciate that licensing matters must be considered fairly and lawfully, I believe this venue risks:

- Disruption to neighbouring residents
- Potential for vulnerable individuals to be targeted
- Late-night disturbances and loitering

This contravenes:

- Public safety
- Protection of vulnerable persons
- Prevention of public nuisance

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I respectfully urge the Licensing Sub-Committee to reject this application. Yours sincerely,		
<b>Objection 24</b>	<b>Received 06.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 56</b>
<p>I am writing to formally object to the proposed Adult Gaming Centre (AGC) on Ashford High Street, Surrey. My concerns are centred on the core licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, which I believe this application fails to adequately address.</p> <p>1. Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder or being used to support crime: The proposed 24/7 operation, in an area not known for a late-night economy, raises serious concerns about increased anti-social behaviour. A round-the-clock venue could attract loitering, noise disturbance, and potentially an increase in low-level crime. The presence of patrons arriving and leaving at all hours, particularly late at night, could create a feeling of insecurity for residents, especially vulnerable persons and families. While planning inspectors may assert there is "no compelling evidence" linking AGCs to increased crime, the specific context of this location, with residential properties nearby, demands a more cautious approach.</p> <p>2. Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling: The location of the proposed AGC, in a town centre that is a hub for community life, places it in close proximity to schools, youth centres, and other community facilities. While the applicant may propose a "Think 25" policy, the very presence of a gambling venue in such an accessible location normalises gambling to children and young people.</p> <p>Furthermore, the centre could be a gateway for financially vulnerable individuals, encouraging them to spend money they cannot afford to lose. The local authority AND the Government have a duty to protect these members of our community, and the proliferation of gambling establishments works directly against this objective.</p> <p>For these reasons, I urge the Licensing Authority to refuse this application to protect our community's safety and well-being.</p>		
<b>Objection 25</b>	<b>Received 05.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 57</b>
Ashford is already in the top 10 most dangerous communities in Surrey with violence and youth disorder. Young men are a group that slot gambling sites seek to attract and their clients as a whole are predominantly male.		

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There's no evening entertainment in the town, so the gaming centre would be the only magnet for an undesirable type of person to enter in the evening. There is very rarely any police presence in the town. Communities need to feel safe.

In close proximity to the proposed gambling centre are many organisations vital to our community which cater for vulnerable groups including various schools. Nearby, The Clarendon Family Centre caters for children of all ages presenting with difficult behaviour who might be tempted to join those loitering outside the gambling centre.

Women and mothers with children do not feel safe passing through groups of men or youths congregating outside to smoke or entering and exiting hubs like the proposed one. It would be an area for women to avoid at night.

Occupants of senior citizens' flats and the congregations of nearby churches would feel uneasy or fearful passing it in the day.

This proposed gambling centre would add nothing positive to my town. It will encourage more youth disorder and foster a climate of fear in a very residential area.

Submitted a further valid rep 26.08.2028

I am a long term resident of Ashford. I oppose the licencing of gaming at this site because it threatens the Protection of Children.

1) It is 0.2 miles from Clarendon *Junior School* and 0.4 miles from St Michaels *Primary School*.

(2) *The library* is opposite and many infant and junior school classes are taken there for educational sessions. All of these children will be exposed to the presence of the gaming centre and the men who will loiter outside to gather and smoke.

(3) *Adolescent pupils* from 2 schools on Church Road also pass this site at the end of the school day.

(4) At the Clarendon School site is the *Clarendon Family Centre, a base for vulnerable people* suffering domestic abuse, family conflict, mental issues and *children of all ages presenting behavioural problems*. This is a wide group who need protection and will be threatened. The gaming centre may provide a counter-productive attraction to the latter group mentioned.

(5) As an ex-teacher I have great concern about gaming clients (demographically predominantly male loners) to-ing and fro-ing and hanging around, casually watching or being watched by children.

The centre threatens Public Safety and Public Order

(1) Particularly as the nights get longer, *women will tend to feel intimidated by the clientele of the centre*. We already have one business located on the dark corner of Parkland Grove with *cars parked on double yellow lines frequented by men* waiting

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in them or *loitering* on the path. Nothing is done about it as there is *no police presence* in Ashford. I know that *this makes women fearfull*.

(2) *Already the crime rate for Ashford* is significantly higher than the Surrey average . The most common recorded crimes are violence, sexual violence, and frequently unreportedly , shop lifting. Public confidence and wellbeing will be further undermined by this centre.

(3) *The area is residential*, not like the locations of AGCs in Staines and Feltham. There are flats above no 39 and along Church Road, Immediately behind are hundreds of family homes. A very large new housing development is nearby on the opposite side of the road. Its in *absolutely the wrong place*

(4) This centre would be the only group entertainment venue in this unpoliced town. There are no clubs or pubs. It will be the only and *obvious hub of trouble*.

This matters to me. Please bother to read this.

**Objection  
26**

**Received  
07.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
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This is an objection to the above due to the following:

The premises is too near to residential roads and will only encourage more problems and anti social behaviour.

Ashford High Street is a small High Street and a gambling centre is simply not appropriate on a High Street of this scale. The High Street already has quite a few bookmakers we don't need any more outlets for gambling.

**Objection  
27**

**Received  
07.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing use  
only)  
59**

I am writing to object to the licensing application for the Golden Shots gaming premises at the above address.

Firstly the restriction was for 9.00am to 11.00pm and NOT 24 hours.

1. We need to prevent crime and disorder in the area, this will encourage it
2. Public Safety will become an issue - we already have an issue with youths hanging around - this will become worse
3. There is a concern from residents about it being a public nuisance with noise and parking being major concerns
4. We need to protect our children and vulnerable people from harm. The premises are very close to local schools, Clarendon, Ashford Park, and Thomas Knyvett.

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The fact that the application was rejected by Ashford residents, councillors and our MP and still got the go ahead is very worrying. Who is listening to our voices?

**Additional objection received 21.08.2025**

Ashford is not set up to be a 'entertainment' centre - it is still a 'sleepy' backwater. It appeals to people with families, many with young children, and the elderly - two demographics that would never use this facility, and who are intrinsically opposed to it. There has been some anti-social problems recently around this part of Ashford (which includes this site) with youth petty crime and there is currently a public dispersal order in place to combat this - having this facility would aggravate the aims of this order. There are now no pubs nearby (the Royal Hart closed years ago) which validates my very first sentence! Clarindon Primary School and recent housing developments are too close to this venue. There are now many online apps for people who need, or want, to gamble, which would cause less impact to the community, who are not interested in this application being given the go-ahead. I note that the licence application is also wrong in that it looks for 24/7 operation whereas time constraints were previously imposed by the Planning decision. This application gives no benefit to the community, is out of character to its surroundings, and should be refused.

**Objection  
28**

**Received  
07.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing use  
only)  
60**

Ashford is not set up to be a 'entertainment' centre - it is still a 'sleepy' backwater. It appeals to people with families, many with young children, and the elderly - two demographics that would never use this facility, and who are intrinsically opposed to it. There has been some anti-social problems recently around this part of Ashford (which includes this site) with youth petty crime and there is currently a public dispersal order in place to combat this - having this facility would aggravate the aims of this order. There are now no pubs nearby (the Royal Hart closed years ago) which validates my very first sentence! Clarindon Primary School and recent housing developments are too close to this venue. There are now many online apps for people who need, or want, to gamble, which would cause less impact to the community, who are not interested in this application being given the go-ahead. I note that the licence application is also wrong in that it looks for 24/7 operation whereas time constraints were previously imposed by the Planning decision. This application gives no benefit to the community, is out of character to its surroundings, and should be refused.

**Objection  
29**

**Received  
07.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
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1. Vulnerable people to gambling will become even more vulnerable
2. Ashford will NOT be a desirable area to live in for new people moving into the area, and a large number of houses have been up for sale since the announcement



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<p>has been made regarding the gaming centre</p> <p>3. Crime will increase</p> <p>4. Our children will NOT be safe outdoors and will grow up thinking gambling is a good/normal activity for anyone</p> <p>5. Debt will become the major issue</p> <p>6. A gambling centre should not be in a small town but located in specially designed areas of entertainment, not in the middle of a small high street</p> <p>7. Its a perfect place for drug exchanges</p> <p>8. Most importantly-as a community WE DO NOT WANT THE GAMBLING CENTRE IN ASHFORD</p>		
<p><b>Objection</b> <b>30</b></p>	<p><b>Received</b> <b>07.08.2025</b></p>	<p><b>Internal Spreadsheet</b> <b>Reference (Licensing use only)</b> <b>62</b></p>
<p>I wish to object to the gambling licence application for the above premises.</p> <p>These are some if my concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The Adult Gambling Centre is close to schools, youth services &amp; places children/vulnerable people gather (nearby church halls).</li> <li>• Concerns about vulnerable people, including those struggling with addiction or mental health, being drawn to this place &amp; it having a detrimental effect on their wellbeing.</li> <li>• It may encourage late-night gatherings that disturb nearby residents as this is in a residential area, causing a public nuisance.</li> <li>• The location might lead to anti-social behaviour, loitering, or nuisance, especially in the evenings, again because the premises is close to residential areas.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Objection</b> <b>31</b></p>	<p><b>Received</b> <b>07.08.2025</b></p>	<p><b>Internal Spreadsheet</b> <b>Reference (Licensing use only)</b> <b>65</b></p>
<p>Please note the letter below sent on 7/08/2025 to our local Member of Parliament. We would like to refer you to this to express our strongest objection to the application of a gambling licence for the premises of the former Barclay's Bank at 39 Church Road Ashford TW15 2QF.</p> <p>Dear xx.</p> <p>Re Planning application for a 24 hour gambling establishment in the vacated Barclays Bank building in Church Road Ashford.</p> <p>My wife and I are long term residents of Ashford Surrey and we write as concerned residents about the above planning application, of which we are sure you are aware.</p>		

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The application is for a 24 hour gambling establishment to be opened in the existing Barclay's Bank, on the ground floor of the site and what used to be a mezzanine. The application was turned down on three separate occasions by the planning committee of the local council partly because of the legitimate concerns of local residents, who appeared to be overwhelmingly against the proposal. The grounds for opposition were proximity to local schools, residential homes, including those adjacent to and above the premises, noise, the necessity for a blank frontage and pressure on parking. What should also be considered is current concerns both from government and medical opinion about the dangers of gambling and the close proximity of an existing bookmaker.

However, the local council's refusal to accept the application was overruled at appeal in April 2025 by the intervention of the government planning inspectorate which insisted upon a restricted opening, electronic closure, noise insulation and management of any local late night disturbance by the company were the licence to be granted. We have a number of concerns about this intervention.

Firstly, it seems to me an anti-democratic act given the opposition of the democratically elected local councillors and the overwhelming opposition of local residents (their constituents). Our assumption is that the government planning inspectorate is non-elected and has less knowledge of local conditions and opinion than the councillors. This issue has effectively disenfranchised local residents whose elected representatives have been overruled by an outside body.

Secondly, although the company (Golden Slots{Southern}Ltd) stated that they would abide by the conditions applied upon them, there is ample room for a gradual movement away from them or modification thereof. Indeed the statement that an electronic lock would be installed from 22.00 hours to 08.00 is somewhat ambiguous in its meaning and implies that gamblers may continue to use the premises as long as they are locked in by staff who will be able to admit further gamblers into the premises by opening the lock from inside. Perhaps I have misread this caveat but it is a concern.

Thirdly, acceptance of the clause that any disturbances will be dealt with by them is also an acceptance that such disturbances may, and in fact are likely, to occur even though no enforcement action has been taken against them since their first operation licence was granted in 2016.

Fourthly, Ashford is a residential area, even adjacent to the high street (Church Road). Residences are a mixture of various types of houses and flats and maisonettes. Indeed a new development of flats has recently been erected opposite to the proposed site. Such an establishment is unlikely to enhance the area and will impose further problems with parking for adjacent businesses.

We hope that you will consider our concerns. Even though this comes from a local council issue we feel that they need backing from Westminster.

**Objection  
32**

**Received  
08.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing use  
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As a long-standing resident of Ashford and someone who has seen the town evolve over numerous years, I write to object to the proposed Adult Gaming Centre licence.

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Introducing a gambling establishment such as an Adult Gaming Centre undermines further the peaceful character of the High Street, especially for our elderly, vulnerable, and younger residents. Children pass this location daily on their way to/from school.

We are already witnessing an increase in Anti Social Behaviour and introducing gambling will only add to the existing issues. More and more residents are choosing not to use Church Road as they no longer feel safe.

It is located near to schools

There is also no community benefit.

I believe the application is contrary to:

1. Prevention of public nuisance
2. Protection of vulnerable persons including children
3. Prevention of crime and disorder

I respectfully ask that this licence be refused.

**Second objection received 19.08.2025**

I object to the application by Golden Slots at 39 Church Road, Ashford, to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

When the original licence was granted, the Inspector imposed restricted hours specifically to protect children and other vulnerable persons from harm, and to prevent crime and disorder. These restrictions were based on clear reasoning and evidence.

The new request for 24/7 opening directly undermines the Inspector's decision and the safeguards it provided. Allowing operation throughout the night would increase the risks of:

- Problem gambling and financial harm to vulnerable people
- Antisocial behaviour during late-night and early-morning hours
- Targeting of vulnerable individuals when the streets are quiet

This application is contrary to the licensing objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

I urge the Sub-Committee to uphold the original Inspector's reasoning and refuse this request for 24/7 operation.

