

Comments for Planning Application 142755/FO/2025

Application Summary

Application Number: 142755/FO/2025

Address: Former Barclays Bank 537 Stockport Road Manchester M12 4JH

Proposal: Change of use from a vacant Class E unit (former Bank) to an Adult Gaming Centre (Sui Generis).

Case Officer: Sue Wills

Customer Details

Name: Not Available

Address: Not Available

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: The planning application for Merkur Slots at 537 Stockport Road presents a misleading picture that contradicts what they've said in their premises license hearing. Adding a fourth gambling venue to Longsight's shopping center would create a harmful concentration of betting shops and gaming centers in an area already struggling with deprivation.

As someone who has personally struggled with gambling addiction, I know the harm these venues can cause when they cluster in vulnerable communities. The lack of robust safeguards in physical venues compared to online gambling makes them particularly concerning.

Merkur's history of regulatory problems and their pattern of expanding gambling space after initial approval should make us question their intentions for the first floor of this property. Their claims about bringing benefits to our community don't match the reality of what gambling venues actually contribute to areas like Longsight.

I urge the planning committee to reject this application and protect our community from the further concentration of gambling venues targeting our most vulnerable residents.