**Third objection received 22.08.2025**

I feel very strongly that a venue solely for gambling such as this will lead to the exploitation of young people and the vulnerable in our community. Gambling can become an addiction and causes great harm. I cannot see how this is beneficial to any part of the community.

**Fourth objection received 22.08.2025**

I live in Ashford, close to the High Street, so this application would directly affect me.

Ashford already has some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue would only add to the risk of late-night disorder and crime, especially as there's no local infrastructure to deal with it. This clearly relates to the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder. I'm also very concerned about protecting children and vulnerable people. The site is in a prominent High Street location, right by bus stops and shops that families use every day, which would increase exposure to gambling harm.

For these reasons, I object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I ask that opening hours are restricted to daytime and evening only, and that security measures, including CCTV, are required.

Thank you for your consideration.

<b>Objection 33</b>	<b>Received 08.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 69</b>
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I would like add my objection to the proposed Gambling Centre in Ashford .

A gambling centre will have devastating consequences on the local and surrounding communities in terms of:

- Risk of public nuisance by inviting crime and loitering. Due to the addictive nature of gambling people can turn to stealing from family, friends and burglary/robbery to fund their habit once they run out of their own money. Allowing this to proceed would be equivalent to opening a drugs den.
- Risks to children, young people and the vulnerable who see gambling as being accessible and acceptable, not realising the addictive nature of this which can destroy individuals and families.
- Ashford will end up on a downward spiral becoming known as a seedy area leading to increase risks to public safety especially after dark. At the moment Ashford has a reputation of being a decent area with a community spirit. As a resident of the neighbouring town of Bedfont, I would say please don't let Ashford decline into a downward spiral so that it ends up with a reputation like Feltham.

<b>Objection 34</b>	<b>Received 09.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 70</b>
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I am writing to formally object to the application for a gambling premises licence at 39 Church Road, Ashford, Middx TW15 2QF.

My objection is based on the following grounds, as outlined under the Gambling Act 2005:

1. Prevention of gambling from being a source of crime or disorder  
I am concerned that the presence of a gambling establishment in this area may increase anti-social behaviour and attract criminal activity, particularly in the evenings.
2. Ensuring gambling is conducted in a fair and open way  
There is insufficient information available about how the proposed premises will ensure transparency and fairness in its operations.
3. Protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling  
The proposed location is in close proximity to schools, shops and residential areas, which raises serious concerns about the exposure of vulnerable individuals to gambling-related harm.

I live at **REDACTED** which is within close proximity to the proposed site, and I believe the activities associated with this licence will negatively impact the local community.

Please confirm receipt of this objection and advise whether a hearing will be held. I would be willing to attend and speak in support of my representation.

<b>Objection 35</b>	<b>Received 09.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 71</b>
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Dear Licensing Committee,

As a long-standing resident of Ashford and someone who has seen the town evolve over numerous years, I write to object to the proposed Adult Gaming Centre licence.

Introducing a gambling establishment such as an Adult Gaming Centre undermines further the peaceful character of the High Street, especially for our elderly, vulnerable, and younger residents. Children pass this location daily on their way to/from school.

We are already witnessing an increase in Anti Social Behaviour and introducing gambling will only add to the existing issues. More and more residents are choosing not to use Church Road as they no longer feel safe.

It is located near to schools.

There is also no community benefit.

I believe the application is contrary to:

1. Prevention of public nuisance
2. Protection of vulnerable persons including children

### 3. Prevention of crime and disorder

I respectfully ask that this licence be refused.

#### **Additional objection received 19.08.2025**

I object to the application by Golden Slots at 39 Church Road, Ashford, to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

When the original licence was granted, the Inspector imposed restricted hours specifically to protect children and other vulnerable persons from harm, and to prevent crime and disorder. These restrictions were based on clear reasoning and evidence.

The new request for 24/7 opening directly undermines the Inspector's decision and the safeguards it provided. Allowing operation throughout the night would increase the risks of:

- Problem gambling and financial harm to vulnerable people
- Antisocial behaviour during late-night and early-morning hours
- Targeting of vulnerable individuals when the streets are quiet

This application is contrary to the licensing objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

I urge the Sub-Committee to uphold the original Inspector's reasoning and refuse this request for 24/7 operation.

#### **Additional rep received 22.08.2025**

All my objections cover the following

Preventing gambling-related crime or disorder. Undoubtedly this could happen especially if 25x7

Ensuring gambling is fair and open. It could become a site for illegal activities eg money laundering

Protecting children and vulnerable people from harm or exp. This is a key objection. It could draw these people in. How will entry be policed ? In fact I do wonder the need for the centre 24x7 or at all given all the online gambling options

Please include my points in the review

<b>Objection 36</b>	<b>Received 09.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only)</b>
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<p>This will encourage gambling in our area which can lead to debt and depression. It will encourage antisocial behaviour due to opening ours and people being angry if they loose money . It will invite unsavoury people to hang out in our high street. This will add to noise pollution due to opening hours. This will undoubtedly be a cash only business which may be used for money laundering purposes. We already have numerous gambling shops in our high street already so this is not needed. Having yet another gambling hole in the high street is a bad advert to young people. Gambling preys on vulnerable people which will have an effect on the community at large. Having a 24 hour licence means no cut off to vulnerable people being exploited who have a gambling problem. People who are drunk or on drugs may hang out here as it's always open.</p>		
<b>Objection 37</b>	<b>Received 11.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 73</b>
<p>I am writing to formally object to the proposed 24-hour gambling centre at 39 church road ashford. I strongly believe this development will have a profoundly negative impact on our community, for the following reasons:</p> <p>1. Increased Risk of Anti-Social Behaviour Gambling premises operating late at night and through the early morning often attract noise, disturbances, and disorderly conduct. Extended hours make it more likely that intoxicated or aggressive individuals will congregate in the area, disturbing residents' peace and undermining local safety.</p> <p>2. Promotion of Gambling Addiction</p> <p>A 24-hour facility removes any natural limitations on gambling activity, allowing vulnerable individuals to engage in extended, harmful play. Research consistently shows that continuous access significantly increases the risk of problem gambling, which can lead to financial ruin, family breakdown, and severe mental health issues.</p> <p>3. Attraction of Undesirable Activity Late-night venues can become focal points for loitering, petty crime, and other undesirable behaviour. The proposed location is in close proximity to [mention any schools, youth centres, or residential areas], making it wholly unsuitable for a high-risk business of this nature.</p> <p>4. Detrimental Impact on Community Character Our community values safety, wellbeing, and inclusivity. A round-the-clock gambling centre does not align with these values and risks changing the atmosphere of the area for the worse, deterring families and responsible businesses. In light of these concerns, I urge the council to reject this application and instead prioritise developments that promote the health, safety, and prosperity of our community.</p>		
<b>Objection 38</b>	<b>Received 11.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only)</b>

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<p>Can we please have some common sense here?</p> <p>This proposal, whatever the opening hours, (and how reputable the company is supposed to be), will only fuel more crime to fund people's gambling habits. There is already shotlifting on an industrial scale at times in the area and other crimes. We don't wish to add to the list.</p> <p>Let's have something that generates a decent income and a need for the town, not something that takes it out.</p> <p>So it's a NO from me And a NO from me It's a NO from me And a definite NO from me</p>		
<b>Objection 39</b>	<b>Received 11.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 75</b>
<p>We currently have two gambling shops in Ashford and I am therefore unsure why we need another.</p> <p>Ashford has a number of schools in the locality and some of the pupils come from disadvantaged families and do not need other forces put upon their family life.</p> <p>Crime and anti social behaviour in Ashford is high and this is creating another catalyst to accelerate the issue.</p> <p>There is residential accommodation within the locality and this facility could cause undue noise and anti social behaviour for these residents</p>		
<b>Objection 40</b>	<b>Received 12.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 76</b>
<p>I would like to submit my representation against the gambling licence application for 39 Church Road.</p> <p>While I appreciate that licensing matters must be considered fairly and lawfully, I believe this venue risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disruption to neighbouring residents</li> <li>• Potential for vulnerable individuals to be targeted</li> <li>• Late-night disturbances and loitering</li> </ul>		



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<p>This contravenes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public safety</li> <li>• Protection of vulnerable persons</li> <li>• Prevention of public nuisance</li> </ul> <p>I respectfully urge the Licensing Sub-Committee to reject this application.</p>		
<b>Objection 41</b>	<b>Received 12.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 78</b>
<p>I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed gambling centre in Ashford, Surrey.</p> <p>At a time when many residents are already struggling with the cost of living crisis, introducing a gambling facility risks further harming vulnerable individuals who may be tempted into financial hardship. Gambling addiction is a SERIOUS issue that disproportionately affects the most vulnerable, including those already facing economic and mental health challenges.</p> <p>Furthermore, gambling establishments often correlate with increased crime and anti-social behaviour, placing additional strain on local services and police. We have a moral responsibility to foster a safe and supportive environment in our community — not one that profits from people's losses and desperation.</p> <p>There is also growing concern about the influence such establishments have on young people. The presence of a gambling centre in our community normalises harmful behaviour and increases the risk of children being exposed to or influenced by it at an early age. We must protect our youth from environments that promote risky habits and financial exploitation.</p> <p>There is not a SINGLE benefit to introducing any gambling facility into any neighbourhood, especially Ashford. I am shocked that I have to write another opposition, especially as there was an overwhelming response opposing this facility the first time.</p> <p>I urge you to deny this gambling application in the best interest of Ashford's wellbeing.</p>		
<b>Objection 42</b>	<b>Received 12.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 79</b>
<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I am writing to vehemently oppose the application for a gambling centre licence on our high street in Ashford.</p> <p>Our community is a quiet, peaceful, and family-oriented town. The introduction of a gambling establishment is not only entirely inappropriate — it is dangerous. These businesses prey on the financially vulnerable and those struggling with mental</p>		

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health issues, particularly during a cost-of-living crisis. The potential for gambling addiction to take root and devastate lives cannot be overstated.

Moreover, there is well-documented evidence that gambling venues correlate with an increase in crime, noise pollution, anti-social behaviour, and public disturbances. Approving this licence will inevitably invite unwanted footfall, encourage loitering, and degrade the safety and character of our high street — turning what is currently a safe, family-friendly area into a hotspot for harm and disorder.

Families with young children should not be forced to walk past such establishments, nor should young people be exposed to the normalisation of gambling. It sends a deeply irresponsible message to the next generation that exploiting risk and loss is a legitimate form of recreation.

Our town does not need, nor want, this facility. There are zero community benefits, and the long-term consequences will be irreversibly damaging to the town's social fabric, economy, and quality of life.

The overwhelming majority of residents have already voiced strong opposition to this application — and rightly so. To proceed with this licence in spite of these concerns would be a gross failure of duty to protect the wellbeing of the community.

I urge you — in the strongest possible terms — to reject this application and instead prioritise investment in services and businesses that support community health, safety, and prosperity.

<b>Objection 43</b>	<b>Received 13.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 80</b>
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I have lived in Ashford for 63 years and I know this area well

It has changed in many ways, not all for the better.

A gambling venue here will be a further detrimental change which will cause problems for our community.

We already have late-night anti-social issues, in addition to the daytime and evening shop-lifting that occurs particularly in Sainsbury, Co-op and Boots which upsets and intimidates many residents. Adding an Adult Gaming Centre will just add to them.

It will encourage additional people hanging around, noise, disruption to people living nearby — it will not enhance the community.

I also worry that it will create problems for vulnerable people encouraging an opportunity to become involved in what might be perceived to be harmless fun (but is in fact gambling) and its associated addictive problems. Many children and young people pass through Church Road on their way to school and college

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<p>I object to this application based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention of public nuisance</li> <li>• Prevention of crime and disorder</li> <li>• Protection of vulnerable persons</li> </ul> <p>I respectfully request that the application be refused on the grounds of its likely negative effect on our community</p>		
<b>Objection 44</b>	<b>Received 15.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 82</b>
<b>ing Objective</b>	<b>Yes Or No</b>	<b><i>Please detail the evidence supporting your representation or the reason for your representation. Please use separate sheets if necessary</i></b>
<b>To prevent crime and disorder</b>	Yes.	Gambling premises in similar areas have been associated with increases in anti-social behaviour, loitering, and petty crime. This poses a risk to the safety and wellbeing of local residents. Ashford already has a higher incidence of crime than many areas of Surrey and the opening of this establishment will only increase these risks.
<b>Public safety</b>	Yes	As per prevention of crime and disorder above.
<b>To prevent public nuisance</b>	Yes	The introduction of this gambling venue will undermine the character of the neighbourhood and have a negative effects on existing small businesses and community

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		cohesion. There are already two gambling establishments in the high street area. A further gambling venue is unnecessary and reduces the opportunity of providing other essential local amenities and greater local employment. The planning application has been overwhelmingly resisted by the vast majority of the local community and been rejected by the local authority on a number of occasions
<b>To protect children from harm</b>	Yes	The proposed location is in close proximity to a number of local schools and a great many family residences. I am very concerned that the presence of a gambling venue here will increase the risk of harm to minors and those vulnerable to gambling addiction.
<b>Please suggest any conditions that could be added to the licence to remedy your representation or other suggestions you would like the Licensing Sub Committee to take into account.</b>		I do not believe that there is any restrictions to the licence that would obviate the risks describes above. Therefore, I totally resist the granting of this licence application.
<b>Objection 45</b>	<b>Received 17.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 84</b>
<p>Dear Licensing,</p> <p>The following Gambling Licence Representation form has been submitted:</p>		

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At both a personal level as a resident of Ashford, but also as Chair of the Ashford Residents Association with over 200 members, i wish to object to the proposed Adult Gaming Centre licence being approved.

This town is built on very strong family & community values. Introducing a gambling establishment fundamentally undermines the character of the High Street, especially for our elderly, vulnerable, and younger residents.

As was strongly voiced by many attendees at the planning appeal,

1) It's close to a number of schools or youth centres

2) It could affect people with addictions or mental health issues - The Congregational Church is 50 metres from the venue & hosts a number of these within their work and have considerable concerns.

3) The High Street is dead after 8pm. There is no demand for it to be otherwise. Only 7/11s & Restaurants are open with little traffic - Drawing in people from outside Ashford just for a Gaming Centre gives right cause that this will create noise or trouble at night.

4) 40 Local Authorities have recently lobbied Government on all these issues as a clear & present danger to their residents. 5) There is not 1 single member of the Residents Association that has any support for this opportunist venture that seeks to pry on our vulnerable

I believe the application is contrary to:

- Prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of vulnerable persons

It is worth stating that the applicants were refused by Planning a licence to operate at the location 24 hours and yet they have deliberately requested a gaming licence for 24 hours presumably with a view to revisiting planning with a 24 hour gaming licence under their belt. This is completely disingenuous and speaks volumes for the lack of respect they have for the residents.

I respectfully ask that this licence be refused.

**Objection  
46**

**Received  
19.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
88**

Additional Representation – Golden Slots Application for 24/7 Operation  
I object to the application by Golden Slots at 39 Church Road, Ashford, to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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When the original licence was granted, the Inspector imposed restricted hours specifically to protect children and other vulnerable persons from harm, and to prevent crime and disorder. These restrictions were based on clear reasoning and evidence.

The new request for 24/7 opening directly undermines the Inspector's decision and the safeguards it provided. Allowing operation throughout the night would increase the risks of:

- Problem gambling and financial harm to vulnerable people
- Antisocial behaviour during late-night and early-morning hours
- Targeting of vulnerable individuals when the streets are quiet

This application is contrary to the licensing objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

I urge the Sub-Committee to uphold the original Inspector's reasoning and refuse this request for 24/7 operation

**Objection  
47**

**Received  
19.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
90**

I object to the 24/7 licence application for Golden Slots, 39 Church Road, Ashford, under Licensing Objective 3. In April 2025, the Government Planning Inspector approved the premises but imposed restricted hours (9 am–11 pm) to protect vulnerable individuals from late-night harm.

A 24/7 licence directly undermines these protections, especially in Ashford's smaller, residential high street with limited late-night policing or CCTV and heightened risk of isolation or exploitation. This context differs significantly from Staines. The Inspector's decision is precisely relevant to protecting the vulnerable and should be decisive. I urge the Sub Committee to refuse 24/7 operation and uphold the original restrictions in line with the Council's policy on protecting vulnerable people.

**Objection  
48**

**Received  
19.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
91**

I object to the 24/7 licence application for Golden Slots, 39 Church Road, Ashford, under Licensing Objective 3. In April 2025 the Government Planning Inspector allowed the premises only on restricted hours (9 am–11 pm) to protect vulnerable people. A 24/7 licence would directly undermine those protections. Ashford's small residential high street lacks late-night policing and CCTV, making the risks of harm, isolation and exploitation far greater than in Staines. The Inspector's decision is clear and decisive: the hours must remain restricted. I urge the Sub Committee to refuse 24/7 operation in line with Council policy to protect the vulnerable

**Objection  
49**

**Received  
19.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)**

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		<b>92</b>
<p>I object to the 24/7 licence application for Golden Slots, 39 Church Road, Ashford, under Licensing Objective 3. In April 2025, the Government Planning Inspector approved the premises but imposed restricted hours (9 am–11 pm) to protect vulnerable individuals from late-night harm. A 24/7 licence directly undermines these protections, especially in Ashford’s smaller, residential high street with limited late-night policing or CCTV and heightened risk of isolation or exploitation. This context differs significantly from Staines. The Inspector’s decision is precisely relevant to protecting the vulnerable and should be decisive. I urge the Sub Committee to refuse 24/7 operation and uphold the original restrictions in line with the Council’s policy on protecting vulnerable people.</p>		
<b>Objection 50</b>	<b>Received 19.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 93</b>
<p>Subject: Additional Representation – Golden Slots Application for 24/7 Operation</p> <p>I object to the application by Golden Slots at 39 Church Road, Ashford, to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</p> <p>When the original licence was granted, the Inspector imposed restricted hours specifically to protect children and other vulnerable persons from harm, and to prevent crime and disorder. These restrictions were based on clear reasoning and evidence.</p> <p>The new request for 24/7 opening directly undermines the Inspector’s decision and the safeguards it provided. Allowing operation throughout the night would increase the risks of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem gambling and financial harm to vulnerable people</li> <li>• Antisocial behaviour during late-night and early-morning hours</li> <li>• Targeting of vulnerable individuals when the streets are quiet</li> </ul> <p>This application is contrary to the licensing objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.</p> <p>I urge the Sub-Committee to uphold the original Inspector’s reasoning and refuse this request for 24/7 operation.</p>		
<b>Objection 51</b>	<b>Received 19.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 94</b>
<p>I object to the application by Golden Slots at 39 Church Road, Ashford, to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</p> <p>When the original licence was granted, the Inspector imposed restricted hours specifically to protect children and other vulnerable persons from harm, and to prevent crime and disorder. These restrictions were based on clear reasoning and evidence</p> <p>The new request for 24/7 opening directly undermines the Inspector’s decision and the safeguards it provided.</p>		

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<p>Allowing operation throughout the night would increase the risks of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem gambling and financial harm to vulnerable people</li> <li>• Antisocial behaviour during late-night and early-morning hours</li> <li>• Targeting of vulnerable individuals when the streets are quiet</li> </ul> <p>This application is contrary to the licensing objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling. I urge the Sub-Committee to uphold the original Inspector's reasoning and refuse this request for 24/7 operation.</p>		
<b>Objection 52</b>	<b>Received 20.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 97</b>
<p>I object to the application by Golden Slots at 39 Church Road, Ashford, to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When the original licence was granted, the Inspector imposed restricted hours specifically to protect children and other vulnerable persons from harm, and to prevent crime and disorder. These restrictions were based on clear reasoning and evidence. The new request for 24/7 opening directly undermines the Inspector's decision and the safeguards it provided.</p> <p>Which will lead to physical and mental harm of children and vulnerable people. It will also impact the local area and community negatively through increased crime and antisocial behaviour.</p>		
<b>Objection 53</b>	<b>Received 20.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 99</b>
<p>Golden Slots Application for 24/7 Operation I object to the application by Golden Slots at 39 Church Road, Ashford, to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When the original licence was granted, the Inspector imposed restricted hours specifically to protect children and other vulnerable persons from harm, and to prevent crime and disorder. These restrictions were based on clear reasoning and evidence. The new request for 24/7 opening directly undermines the Inspector's decision and the safeguards it provided. Allowing operation throughout the night would increase the risks of: • Problem gambling and financial harm to vulnerable people • Antisocial behaviour during late-night and early-morning hours • Targeting of vulnerable individuals when the streets are quiet This application is contrary to the licensing objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling. I urge the Sub-Committee to uphold the original Inspector's reasoning and refuse this request for 24/7 operation.</p>		



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<b>Objection 54</b>	<b>Received 20.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only)100</b>
<p>I wish to object to the application by Golden Slots, 39 Church Road, Ashford, to extend its operating hours to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</p> <p>When the original licence was granted, the Inspector imposed restricted hours specifically to protect children and other vulnerable people from harm and to prevent crime and disorder.</p> <p>These restrictions were based on clear reasoning and evidence, and remain valid today. Removing them would directly undermine those safeguards.</p> <p>Granting permission for round-the-clock operation raises serious concerns, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased risk of problem gambling – Late-night and unsupervised hours create a greater likelihood of financial harm, particularly for vulnerable people who may already be struggling.</li> <li>- Antisocial behaviour and disorder – A 24/7 venue could attract loitering, noise, and disturbances during late-night and early-morning hours, negatively impacting local residents.</li> <li>- Exploitation of vulnerable individuals – The quiet hours of the night leave those at risk more exposed to targeted harm, without the natural safeguards of daytime footfall and community presence.</li> <li>- Public health concerns – Encouraging continuous gambling access can contribute to addiction, mental health issues, and financial distress.</li> <li>- Impact on the local community – Church Road is not a commercial hub designed for 24-hour entertainment use. Extended hours would alter the character of the area and reduce the sense of safety for nearby residents.</li> </ul> <p>This application is contrary to the licensing objective of protecting children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.</p> <p>It also risks undermining public confidence in the licensing process if restrictions imposed for good reason are later disregarded.</p> <p>For these reasons, I strongly urge the Sub-Committee to uphold the Inspector’s original decision and refuse the application for 24/7 operation.</p>		
<b>Objection 55</b>	<b>Received 21.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 101</b>

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<p>I object to the 24/7 licence application for Golden Slots, 39 Church Road, Ashford, under Licensing Objective 3. In April 2025, the Government Planning Inspector approved the premises but imposed restricted hours (9 am–11 pm) to protect vulnerable individuals from late-night harm. A 24/7 licence directly undermines these protections, especially in Ashford's smaller, residential high street with limited late-night policing or CCTV and heightened risk of isolation or exploitation. This context differs significantly from Staines. The Inspector's decision is precisely relevant to protecting the vulnerable and should be decisive. I urge the Sub Committee to refuse 24/7 operation and uphold the original restrictions in line with the Council's policy on protecting vulnerable people.</p>		
<p><b>Objection</b> <b>56</b></p>	<p><b>Received</b> <b>21.08.2025</b></p>	<p><b>Internal Spreadsheet</b> <b>Reference (Licensing use only)</b> <b>102</b></p>
<p>I have lived in Ashford for 63 years and I know this area well</p> <p>It has changed in many ways, not all for the better.</p> <p>A gambling venue here will be a further detrimental change which will cause problems for our community.</p> <p>We already have late-night anti-social issues, in addition to the daytime and evening shop-lifting that occurs particularly in Sainsbury, Co-op and Boots which upsets and intimidates many residents. Adding an Adult Gaming Centre open 24/7 will just add to them.</p> <p>It will encourage additional people hanging around potentially all night with the 24/7 proposed opening hours, noise and disruption to people living nearby — it will not enhance the community.</p> <p>I also worry that it will create problems for vulnerable people encouraging an opportunity to become involved in what might be perceived to be harmless fun (but is in fact gambling) and its associated addictive problems. Many children and young people pass through Church Road on their way to school and</p> <p>I object to this application based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention of public nuisance</li> <li>• Prevention of crime and disorder</li> <li>• Protection of vulnerable persons</li> </ul> <p>I respectfully request that the application be refused on the grounds of its likely negative effect on our community</p>		
<p><b>Objection</b> <b>57</b></p>	<p><b>Received</b> <b>21.08.2025</b></p>	<p><b>Internal Spreadsheet</b> <b>Reference (Licensing use only)</b></p>

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		<b>103</b>
<p>As a parent of a teenager and a concerned resident, I am writing to strongly oppose the proposal to open a 24/7 Adult Gaming Centre on Ashford High Street.</p> <p>This location is passed daily by children of all ages, and the presence of a gambling venue in such a central, family-oriented area is deeply troubling.</p> <p>The visibility and accessibility of gambling in a space meant for everyday shopping and community life could have a harmful influence on young people and vulnerable individuals.</p> <p>This application raises serious concerns, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential harm to vulnerable groups, including children and the elderly</li> <li>• Increased risk to public safety, particularly during late-night hours</li> <li>• A rise in antisocial behaviour, both day and night</li> </ul> <p>Ashford High Street is close to schools, residential areas, and community spaces. A 24/7 gambling centre in this location does not support the wellbeing of our town and could negatively impact the character and safety of our community.</p> <p>Ashford already experiences one of the highest crime rates in Surrey. Approving this application could further increase risks to residents, especially at night.</p> <p>For the sake of our community's safety, cohesion, and future, I urge you to reject this application.</p>		
<b>Objection 58</b>	<b>Received 21.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 105</b>
<p>Our concerns centre on the impact on two groups: young people in the community, and vulnerable adults with mental health concerns.</p> <p>1) As a church we run a number of clubs that support over 100 young people each week ranging from those in school years 3 through to 13, we are concerned about them having to pass this site as they come and go from the church.</p> <p>a. While we recognise the need to expose them to the more difficult areas of our society, we do not believe this is the way to do it.</p> <p>b. Additionally the clientele who will be drawn to this type of establishment may (and I emphasise may) pose a threat to the young people attending the church and this may well mean that parents are less likely to bring them, thus depriving young people of yet another opportunity to benefit from socialising with their peers – and given the disturbances last year I believe this is an essential aspect to their growth</p> <p>2) Secondly we also support a group of vulnerable adults with significant mental health</p>		

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<p>challenges who meet at the church on a Friday evening. A number struggle with addictive personalities – having this centre open just a few yards away from what is a safe environment will be, at a minimum, unhelpful, and at worst a constant temptation to increase the problems they already face. This has already happened – in February 2025 one centre named Merkur Slots was fined £100,000 pounds by the Gaming Commission for exploiting a vulnerable cancer patient</p> <p>3) While I appreciate that the centre is being called an Adult Gaming Centre, the opportunity to bet significant sums is dangerous. In every advert for betting shops and casino's (online and virtual) the statement is made along the lines of when you need to stop, stop – betting shops in the area (of which there are 13 within a three mile radius) close at night, which provides a 'break' on people, having the centre open 24 hours a day would not allow for this natural break to happen</p>		
<p><b>Objection</b> <b>59</b></p>	<p><b>Received</b> <b>21.08.2025</b></p>	<p><b>Internal Spreadsheet</b> <b>Reference (Licensing use only)</b> <b>107</b></p>
<p>I've lived in Ashford for 5 years. A gambling venue in this town is a disastrous concept. Ashford already has a plethora of late-night issues, and adding an AGC will only make it worse.</p> <p>People hanging around, noise, disruption to people living nearby, it is not needed.</p> <p>I object to this 27/4 application based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention of public nuisance</li> <li>• Prevention of crime and disorder</li> </ul> <p>Ashford has one of the highest crime rates in Surrey, and introducing a 24/7 gambling centre would further increase the localised risk to residents, especially during late-night hours.</p> <p>Unlike larger town centres, Ashford lacks the infrastructure to safely manage any of these risks.</p> <p>Please refuse it.</p>		
<p><b>Objection</b> <b>60</b></p>	<p><b>Received</b> <b>21.08.2025</b></p>	<p><b>Internal Spreadsheet</b> <b>Reference (Licensing use only)</b> <b>108</b></p>
<p>Object to 24/7 opening Ashford town centre has NO 24/7 businesses,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased risk of crime and anti-social behaviour at night</li> <li>• Risks to children and vulnerable people in Ashford's High Street</li> </ul>		

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Ashford already has one of the highest crime rates in Surrey, and introducing a 24/7 gambling centre would further increase the localised risk to residents, especially during late night hours. Unlike larger town centres, Ashford lacks the infrastructure to safely manage any of these risks.

A gambling centre on Ashford's small High Street poses serious risks. It is in close proximity to local schools, residential areas, and community spaces, which means children, the elderly and vulnerable individuals could be at risk. this increases with 24x7 operation as it acts as a meeting point for the undesirable Ashford High Street is not a large town centre it is a small, local high street with a close-knit family community. Its scale and character make it unsuitable for a 24/7 Adult Gaming Centre (AGC).

If they want 24x7 they should pay for a 24x7 police presence, added high quality CCTV linked to the police monitoring centre in the area surrounding the location,

<b>Objection 61</b>	<b>Received 21.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 111</b>
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As a parent of two teenage children who regularly use Church Road to access the train station to commute to and from school, I am deeply concerned about the proposal to open an Adult Gaming Centre in our high street.

Children pass this location daily. The idea that they might be exposed to gambling so visibly, in a place meant for families and everyday shopping, is extremely worrying.

This application risks:

- Harming vulnerable persons, including children.
- Disrupting public safety, especially at night.

A 24/7 gambling centre on Ashford's small High Street poses serious risks. It is in close proximity to local schools, residential areas, and community spaces, which means children, the elderly and vulnerable individuals could be at risk.

Since moving to the area four years ago, I have seen commitment to improving the High Street and surrounding locality but I do not believe that this venue will serve the wellbeing of our community. Please consider the bigger picture and reject this application.

<b>Objection 62</b>	<b>Received 21.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 115</b>
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I am writing to formally object to the proposed 24/7 Adult Gaming Centre at 39 Church Road, Ashford.

My key concerns and objections to 24/7 gambling licensing are:

- Three schools within 500m of premises (Protection of children from harm)

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- Site overlooks residential flats (Prevention of public nuisance)
- Proximity to late-night bus stops = loitering risk (Public safety)
- No demonstrated community benefit (General public interest)

Data and location analysis strongly suggest the risks outweigh any proposed benefits.

Ashford already has one of the highest crime rates in Surrey, and introducing a 24/7 gambling centre would further increase the localised risk to residents, especially during late-night hours.

I have lived in Ashford for many years and seen the town centre evolve over that time. It is not a large town centre but a small, local high street with a close-knit family community. Its scale and character make it unsuitable for a 24/7 Adult Gaming Centre (AGC) and it lacks the infrastructure to safely manage the risks the proposed centre will create.

Please refuse this licensing application.

**Objection  
63**

**Received  
21.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing use  
only)  
116**

I've lived in Ashford for many years and I know this area well. A gambling venue here will cause lots of problems !

We've already got enough late-night issues with anti-social behaviour and adding an AGC will just make it worse.

People hanging around, noise, disruption to people living nearby, it is not needed.

I object to this 27/4 application based on:

- Prevention of public nuisance
- Prevention of crime and disorder

Ashford already has one of the highest crime rates in Surrey, and introducing a 24/7 gambling centre would further increase the localised risk to residents, especially during late-night hours.

Unlike larger town centres, Ashford lacks the infrastructure to safely manage any of these risks.

Please refuse it.

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<b>Objection 64</b>	<b>Received 21.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 117</b>
<p>Subject: Objection to 24/7 Gambling Licence – 39 Church Road, Ashford TW15</p> <p>Dear Licensing Committee,</p> <p>As a long-standing resident of Ashford and someone who has seen the town evolve many years, I write to object to the proposed 24/7 Adult Gaming Centre licence. This town was built on community.</p> <p>Introducing a gambling establishment undermines the peaceful character of the High Street, especially for our elderly, vulnerable, and younger residents. I object to this 27/4 application based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention of public nuisance</li> <li>• Protection of children &amp; vulnerable persons</li> <li>• Prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour In addition:</li> <li>• 3 schools within 500m of premises (Protection of children from harm)</li> <li>• Site overlooks residential flats (Prevention of public nuisance)</li> <li>• Proximity to late-night bus stops = loitering risk (Public safety)</li> <li>• No demonstrated community benefit (General public interest)</li> </ul> <p>Ashford High Street is not a large town centre it is a small, local high street with a close-knit family community.</p> <p>Its scale and character make it unsuitable for a 24/7 Adult Gaming Centre (AGC). A 24/7 gambling centre on Ashford's small High Street poses serious risks.</p> <p>It is in close proximity to local schools, residential areas, and community spaces, which means children, the elderly and vulnerable individuals could be at risk</p> <p>Ashford already has one of the highest crime rates in Surrey, and introducing a 24/7 gambling centre would further increase the localised risk to residents, especially during late-night hours.</p> <p>This venue does not serve the wellbeing of our community. Please consider the bigger picture and reject this application.</p> <p>Unlike larger town centres, Ashford lacks the infrastructure to safely manage any of these risks.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that this licence be refused</p>		
<b>Objection 65</b>	<b>Received 22.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only)</b>

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		<b>122</b>
<p>Subject: Objection to 24/7 Gambling Licence – 39 Church Road, Ashford TW15</p> <p>Dear Licensing Committee,</p> <p>As a long-standing resident of Ashford and someone who has seen the town evolve many years, I write to object to the proposed 24/7 Adult Gaming Centre licence. This town was built on community. Introducing a gambling establishment undermines the peaceful character of the High Street, especially for our elderly, vulnerable, and younger residents. I object to this 27/4 application based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention of public nuisance</li> <li>• Protection of children &amp; vulnerable persons</li> <li>• Prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour In addition:</li> <li>• 3 schools within 500m of premises (Protection of children from harm)</li> <li>• Site overlooks residential flats (Prevention of public nuisance)</li> <li>• Proximity to late-night bus stops = loitering risk (Public safety)</li> <li>• No demonstrated community benefit (General public interest)</li> </ul> <p>Ashford High Street is not a large town centre it is a small, local high street with a close-knit family community. Its scale and character make it unsuitable for a 24/7 Adult Gaming Centre (AGC).</p> <p>A 24/7 gambling centre on Ashford's small High Street poses serious risks. It is in close proximity to local schools, residential areas, and community spaces, which means children, the elderly and vulnerable individuals could be at risk Ashford already has one of the highest crime rates in Surrey, and introducing a 24/7 gambling centre would further increase the localised risk to residents, especially during late-night hours.</p> <p>This venue does not serve the wellbeing of our community. Please consider the bigger picture and reject this application.</p> <p>Unlike larger town centres, Ashford lacks the infrastructure to safely manage any of these risks. I respectfully ask that this licence be refused</p>		
<b>Objection 66</b>	<b>Received 22.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 123</b>
<p>Dear Licensing Committee, As a long-standing resident of Ashford and someone who has seen the town evolve many years, I write to object to the proposed 24/7 Adult Gaming Centre licence. This town was built on community. Introducing a gambling establishment</p>		



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undermines the peaceful character of the High Street, especially for our elderly, vulnerable, and younger residents. I object to this 27/4 application based on:

- Prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of children & vulnerable persons
- Prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour In addition:
- 3 schools within 500m of premises (Protection of children from harm)
- Site overlooks residential flats (Prevention of public nuisance)
- Proximity to late-night bus stops = loitering risk (Public safety)
- No demonstrated community benefit (General public interest)

Ashford High Street is not a large town centre it is a small, local high street with a close-knit family community. Its scale and character make it unsuitable for a 24/7 Adult Gaming Centre (AGC).

A 24/7 gambling centre on Ashford's small High Street poses serious risks. It is in close proximity to local schools, residential areas, and community spaces, which means children, the elderly and vulnerable individuals could be at risk

Ashford already has one of the highest crime rates in Surrey, and introducing a 24/7 gambling centre would further increase the localised risk to residents, especially during late-night hours. This venue does not serve the wellbeing of our community. Please consider the bigger picture and reject this application.

Unlike larger town centres, Ashford lacks the infrastructure to safely manage any of these risks.

I respectfully ask that this licence be refused

<b>Objection 67</b>	<b>Received 22.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 126</b>
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All my objections cover the following

Preventing gambling-related crime or disorder. Undoubtedly this could happen especially if 25x7

Ensuring gambling is fair and open. It could become a site for illegal activities eg money laundering

Protecting children and vulnerable people from harm or exp. This is a key objection. It could draw these people in. How will entry be policed ? In fact I do wonder the need for the centre 24x7 or at all given all the online gambling options

Please include my points in the review

<b>Objection 68</b>	<b>Received 22.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 127</b>
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I'm 16 and I have lived in Ashford all my life. I wanted to share my thoughts on the new 24/7 gaming venue proposal.

I believe it's not a good idea. Our community already lacks enough positive spaces and activities for young people, and introducing a gambling-focused venue will make things worse. It will attract loitering, increase anti-social behaviour at night, and ultimately doesn't offer meaningful benefits to residents.

We need more places that support young people in constructive ways, not ones that could lead to more problems and encourage gambling.

It's just not safe, especially near schools, community centres and bus stops.

I'm objecting to the gambling license under:

- Public safety for the venerable
- Prevention of public nuisance ASBO

A gambling centre on Ashford's small High Street poses serious risks. It is in close proximity to local schools, residential areas, and community spaces, which means children, the elderly and vulnerable individuals will be at risk.

Please don't let this go ahead.

**Objection  
69**

**Received  
22.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
128**

The granting of this licence will increase noise and disturbance to the locality, and affect safety of residents. Gambling-related crime and disorder, with harm to and exploitation of individuals, particularly those who are vulnerable, will be encouraged. On these grounds I base my objection.

**Objection  
70**

**Received  
22.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
129**

As a resident of Ashford, I am deeply concerned about the proposal to open an Adult Gaming Centre in our high street.

Children pass this location daily. The idea that they might be exposed to gambling so visibly, in a place meant for families and everyday shopping, is extremely worrying.

This application risks:

- Harming vulnerable persons, including children

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- Disrupting public safety, especially at night

A 24/7 gambling centre on Ashford's small High Street poses serious risks. It is in close proximity to local schools, residential areas, and community spaces, which means children, the elderly and **vulnerable individuals** could be at risk.

This venue does not serve the wellbeing of our community. Please consider the bigger picture and reject this application.

**Objection  
71**

**Received  
22.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
130**

I am a long-standing Ashford resident and use the High Street daily. I am directly affected by the proposed Adult Gaming Centre at 39 Church Road and object strongly to this application.

Ashford already has one of the highest levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in Surrey. The High Street is small, with limited late-night infrastructure and no permanent policing presence. A 24/7 gambling venue would inevitably increase loitering, disorder and late-night disturbances, particularly around nearby bus stops and residential flats. This directly relates to the licensing objective of preventing crime and disorder.

The site is also in close proximity to three schools, residential areas, and key community spaces. Children, elderly residents and other vulnerable people use this High Street daily, and a gambling venue of this nature increases the risk of harm and exploitation. Visibility of gambling to young people, and the risk of vulnerable adults being drawn into harmful behaviour, is contrary to the licensing objective of protecting children and vulnerable persons.

While the applicant suggests risks are low, national evidence shows self-exclusion and harm-prevention schemes are often inconsistently enforced. Without strong restrictions, the risk to Ashford residents will be significant.

This High Street is not a large town centre but a small, close-knit community hub. A 24/7 Adult Gaming Centre would be out of character, create additional risks, and provide no genuine community benefit.

For these reasons, I ask that the licence be refused.

**Objection  
72**

**Received  
22.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
131**

I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application. Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area

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with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.  
There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.  
I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and that security/CCTV conditions are imposed.

**Objection  
73**

**Received  
22.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
132**

I feel very strongly that a venue solely for gambling such as this will lead to the exploitation of young people and the vulnerable in our community. Gambling can become an addiction and causes great harm. Vulnerable people and children need to be protected. I cannot see how this is beneficial to any part of the community.

Also Ashford is already experiencing ASB and plenty of shop theft. Surely we do not want to add gambling related crime and disorder on top of this.

I live in Ashford and use the shops on Church Road daily. I no longer go at night because I don't feel safe.

The Government Inspector added restrictions for a reason and this application totally undermines his decision.

PLEASE REFUSE THIS APPLICATION

**Objection  
74**

**Received  
22.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing use  
only)  
133**

I live in Ashford, close to the High Street, so this application would directly affect me. Ashford already has some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue would only add to the risk of late-night disorder and crime, especially as there's no local infrastructure to deal with it. This clearly relates to the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.  
I'm also very concerned about protecting children and vulnerable people. The site is in a prominent High Street location, right by bus stops and shops that families use every day, which would increase exposure to gambling harm.  
For these reasons, I object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I ask that opening hours are restricted to daytime and evening only, and that security measures, including CCTV, are required.  
Thank you for your consideration.

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<b>Objection 75</b>	<b>Received 22.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 135</b>
<p>As a lifelong resident of Ashford living close to the High Street, I will be directly affected by this application.</p> <p>Ashford is a small, family-oriented High Street. A 24/7 gambling venue is unsuitable here and would worsen existing issues with anti-social behaviour. This engages the objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>The location is also used daily by families, young people, and elderly residents, meaning this application also breaches the objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons.</p> <p>I therefore object to the application. If granted, I request strict conditions are imposed on operating hours (daytime/evening only) and security measures to protect the community</p>		
<b>Objection 76</b>	<b>Received 22.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 136</b>
<p>I object to the 24/7 licence application for Golden Slots, 39 Church Road, Ashford, under Licensing Objective 3. In April 2025, the Government Planning Inspector approved the premises but imposed restricted hours (9 am–11 pm) to protect vulnerable individuals from late-night harm. A 24/7 licence directly undermines these protections, especially in Ashford's smaller, residential high street with limited late-night policing or CCTV and heightened risk of isolation or exploitation. This context differs significantly from Staines. The Inspector's decision is precisely relevant to protecting the vulnerable and should be decisive. I urge the Sub Committee to refuse 24/7 operation and uphold the original restrictions in line with the Council's policy on protecting vulnerable people.</p>		
<b>Objection 77</b>	<b>Received 22.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 137</b>
<p>I live in Ashford and will be affected by this application.</p> <p>Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.</p> <p>I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and that security/CCTV conditions are imposed.</p> <p>Please note that I had previously submitted an objection via your portal which was deemed invalid. I tried to resubmit this, hopefully now valid, objection there but was unable to do so</p>		

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as only one objection (whether valid or not) can be accepted by that method. I worry that this may put others off of submitting a further application if theirs was also deemed invalid.		
<b>Objection 78</b>	<b>Received 22.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 138</b>
<p>Please receive this as my formal objection to the proposed 24/7 Adult Gaming Centre at 39 Church Road, Ashford, Surrey.</p> <p>My objection is based on FOUR factors, as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There are THREE schools within 500 metres of the premises (Protection of children from harm)</li> <li>2. The site overlooks residential flats (Prevention of public nuisance)</li> <li>3. Proximity to bus stops served by late-night and all-night bus routes, creating a loitering risk (Public safety)</li> <li>4. No demonstrable benefit to the community (General public interest)</li> </ol> <p>Analyses made of both data and location strongly suggest that the risks outweigh any proposed benefits.</p> <p>Ashford already has one of the highest crime rates in Surrey, and to introduce a 24/7 Gambling Centre on its main commercial road would further increase localised risks to residents and other pedestrians, especially during late-night hours.</p>		
<b>Objection 79</b>	<b>Received 22.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 139</b>
<p>As a long-standing resident of Ashford living close to the High Street, I will be directly affected by this application.</p> <p>Ashford is a small, family-oriented High Street. A 24/7 gambling venue is unsuitable here and would worsen existing issues with anti-social behaviour. This engages the objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>The location is also used daily by families, young people, and elderly residents, meaning this application also breaches the objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons.</p> <p>I therefore object to the application. If granted, I request strict conditions are imposed on operating hours (daytime/evening only) and security measures to protect the community.</p>		
<b>Objection 80</b>	<b>Received 22.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 140</b>
<p>I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application.</p> <p>I live at 45 Clarendon Rd, Ashford TW15 2QA.</p>		

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A 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.

There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.

I therefore object to the 24/7 licence.

**Objection  
81**

**Received  
22.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
141**

Dear Licensing Team,  
I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application. Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.  
There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.  
I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and that security/CCTV conditions are imposed

**Objection  
82**

**Received  
22.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
143**

I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application. Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.  
There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.  
I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and that security/CCTV conditions are imposed.

**Objection  
83**

**Received  
22.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
144**

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<p>I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application. Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.</p> <p>I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and that security/CCTV conditions are imposed.</p>		
<p><b>Objection 84</b></p>	<p><b>Received 22.08.2025</b></p>	<p><b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 145</b></p>
<p>I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application. Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.</p> <p>I would also like to point out that you must be aware that gambling is for rich people who can afford to lose money (as a caprice) and not as a last hope for people in financial difficulty which Ashford residents are (it's enough to look at the high street to know which kind of people live here). So you'll be pushing these people further into addiction and poverty because gambling is not a way to make income. Leave casinos to millionaires in central London, we don't need more homeless people here.</p>		
<p><b>Objection 85</b></p>	<p><b>Received 23.08.2025</b></p>	<p><b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 146</b></p>
<p>I live within close proximity to Ashford High Street and my family regularly uses the area, so we will be directly affected by this proposal.</p> <p>There are three schools within 500m of the site. This is unacceptable for a gambling venue and directly breaches the objective of protecting children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.</p> <p>Ashford already suffers from one of the highest crime rates in Surrey. A 24/7 AGC will increase late-night loitering and disorder, contrary to the objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>I therefore object to the application. If granted, I ask that operating hours are capped at daytime/evening only and that conditions include CCTV and adequate staffing.</p>		



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<b>Objection 86</b>	<b>Received 23.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 148</b>
<p>I object to the 24/7 licence application for Golden Slots 39 Church Road, Ashford under Licensing Objective 3. In April 2025, the Government Planning Inspector approved the premises but imposed restricted hours 9am to 11pm in order to protect vulnerable individuals from late night harm. A 24/7 licence directly undermines these protections, especially in Ashfords smaller, residential high street with limited late night policing or CCTV and heightened risk of isolation or exploitation. This context differs significantly from Staines. The Inspectors decision is precisely relevant to protecting the vulnerable and should be decisive. I urge the Sub Committee to refuse 24/7 operation and uphold the original restrictions in line with the Councils policy on protecting vulnerable people.</p>		
<b>Objection 87</b>	<b>Received 23.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 149</b>
<p>As a long-standing resident of Ashford living close to the High Street, I will be directly affected by this application.</p> <p>Ashford is a small, family-oriented High Street. A 24/7 gambling venue is unsuitable here and would worsen existing issues with anti-social behaviour. This engages the objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>The location is also used daily by families, young people, and elderly residents, meaning this application also breaches the objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons.</p> <p>I therefore object to the application. If granted, I request strict conditions are imposed on operating hours (daytime/evening only) and security measures to protect the community.</p>		
<b>Objection 88</b>	<b>Received 23.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 150</b>
<p>I am a resident of Ashford and a mother of two young children. I am objecting to this license application as I believe that it represents an increased risk of crime and anti-social behaviour at night within the community, especially in view of the 24/7 operation. By having visible premises on our highstreet for gambling, the AGC will introduce a risk to children and vulnerable people in Ashford's as they could be attracted to gambling or exploited it. This risk is increased as the site is in close proximity to local schools, residential areas, and community spaces, which means children, the elderly and vulnerable individuals could be at risk.</p> <p>Finally, Ashford already has one of the highest crime rates in Surrey, and introducing a 24/7 gambling centre would further increase the localised risk to residents, especially during late-night hours. Unlike larger town centres, Ashford lacks the infrastructure to safely manage any of these risks. I already feel unsafe walking home from the station after sunset.</p>		

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<b>Objection 89</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 152</b>
<p>I am writing as a local resident of Ashford, living just five minutes' walk from the proposed gambling centre at the former Barclays Bank on Ashford High Street. I wish to register my strong objection to the proposed 24/7 operating hours of this venue.</p> <p>My objection is based on the following licensing objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protecting children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling I am the parent of two teenage daughters who regularly use Ashford High Street. Allowing a gambling venue to operate throughout the night will increase their exposure to potential harm. A 24-hour venue is more likely to attract vulnerable individuals, particularly late at night, creating an unsafe environment for young people.</li> <li>2. Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder The late-night and early morning hours carry a higher risk of anti-social behaviour and crime, especially when linked with gambling activity. Residents, including myself and my family, should not be placed at greater risk when using the High Street due to disorder associated with a 24/7 gambling centre.</li> <li>3. Ensuring gambling is conducted in a fair and open way Whilst this principle primarily concerns the running of the business, fairness should also extend to the surrounding community. It would be unreasonable for residents to experience an increase in crime, noise, and safety concerns simply because unrestricted hours are granted to this operator.</li> </ol> <p>For these reasons, I urge the Council to reject the application for 24-hour opening. If the licence is to be granted, it must at least restrict the opening hours to protect local residents, children, and the wider community.</p>		
<b>Objection 90</b>	<b>Received 24.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 153</b>
<p>Dear Licensing Team,</p> <p>I am writing as a local resident of Ashford and as a mother to strongly object to the application for 24/7 opening of the proposed gambling centre at the former Barclays Bank on Ashford High Street. My family and I live within walking distance of the site and we regularly use the High Street.</p> <p>My objection relates to the following licensing objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protecting children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling I am especially concerned for my teenage daughters and other young people in our community. A gambling venue that operates all night poses additional risks to vulnerable individuals and makes the High Street less safe for families.</li> <li>2. Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder Late-night opening hours are far more likely to attract anti-social behaviour and</li> </ol>		

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<p>disorder. As a mother, I worry about the increased risks of crime in our neighbourhood if this licence is granted. The presence of a 24-hour gambling centre will make many residents feel unsafe.</p> <p>3. Ensuring gambling is conducted in a fair and open way A 24-hour licence would put the interests of a gambling operator above those of local residents. It is not fair to ask families and the wider community to deal with the negative impact of round-the-clock gambling in the heart of Ashford.</p> <p>For these reasons, I urge the Council to reject the application for 24-hour opening. Protecting residents, particularly children and young people, must take priority.</p>		
<p><b>Objection 91</b></p>	<p><b>Received 24.08.2025</b></p>	<p><b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 154</b></p>
<p>I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application. Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families (VALID), which increases exposure to gambling harm.</p> <p>I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and that security/CCTV conditions are imposed.</p> <p>I have previously expressed my concern over the granting of permission for a business to be opened as a Gambling Centre in Ashford town centre. As stated before Ashford is not the right place for a business of this kind. There is already problems with antisocial behaviour and high crime rates in the town.</p> <p>The town has a very active Ashford Wide community who are striving to keep Ashford the buzzing and vibrant town it is. Many small businesses in the town are already dealing with the financial pressures, as everyone is, and a business like this is going to push most people away, not encourage them. A Gambling Centre is probably only of interest to a tiny minority of the population of the surrounding area so it would only encourage unwanted visitors to the town.</p> <p>I am also concerned with the fact it is open 24/7. The noise will obviously be an issue as it seems this has not been addressed, there would also be added mess and litter, and mostly I am concerned about the safety factor. There are many schools within the vicinity and vulnerable people in Ashford. The town does not have the infrastructure to safely manage potential risks.</p> <p>Ashford is a small close knit community and the scale and character make it totally unsuitable for this kind of business.</p>		

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I have lived in Ashford for 35 years and seen many businesses come and go but I feel this is the most outrageous request that has been put forward to planners and I hope that you will make the right decision by refusing it to go ahead.		
<b>Objection 92</b>	<b>Received 24.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 155</b>
<p>I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application. Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.</p> <p>I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and that security/CCTV conditions are imposed.</p>		
<b>Objection 93</b>	<b>Received 24.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 156</b>
<p>I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application. Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable person. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families which increases exposure to gambling harm.</p> <p>I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours a limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and security / CCTV conditions are imposed.</p>		
<b>Objection 94</b>	<b>Received 24.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 157</b>
<p>I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application.</p> <p>Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder.</p>		

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The re is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is opposite the public library, is in the centre of the High Street, near bus stops and shops used daily by families which increases exposure to gambling harm.

I therefore object to the 24/ 7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and that security / CCTV conditions are imposed.

**Objection  
95**

**Received  
24.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
158**

I am writing as an 18-year-old resident of Ashford who lives very close to the proposed gambling centre at the former Barclays Bank on Ashford High Street. I regularly use the High Street, often with friends in the evenings, and I wish to object to the application for 24-hour opening.

My objection is based on the following licensing objectives:

1. Protecting children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling  
Even though I am now 18, many of my friends are still underage. A gambling centre open through the night will make the High Street less safe for younger people, who could be exposed to harm or encouraged towards gambling. The late-night hours are when young people feel most vulnerable.

2. Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder

As someone who walks home from the station and uses the High Street regularly, I am worried that a 24-hour gambling centre will attract anti-social behaviour at night. This makes the area feel unsafe for people my age, especially for young women.

3. Fair and open gambling

A business operating 24/7 in the middle of Ashford is not fair to residents of my generation who want a safe, welcoming High Street. It risks changing the whole character of the town and making it less friendly for young people who want to socialise safely.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose the licence being granted for 24-hour opening. I ask that the Council protect the safety of young people and the wider community by refusing this application.

**Objection  
96**

**Received  
24.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
159**

As a long-standing resident of Ashford, living in the development off of the main high street, I will be directly affected by this application.

I am a Headteacher of a Spelthorne Primary school so have a unique understanding of the specific challenges for young people in the area. There are enough barriers and challenges preventing young people achieving all they need without this new distraction being licensed/endorsed by the local council.

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Ashford is a small, family-oriented High Street. A 24/7 gambling venue is unsuitable here and would worsen existing issues with anti-social behaviour. This engages the objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.

The location is close to Clarendon Primary School and within walking distance of Thomas Knyvett College (a secondary school). Many young people and children access the high street daily. Within 50 metres of the site is a bus stop, often crowded with young people making their way to and from schools. The high street is also used daily by families, young people, and elderly residents, meaning this application also breaches the objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons.

I therefore object to the application. If granted, I request strict conditions are imposed on operating hours (daytime/evening only) and additional security measures (funded by the gaming centre) to protect the community

**Objection  
97**

**Received  
24.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
161**

As a grandparent of young children who attend school and also live near to Church Road, I am deeply concerned about the proposal to open an Adult Gaming Centre in our town.

Children pass this location daily and the idea that they may be exposed to gambling so visibly, in a place meant for families and everyday shopping is extremely worrying.

This application risks harming vulnerable persons, including children. It will also disrupt public safety especially at night.

This venue does not serve the wellbeing of our community.

Please consider the bigger picture and reject this application.

**Objection  
98**

**Received  
25.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
162**

I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application. Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.

There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.

I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and that security/CCTV conditions are imposed.

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<b>Objection 99</b>	<b>Received 25.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 164</b>
<p>Subject: Concerning 24/7 Gambling Licence Application – 39 Church Road TW15</p> <p>Dear Licensing Team,</p> <p>As a long-standing resident of Ashford living close to the High Street, I will be directly affected by this application.</p> <p>Ashford is a small High Street. There are three schools within 500m of the site and the location is used daily by families, young people, and elderly residents, meaning this application breaches the objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.</p> <p>Also a 24/7 gambling venue would worsen existing issues with anti-social behaviour. Ashford already suffers from one of the highest crime rates in Surrey. A 24/7 AGC will increase late-night loitering and disorder, contrary to the objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>I therefore object to the application. If granted, I request strict conditions are imposed on operating hours (daytime/evening only) and security measures to protect the community.</p>		
<b>Objection 100</b>	<b>Received 25.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 166</b>
<p>I object to the 24/7 licence application for Golden Shots, 39 Church Road, Ashford, under Licensing Objective 3. In April 2025, the Government Planning Inspector approved the premises, but imposed restricted hours (9am - 11pm) to protect vulnerable individuals from late-night harm. A 24/7 licence directly undermines these protections, especially in Ashford's smaller, residential high street with limited late-night policing or CCTV and heightened risk of isolation or exploitation. This context differs significantly from Staines. The Inspectors decision is precisely relevant to protecting the vulnerable and should be decisive. I urge the Sub Committee to refuse 24/7 operation and uphold the original restrictions in line with the Council's policy on protecting vulnerable people.</p>		
<b>Objection 101</b>	<b>Received 25.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 167</b>
<p>As a long-standing resident of Ashford living close to the High Street, I will be directly affected by this application.</p> <p>Ashford is a small, family-oriented High Street. A 24/7 gambling venue is unsuitable here and would worsen existing issues with anti-social behaviour. This engages the objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>The location is also used daily by families, young people, and elderly residents, meaning this application also breaches the objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons.</p> <p>I therefore object to the application. If granted, I request strict conditions are imposed on operating hours (daytime/evening only) and security measures to protect the community.</p>		

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<b>Objection 102</b>	<b>Received 25.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 168</b>
<p>Gambling related harms are now widely recognised as a public health issue. The convenience of high street gambling premises must contribute to an increase in people negatively impacted financially by gambling, including housing and homelessness which impacts the whole family and the local community, as well as the individuals directly affected by it.</p> <p>Ashford is a medium sized town and the location of this building, in a mainly residential area made up for mostly young families, cannot be seen by anyone as a good idea. There are flats immediately above, across the other side of Dudley Road and opposite in Church Road. There are 6 primary schools within 1 mile, 7 churches within half a mile many of whom have playgroups and offer safe meeting space to vulnerable people. The library, another sanctuary for local children and adults is immediately opposite this building.</p> <p>In recent years Ashford has been identified as the most dangerous medium-sized town in Surrey in terms of overall crime rate. Mainly, Shoplifting, Anti-social behaviour, Violence Against Women and Girls &amp; Drug-related harm. Making it a place that many people will not visit alone at night, having this establishment open all day, 7 days a week will put public safety more at risk.</p> <p>In summary, I believe that the granting of the licence could lead to a further increase in crime and disorder, in what is a residential local shopping area and so totally unsuitable for such a venue. I am also concerned that children and other vulnerable people could be harmed and exploited should this application be approved.</p>		
<b>Objection 103</b>	<b>Received 26.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 169</b>
<p>I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application. Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.</p> <p>I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and that security/CCTV conditions are imposed.</p>		



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<b>Objection 104</b>	<b>Received 26.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 170</b>
<p>I am objecting to the application for a gambling licence and also against the usage of 39 Church Road, Ashford Surrey, TW15 2QF as gambling premises or as gaming premises. I have tried to do this using the comments procedure on Spelthorne's planning website, but no forms come up after a search on the premises, hence I am objecting to the licence and use of the premises for gambling or gaming via email instead: as specified as an alternative means of objecting.</p> <p>I object on the following grounds. I have lived in Ashford for almost forty years and use Church Road daily. I have seen a steady decline in Church Road over the years, both from a commercial perspective and from a crime and disorder perspective. I object on the grounds that a gambling centre in Church Road, will likely have a negative impact on crime and disorder rates and also poses a risk to the vulnerable.</p> <p>A search on the internet shows that Ashford is the most violent town in Surrey, with a 33% higher level of crime than the Surrey average, the most common of which are crimes of violence and sexual offences. The Surrey Police crime map on their website, shows all crimes up to and including June 2025. I have focused specifically on the area of Church Road, between Studholme Medical Centre and the end of New Parade by Tarla Grill. I would estimate this is no more than 100 metres at the most. Number 29 is roughly half way between the two. Using the Surrey Police headings on their map; In June alone, there were 7 crimes of violence/sexual offences, 3 instances of anti-social behaviour, 1 possession of weapons, 2 instances of criminal damage and 6 shopliftings. Looking back over time, similar patterns are apparent with the obvious peaks and troughs you will get in any area. In May for example the violence and sexual offences picture was the same-7 crimes. This is a lot of crime over a 100 metre section of Church Road.</p> <p>A gambling premises will only serve to make things worse. It should also be remembered that people may be attracted into Ashford from elsewhere to gamble, possibly via Ashford Train Station, which itself is a crime hotspot and likely fuelled by alcohol or drugs (drug offences also feature in the crime stats). There are numerous examples on the internet where gambling premises have caused anti-social behaviour and it is well known that premises open late in the evening can be a useful hub for criminal activity, including drug dealing. From a local perspective, It is also worth noting that at the back of the premises, there is access to private flats and a car parking area. Problems can be expected here too, as it is dark and would be an ideal place to carry out criminal activity. I don't know what security arrangements are proposed, but staff will have no control over what happens outside.</p> <p>A simple search on the links between gambling centres and crime, shows links with theft and violence and that they are significantly associated with crime hotspots. This part of Ashford already has problems with violence and theft as shown above. Evidentially, <i>The Commission on Crimes and Gambling Related Harms</i>, found in their 2023 report, that gambling is linked to poverty and a wide range of crime, including street robbery, criminal</p>		

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damage and drugs offences and also domestic violence. This means that Ashford's already high crime rate in Surrey can only be made worse by the presence of a gambling outlet.

The commission also notes that more needs to be done about gambling amongst the prison population, and of course we have HMP institutions locally *and* ex-offenders living in the community, whom it is implied should be discouraged from gambling. Offenders and Ex-offenders themselves can be considered as a vulnerable group. This is yet another reason why the location of a gambling outlet in Ashford is entirely inappropriate and the gambling licence must be refused.

Other affected groups include those in poverty (the Commission notes links); examples include homeless people from the Whitehouse in Kingston Road and residents from Harper House in Fordbridge Road, many of whom are vulnerable for a variety of reasons. The Commissions full report is easily accessible and taken together with the existing crime rate in Ashford, gambling premises are clearly a bad idea for the area and I call for the licence to be refused.

**Objection  
105**

**Received  
26.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
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I am a long term resident of Ashford. I oppose the licencing of gaming at this site because it threatens the Protection of Children.

11) It is 0.2 miles from Clarendon *Junior School* and 0.4 miles from St Michaels *Primary School*.

(2) *The library* is opposite and many infant and junior school classes are taken there for educational sessions. All of these children will be exposed to the presence of the gaming centre and the men who will loiter outside to gather and smoke.

(3) *Adolescent pupils* from 2 schools on Church Road also pass this site at the end of the school day.

(4)At the Clarendon School site is the *Clarendon Family Centre, a base for vulnerable people* suffering domestic abuse, family conflict, mental issues and *children of all ages presenting behavioural problems*. This is a wide group who need protection and will be threatened. The gaming centre may provide a counter-productive attraction to the latter group mentioned.

(5) As an ex-teacher I have great concern about gaming clients (demograpgically predominantly male loners) to-ing and fro-ing and hanging around, casually watching or being watched by children.

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The centre threatens Public Safety and Public Order

(1) Particularly as the nights get longer, *women will tend to feel intimidated by the clientelle of the centre*. We already have one business located on the dark corner of Parkland Grove with *cars parked on double yellow lines frequented by men* waiting in them or *loitering* on the path. Nothing is done about it as there is *no police presence* in Ashford. I know that *this makes women fearful*.

(2) *Already the crime rate for Ashford* is significantly higher than the Surrey average . The most common recorded crimes are violence, sexual violence, and frequently unreportedly , shop lifting. Public confidence and wellbeing will be further undermined by this centre.

(3) *The area is residential*, not like the locations of AGCs in Staines and Feltham. There are flats above no 39 and along Church Road, immediately behind are hundreds of family homes. A very large new housing development is nearby on the opposite side of the road. Its in *absolutely the wrong place*

(4) This centre would be the only group entertainment venue in this unpoliced town. There are no clubs or pubs. It will be the only and *obvious hub of trouble*.

This matters to me. Please bother to read this.

**Objection  
106**

**Received  
26.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
172**

I live within close proximity to Ashford High Street and my family regularly uses the area, so we will be directly affected by this proposal.

There are three schools within 500m of the site. This is unacceptable for a gambling venue and directly breaches the objective of protecting children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Ashford already suffers from one of the highest crime rates in Surrey. A 24/7 AGC will increase late-night loitering and disorder, contrary to the objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.

I therefore object to the application. If granted, I ask that operating hours are capped at daytime/evening only and that conditions include CCTV and adequate staffing.

**Objection  
107**

**Received  
26.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
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As a grandparent of children and young adults who are often in Ashford High Street, I will be directly affected by this application.

Children pass this location daily. A gambling venue so visibly placed in a family shopping area creates unacceptable risks of exposure and normalisation of gambling to young people.

This application also risks drawing in vulnerable adults, including those already struggling with addiction or financial hardship. A 24/7 venue increases the likelihood of harm, particularly in the late-night and early-morning hours when supervision is weakest.

I therefore object under the licensing objective of **protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling**. If granted, I request hours are capped at daytime/evening only.

**Objection  
108**

**Received  
26.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
174**

I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application.

Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.

There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.

I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and that security/CCTV conditions are imposed.

**Objection  
109**

**Received  
26.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
175**

I am opposed to the above proposal for a licenced gambling outlet in Ashford Surrey at the former building of Barclays Bank.

The site is unsuitable because Ashford is a small quiet town with a modest high street based around many independent retailers.

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It will likely lead to increased levels of anti-social behaviour especially noise particularly during the evening up until the closing time of 11pm.

It will be an enticement for young people as well as those vulnerable to the adverse effects of gambling so risks increasing levels of addiction and encouraging vulnerable people to part with money they cannot afford. It may attract more crime and drunken behaviour and drug taking

around the vicinity of the gambling centre. In short this proposal can only be bad news for the residents of Ashford and should not be given a licence.

**Objection  
110**

**Received  
26.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
176**

Similar gambling premises in other area have been associated with an increase in anti social behaviour, loitering and petty crime, which in turn stretches the resources of our police services taking them away from other crime in the area. Ashford already has a high crime rate and residents deserve to be kept safe.

Furthermore the introduction of a gambling venue will not only have a negative effect on existing small businesses and community cohesion but will undermine the character of the neighbourhood.

Many residents have objected to the initial planning application and now it would be wonderful if the licensing authority would listen to the majority of residents and reject this application.

**Objection  
111**

**Received  
26.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
177**

I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application.

Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.

There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.

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I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and that security/CCTV conditions are imposed.		
<b>Objection 112</b>	<b>Received 26.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 178</b>
<p>Further to my letter, I am e mailing, as an Ashford resident, to state my objection to the old Barclays Bank site becoming a licensed gaming centre. Ashford is a residential and retail town but my main objection is the fact that there are four school within one mile of this site and this is not what I would wish young people to be witnessing on their school journey. Gambling is an addiction, people with an addiction need help to give up not encouragement to carry on with their addiction.</p> <p>Please refuse this gambling license.</p>		
<b>Objection 113</b>	<b>Received 26.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 179</b>
<p>I have been an Ashford resident for over 40 years and frequently use the High Street.</p> <p>Our high street is a very small one with a close knit family community feel which is used everyday by the local secondary and primary school children and their parents. Ashford is not a wealthy area and the gaming centre is located close to residential areas, schools and a community space ( opposite the site), meaning that the vulnerable, elderly and children could be at risk of exploitation with the presence of a 24 hour adult gaming centre.</p> <p>In addition, unfortunately Ashford does have one of the highest crime rates in Surrey. I am deeply concerned that the presence of a 24 hour gambling centre would further add to the risk to us as residents, especially during late- night hours. We simply do not have the infrastructure to safely manage those risks.</p>		
<b>Objection 114</b>	<b>Received 26.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 180</b>
<p>My wife and I are long term Ashford residents, residing in Clarendon Road. With the possible exception of the families who live in the flats immediately above the former Barclays bank, we are probably the nearest residents to the property being considered for an AGC. The bottom of our rear garden is within approximately 12 metres of the proposed site. We wish to object MOST STRONGLY to the issue of a gaming licence for this property. Our grounds for objection fall broadly under the following three headings:</p>		

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CRIME AND DISORDER . Antisocial Behaviour in Ashford is at an all time high. Statistics show that Ashford has one of the highest crime rates in Surrey. In considering the issue of a licence the following points MUST be considered, as we feel it inevitable that the granting of one can only make matters worse by encouraging individuals to engage in further anti-social behaviours. Unfortunately this list is not exhaustive.

- 1) Central Ashford is already the subject of a 'Public Spaces Protection Order'.
- 2) Drug dealing is rife, including the area immediately to the rear of the premises in question.
- 3) Within the last week a cannabis farm has been located in Fordbridge Road.
- 4) Fireworks being set off and aimed at passing traffic about 12 months ago.
- 5) Within the last 12 months a murder was committed in Imtech House (hopefully a 'one-off' but indicative of the mentality of some local individuals)
- 6) Shoplifting appears to be the 'norm' and is happening on a daily basis.
- 7) Graffiti appears to have descended on Ashford and many examples have appeared in the last few weeks, (Dudley, Church, Fordbridge Roads)
- 8) Muggings have occurred a number of times in the last 12 months.  
(Details can be provided)
- 9) Rowdy behaviour is on the increase - ours and neighbours front doors have been physically kicked several times recently - for no apparent reason.
- 10) Burglaries/break-ins /holdups are increasing (e.g. Sainsburys break-in and Superdrug holdup in last 12 months)

PROTECTING CHILDREN, VULNERABLE PERSONS AND ELDERLY. We feel that the presence of a gambling establishment in the centre of what is basically a quiet residential town will set a completely wrong example to our young people. There are a number of schools close by and it is inevitable that the presence of an AGC on the school route will create the impression that gambling is 'normal and acceptable' in the minds of our young people. There are already at least three 'betting' shops in very close proximity which provide machine based gambling. We feel that the addition of yet more temptation can only worsen the situation for some of our residents who are battling this form of addiction and those that have mental health issues. I would add that both my wife and I are in our mid eighties and both fairly physically able but together with a lot of our elderly friends and neighbours are now loath to venture out at night!

NOISE There is limited parking availability in central Ashford as much of it has now become the subject of 24hr double yellow line restrictions, and car parks have been closed down. This being the case, it is likely that some 'AGC customers' will seek to park in non restricted Clarendon/Dudley/Chaucer roads, thereby causing further parking problems to residents. Comings and goings throughout the day and night will undoubtedly cause unnecessary noise and disruption, as there is bound to be a degree of loitering.

**Objection  
115**

**Received  
26.08.2025**

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181**

I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application.

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Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure or personnel to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.

There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families and children going to and from school, which increases exposure to gambling harm. Opening later in the evenings will also put children who spend time in Ashford in the evening, for example taking part in community improvement projects as part of uniformed organisations and youth groups, at risk of harm from exposure to gambling and witnessing disorder/criminal activity.

I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and early evening only, not extended into the night, and that security and CCTV conditions are imposed.

**Objection  
116**

**Received  
26.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
182**

L wish to object in the strongest possible terms to the grant of a 2417 gambling licence in relation to the above premises. I live a little over half a mile from the application site and am a constant user of the shops and other businesses in Church Road, so will be directly affected by this proposal. In their own risk assessment document, the applicants themselves acknowledge that: "Ashford is the [sic] reported as the most dangerous medium-sized town in Surrey, and in the top 10 most dangerous of all communities in Surrey." A gambling venue will clearly increase the risk of criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it, most particularly late at night if a 2417 licence were to be granted. This would therefore fail the licensing objective of "preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder". It herefore object to the 2417 licence. Should it be impossible to deny the application altogether; at the very least, opening hours must be limited to daytime and evening only, and the most stringent possible security/CCTV conditions imposed'

**Objection  
117**

**Received  
26.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
183**

As a parent of two children and who live just off Ashford High Street, I will be directly affected by this application.

Children pass this location daily. A gambling venue so visibly placed in a family shopping area creates unacceptable risks of exposure and normalisation of gambling to young people. This application also risks drawing in vulnerable adults, including those already struggling with addiction or financial hardship. A 24/7 venue increases the likelihood of harm, particularly in the late-night and early-morning hours when supervision is weakest.



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In addition, I am extremely concerned as crime in Ashford has increased a lot over the many years I have lived here - and a 24/7 gaming centre would further increase the risk to residents, particularly over late night hours.

I therefore object under the licensing objective of **protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling**. If granted, I request hours are capped at daytime/evening only.

**Objection  
118**

**Received  
26.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
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184**

I hereby strongly object to this application 'Gambling licence 39 Church Rd' as I use the Ashford high street daily and are therefore really concerned about my safety and that of the children that live in Ashford.

Having a gambling establishment in Ashford would draw criminals to our high street which concerns me and makes me feel very unsafe and vulnerable.

Gambling is taking a strong hold in the UK and is ruining people's live with debts caused by losses on gambling. As we all know the numbers are stacked heavily in favour of gaming establishments so why invite these to come in and take our well-earned money. You should be protecting our community and not approving this licence.

For every winner there are thousands of losers. The gaming establishments always win.

**Objection  
119**

**Received  
26.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
185**

I represent the residents of Ashford Town ward, and I object to the award of a gambling license for an Adult Gaming Centre (AGC) at 36 Church Road. Should the license be awarded, against my objection, I believe conditions should be applied.

My objections are:

- The AGC will be a source of crime.
- The AGC will not conduct gambling in a fair and open way.
- Vulnerable people will be harmed or exploited by gambling at the AGC.

For context, it is important this license will allow 62 machines to be taking up to £2 per press of a button whenever this premises is open. A slot machine takes 3-5 seconds to give a result so users can be losing 100s, if not 1000s, of pounds an hour.

Ashford is a relatively temperate town, with fewer pubs than churches, and only two gambling premises which is low for a town of its size. This begs the question why do Golden Slots feel this is a suitable site to open an Adult Gaming Centre (AGC), and how are they going to make a profit?

The logical conclusion of these two points is that the success of this business will depend on a small number of individuals gambling a lot.

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As part of my research into the likely effect of this license being awarded, I have been in discussion with Mr R: an Ashford Town resident who is a recovering gambling addict, and I will refer to his comments and experience where relevant. He tells me: “When I think of myself as a gambler, it is in the third person, as a non-human who doesn’t think about the next 4 hours, let alone the next 2 weeks to pay day. Gambling is about 2 things, money and opportunity; an adult gaming centre like the one in Staines would have been a God-send to me in maintaining my addiction.” An addiction that started when he was 16, and included periods of losing £1000s in hours.

Risk of Crime

Gambling businesses guarantee to, on average, lose their customers money; they would not be profitable if this wasn’t true. In situations where those losses are incurred by a relatively small number of individuals, the reaction to those losses is likely to be more extreme than where those losses are spread across a wider customer base, e.g. football fans on a Saturday afternoon, or on Grand National day.

These reactions include damage to property in the venting of anger and self-frustration, theft of goods for sale to replace lost money, and shoplifting for food and household goods. These crimes will be perpetrated against the residents and businesses of Ashford on leaving the venue and in between visits. This will be an aggravating factor in our battle against low-level crime and anti-social behaviour.

Crime caused by gambling is not always immediately associated with the act of gambling. Mr R tells me: “I would lie to relatives about paying bills for them and gamble the money, I would steal the tip left at the end of family meal so I could gamble it. I borrowed from my own business to gamble, effectively stealing from the 4 other owners.”.

Those gamblers who have incurred large and rapid losses will also be difficult to approach and may exhibit severe mood swings, leading to an increased risk to the safety of those at home.

The risk of domestic crime will escalate sharply in the households that bear the brunt of these losses . As per the risk assessment, the most common crimes in Ashford are violence and sexual offences, most of which occur in a domestic setting. The women in Ashford that are most at risk from these sorts of crimes can only see that risk increased by the introduction of a venue selling addictive behaviour on their doorstep (number of individuals, the reaction to those losses is likely to be more extreme than where those losses are spread across a wider customer base, e.g. football fans on a Saturday afternoon, or on Grand National day.

These reactions include damage to property in the venting of anger and self-frustration, theft of goods for sale to replace lost money, and shoplifting for food and household goods. These crimes will be perpetrated against the residents and businesses of Ashford on leaving the venue and in between visits. This will be an aggravating factor in our battle against low-level crime and anti-social behaviour.

I asked Mr R if problem gamblers would be terrified of the behaviour an AGC must bring out in them. His reply: “Oh no, it’s the loved ones at home who will be worrying about this. If I was still married (his addiction was the cause of his divorce), my wife would be terrified.

In addition to physical domestic abuse, which is associated with households where there are multiple addiction issues, economic abuse is increasingly acknowledged as a consequence of gambling. Little research exists in the UK on the risks of economic abuse caused by gambling, but a 2021 academic study funded by the Australian government concluded a clear pattern of problem gambling and economic abuse which included coercion to borrow money, fraudulent applications for, and use of, credit cards, and the stealing of money intended for household spending or for children (<https://doi.org/10.1080/16066359.2021.1962847>).

The fact that problem gambling is a cause of crime is clearly something that Golden Slots (Southern) Ltd are aware of, since their Policies and Procedures state that any member of staff found gambling will be fired, in order to protect the company from the risk of problem gambling.

In other words, it's fine for problem gamblers to rob from other people when they lose all their money, but not from us."

#### Gambling in a Fair and Open Way

Golden Slots (Southern) Ltd give the impression that their machines are fair and open because they make all the necessary legal declarations and have the legal limits on stakes.

This is a deflection from the truth known by gambling addicts, where their minds are fixated on the opportunity to gamble undisturbed. Mr R educated me on Betting Shops ("bookies"): "The thing with a bookies is that anyone could walk in: like a relative or an old mate from school, and the windows are all across the front so you can see in around the posters. It's a poor opportunity, so problem gamblers aren't fans of them; my guess is that around 50% of the punters have a problem, and it's probably not that bad."

In comparison: "These gaming centres are dark, there's no visibility from the street and you can see almost nothing through the entrance. That's only attractive to problem gamblers."

#### Harm and Exploitation

The harm to problem gamblers does not have to be inflicted directly by the AGC, the harm to an addict is self-inflicted and, as Mr R makes clear, all the gambling addict needs is the opportunity and the money: "It's not like a drug addict because you don't have to try hard to find the product, you just walk in. If I was still gambling it would be somewhere to hide from my loved ones."

An AGC like this is providing the perfect opportunity for addicts to gamble.

That Golden Slots (Southern) Ltd don't offer credit is not keeping problem gamblers from money to gamble. Mr R: "My only limit was my daily withdrawal limit, so like £250 or whatever; the problem was, at one minute past midnight my limit was doubled."

Turning to the Policies and Procedures document, which has ticked a lot of the boxes required to make this venue seem innocuous, however, there are more questions raised than answered in this tick-box approach:

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The SR triggers include increases in time and money spent gambling. If someone started by spending a lot of time and money in the venue, then regularly spent lots of time and money, there would not be an increase, so this seems completely ineffective as a trigger.

Chasing losses is apparently monitorable, but there is nothing more than a statement of this being true. How is this monitored, and what constitutes “chasing”? E.g. if a gambler wins early in their visit, how are future losses monitored to know when the win is lost, and “chasing” has become a risk again?

Although the Policies and Procedures document claims to have these policies in place, there is no mention of what records are used in their implementation, and what records will be retained in reference to those gamblers where action is taken. The application makes reference to an incident log being kept, but no reference to logging incidences of problem gambling.

The reality is that these are lip service to a system of expelling gamblers when the venue feels they need to save face, or the gambler mis-behaves, by which time the risk to the gambler is already realised. No gambler is going to be identified as at risk of problem gambling until that problem gambling has caused damage.

Furthermore, these pathetic and erroneous attempts at intervention are abused by gambling addicts. Mr R: “I joined Gamstop and Gamban, so that I looked like I was doing the right thing; the reality is your using these positive schemes to deflect from your true behaviour. I used tools meant to help me, like letters confirming addiction advice appointments, to help me gamble more.”.

Notably there is no statement declaring that a problem gambler will be barred from the venue when Golden Slots Ltd has made enough money from that person.

It is also incumbent on problem gamblers in the area to self-exclude from the venue every 6-12 months, with no lifetime exclusion being available. This seems to inflict a form of torture on these people, because they will have to regularly visit the place, if they want to update the exclusion. The default position of Golden Slots (Southern) Ltd is that a gambling addict will be welcome to start gambling again at their venue once six months has passed and I find this exploitative.

The assessment of the risk of “Out of control gambling by other vulnerable people and failure to recognise signs associated with problem gambling or substantial changes in gambling behaviour” as low is manifestly incorrect. The faults noted above in the Policies and Procedures document regarding Social Responsibility and Self-Exclusion make this risk High.

I believe the people who frequent this venue will be the people most at risk of losing a lot of money very quickly, and those whose relationships and lives may have been ruined previously by gambling. For these already vulnerable people and their families, harm is inevitable.

Conclusions:

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In Spelthorne there are 2.5% of the population considered problem gamblers, just under the national average, and half of them want help with their problem. 70% of the problem gamblers in Spelthorne accessed help last year, higher than the national average (source GambleAware.org).

2.5% of the population is 575 people who will live within walking distance of the AGC. 70% of those is over 400 people who you will be subjecting to an increased risk of harm by licensing a dangerous and seductive AGC in the heart of Ashford.

Moreover, there are 375 people who, unless they get help now, will be enabled to continue their “in-human” addictive behaviour by the licensing of a “God-send” to their addiction.

The evidence given above on the risk of crime, on the lack of a fair and open way to gamble, and the causes of exploitation and harm, demonstrate that this application does not meet the required licensing objectives.

This is accompanied by testimony of one of the many vulnerable residents of my ward for whom this AGC application is a real and present danger in their lives. Furthermore, this testimony highlights how this application aggravates, rather than diminishes, the challenge that problem gambling presents to the community of Ashford.

The combination of this evidence and this first-hand testimony give a conclusion that this application should be declined.

In the event the application is passed, it also suggests the following conditions should be imposed:

Lifetime self-exclusions should be made available and should be irrevocable.

There must be sufficient glass added to the building that full visibility of all players is possible from the street.

Total daily opening hours should be no longer than those of the nearby Betting Shops.

A Social Responsibility (SR) trigger of persistent gambling should be added.

Detailed processes and quantitative measures for the recognition of SR triggers should be published.

A log of SR trigger events should be maintained for review at the renewal of the license.

**Objection  
120**

**Received  
26.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
186**

Subject: 24/7 Gambling Licence Objection – 39 Church Road, Ashford TW15  
Dear Licensing Team,  
I live within close proximity to Ashford High Street and my family regularly uses the area, so we will be directly affected by this proposal.  
There are three schools within 500m of the site. This is unacceptable for a gambling venue and directly breaches the objective of protecting children and vulnerable persons from being

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harmful or exploited by gambling.

Ashford already suffers from one of the highest crime rates in Surrey. A 24/7 AGC will increase late-night loitering and disorder, contrary to the objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.

I therefore object to the application. If granted, I ask that operating hours are capped at daytime/evening only and that conditions include CCTV and adequate staffing.

**Objection  
121**

**Received  
27.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing  
use only)  
187**

I live within close proximity to Ashford High Street and my family regularly uses the area, so we will be directly affected by this proposal.

There are three schools within 500m of the site.

This is unacceptable for a gambling venue and directly breaches the objective of protecting children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling. This won't teach children about aspiration, ambition and doing the best they can. It will teach them that some people get to hang out in a brightly lit shop in Ashford all day and that is another choice they can make. How sad is that?

Ashford already suffers from one of the highest crime rates in Surrey. A AGC will increase late evening loitering and disorder, contrary to the objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder. There will likely be groups of men which may intimidate women and girls, frequent smoking outside that people may have to walk through and late evening noise that will disturb even closer residents.

Many things are going on in society that do not support the welfare of women and girls, locations like AGCs within communities are on that list.

I therefore object to the application.

If granted, I ask that for safety, conditions such as comprehensive CCTV, ID verification, security guard presence and adequate staffing are met and the hours to be as limited as possible.

Ashford has already taken a dive! It's full of barber shops, nail bars and an ice cream store that suspiciously doesn't open all summer.

I assume your focus is meant to be on regeneration of the area. I fail to understand how a gambling site offers meaningful and lasting regeneration. Wouldn't it be great if you could incentivise small businesses and family friendly applications to regenerate, rather than gambling sites, barber shops and nail bars that kill off community.

A decision to go ahead, is another nail in the coffin for Ashford.

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<b>Objection 122</b>	<b>Received 27.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 189</b>
<p>I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application.</p> <p>Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.</p> <p>I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and that security/CCTV conditions are imposed.</p>		
<b>Objection 123</b>	<b>Received 27.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 190</b>
<p>As a long-standing resident of Ashford living close to the High Street, I will be directly affected by this application.</p> <p>Ashford already has one of the highest crime rates in Surrey and introducing a 24/7 gambling centre would further increase the localised risk to residents especially during late night hours.</p> <p>Ashford is not a large town centre. It's scale and character make it unsuitable for a 24/7 Gaming Centre which would increase the risks of crime or disorder.</p> <p>The location is also used daily by families, young people, and elderly residents, meaning this application also breaches the objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons.</p> <p>I therefore object to the application. If granted, I request strict conditions are imposed on operating hours (daytime/evening only) and security measures to protect the community.</p>		
<b>Objection 124</b>	<b>Received 27.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only)</b>

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		<b>191</b>
<p>Subject: Objection to 24/7 Gambling Licence – 39 Church Road, Ashford TW15</p> <p>Dear Licensing Team,</p> <p>I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application.</p> <p>Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a 24/7 gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.</p> <p>I therefore object to the 24/7 licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are limited to daytime and evening only, not extended into the night, and that security/CCTV conditions are imposed.</p> <p>I am scared to be alone in the high street due to the current crime and attack rate and this will further drive up the likelihood of this happening. I am scared for my children.</p>		
<b>Objection 125</b>	<b>Received 27.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 192</b>
<p>I live within close proximity to Ashford High Street and my family regularly uses the area, so we will be directly affected by this proposal.</p> <p>There are three schools within 500m of the site. This is unacceptable for a gambling venue and directly breaches the objective of protecting children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.</p> <p>Ashford already suffers from one of the highest crime rates in Surrey. A 24/7 AGC will increase late-night loitering and disorder, contrary to the objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>I therefore object to the application. If granted, I ask that operating hours are capped at daytime/evening only and that conditions include CCTV and adequate staffing.</p>		
<b>Objection 126</b>	<b>Received 27.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 193</b>
<p>I am writing to express my objection to the above Gambling licence request.</p>		



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My family and I (husband and 13 year old son) live within close proximity to Ashford High Street and we regularly use the area, and therefore we will all be directly affected by this proposal.

There are three schools within 500m of the site which makes this an unacceptable site for a gambling venue and directly breaches the objective of protecting children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Ashford already suffers from one of the highest crime rates in Surrey. A 24/7 AGC will increase late-night loitering and disorder, contrary to the objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.

Non-compliance with Policy EN11 and Policy TC3:

The applicant has not sufficiently demonstrated that the AGC hall would have an active frontage or contribute positively to the vitality and viability of Ashford Town Centre. The proposed 24/7 operation could result in noise pollution and a negative impact on the surrounding residential areas, contrary to Policy EN11 and the NPPF.

I therefore heavily object to the application.

**Objection  
127**

**Received  
27.08.2025**

**Internal Spreadsheet  
Reference (Licensing use  
only)  
195**

I live in Ashford close to the High Street and will be directly affected by this application. Ashford already experiences some of the highest crime levels in Surrey, and a gambling venue will increase the risk of late-night disorder and criminal activity in an area with no infrastructure to manage it. This falls under the licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.

There is also a real concern for protecting children and vulnerable persons. The site is in a prominent High Street location near bus stops and shops used daily by families, which increases exposure to gambling harm.

There is also no real nighttime economy in Ashford it's entirely inappropriate. It already often feels quite hostile on the high street in daylight with gangs of often masked youths on bikes and motorised scooters blocking the pavements and running amuck.

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I therefore object to the proposed licence. If the application is granted, I request that hours are strictly limited to daytime and early evening only, not extended into the night, and that security/CCTV conditions are imposed.		
<b>Objection 128</b>	<b>Received 27.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 196</b>
I object to this premises being converted for use as an Adult Gaming Centre, because the gambling will not be conducted in an open way. The walls of this building are exceptionally thick, and have no windows, so the gambling will be conducted in a closeted environment hidden from public view; that is, by definition, not open. Both existing gambling venues in Ashford have glass fronts and the entire ground floor is clearly visible from the street; this allows families, perhaps children who are not permitted inside, to locate gamblers when they are needed or in the event of an emergency and the proposed premises will deny this openness. An open and transparent premises also creates some concern in the mind of a problem gambler that they may be spotted, giving an increased likelihood that vulnerable problem gamblers may cut their losses and leave rather than chase those losses, hidden in a dark corner of the building. It is therefore fairer on those gamblers to use open and transparently visible premises, as part of a socially responsible approach to gambling, so this premises is not pursuant to fair gambling.		
<b>Objection 129</b>	<b>Received 27.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 197</b>
<p>I live within close proximity to Ashford High Street and my family regularly uses the area, so we will be directly affected by this proposal.</p> <p>There are three schools within 500m of the site. This is unacceptable for a gambling venue and directly breaches the objective of protecting children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.</p> <p>Ashford already suffers from one of the highest crime rates in Surrey. A 24/7 AGC will increase late-night loitering and disorder, contrary to the objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>I therefore object to the application. If granted, I ask that operating hours are capped at daytime/evening only and that conditions include CCTV and adequate staffing</p>		
<b>Objection 130</b>	<b>Received 27.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 199</b>
I have lived in Ashford for 57 years and know the area well. I strongly object to the proposed Adult Gaming Centre at 39 Church Road.		

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<p>Ashford already experiences some of the highest levels of crime in Surrey, and introducing a 24/7 gambling venue here would increase the risk of disorder and criminal activity, particularly late at night when the area has no infrastructure to manage such risks. There is also a real concern for children and vulnerable people, who may be drawn towards the premises given its prominent High Street location. The proximity to bus stops, schools, and shops makes it more likely that those at risk of harm will be exposed to gambling. I therefore object under the following licensing objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, or being associated with crime or disorder.</li> <li>• Protecting children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.</li> </ul> <p>Please refuse this application.</p>		
<p><b>Objection 131</b></p>	<p><b>Received 27.08.2025</b></p>	<p><b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 200</b></p>
<p>I previously submitted my Representation regarding the above but am advised that this did not meet the required criteria.</p> <p>I wish to state that I live off the High Street in Anglesey Close. I reiterate that I am particularly concerned about the detrimental affect this sort of establishment would have on the young people of this borough. We cannot allow them to be subjected to the temptations of a Gaming Centre. Many youngsters come from impoverished backgrounds and do not need this sort of encouragement to entice them into an unhealthy situation. There are at least 4 schools in close proximity to the premises.</p> <p>There is already an absence of any local police in the area and they do not have the resources to monitor this establishment. I am concerned that there would be unrest and disorder near the Gaming Centre. I do not believe that there would b e enough "Security" resources to manage the situation.</p> <p>I strongly object to a Licensing Application being given approval. It would be to the detriment of a High Street which is already suffering from the current economic climate.</p>		
<p><b>Objection 132</b></p>	<p><b>Received 27.08.2025</b></p>	<p><b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 202</b></p>
<p>As a parent of two children who attend school near Ashford High Street, I will be directly affected by this application.</p> <p>Children pass this location daily. A gambling venue so visibly placed in a family shopping area creates unacceptable risks of exposure and normalisation of gambling to young people.</p> <p>This application also risks drawing in vulnerable adults, including those already struggling with addiction or financial hardship. A 24/7 venue increases the likelihood of harm, particularly in the late-night and early-morning hours when supervision is weakest.</p>		

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I therefore object under the licensing objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling. If granted, I request hours are capped at daytime/evening only.		
<b>Objection 133</b>	<b>Received 27.08.2025</b>	<b>Internal Spreadsheet Reference (Licensing use only) 203</b>
<p>Dear Licensing Team,</p> <p>As a long-standing resident of Ashford living close to the High Street, I will be directly affected by this application.</p> <p>Ashford is a small, family-oriented High Street. A 24/7 gambling venue is unsuitable here and would worsen existing issues with anti-social behaviour. This engages the objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder.</p> <p>The location is also used daily by families, young people, and elderly residents, meaning this application also breaches the objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons.</p> <p>I therefore object to the application. If granted, I request strict conditions are imposed on operating hours (daytime/evening only) and security measures to protect the community.</p>		