

Rebecca Pordage

From: Cllr-Bill Gardner
Sent: 15 December 2015 14:55
To: Rebecca Pordage
Subject: DDC Gambling Policy.

As Ward Councillor for the North Deal Ward, which includes the whole of the centre of Deal Town shopping area, I would like to make the following representations, which apply to problems in my ward, and the same kind of problems and matters apply to Dover Town Centre.

Some where in this policy there must be a section on the Commutative Impact of too many Betting Shops and Adult Amusement Centres in a small area, that then excludes ordinary shops from being allowed to open.

As a Councillor who has served on the Planning the Licensing and the Regulatory Committees for the last 5 years I understand that there is a crossover between these 3 areas, and therefore some matters fall between both pillars, in which case it is surely best to cover the problem with a policy twice rather than not at all.

Indeed while there has to be a line drawn between the 2 areas, planning and licensing there is a need for both departments to talk to each other, a perfect example occurred only last week at the Regulatory Committee when the applicant said that he had been in discussions for weeks with the planning department about his application, and that after this consultation he had reduced the application by 30% but the papers in front of us were the old ones because the applicant assumed that he was talking to DDC about the application and that he believed that the new agreed sized application was the relevant one, but no officer in planning had forwarded the new plans and application to licensing. He thought that, and thought totally wrongly, that he was dealing with DDC and that officers spoke to each other. This is the same as the situation between planning and building control, and between planning and enforcement.

Betting shops are currently allowed up to a maximum of 4 B3 type gaming machines in each shop, and all have the maximum number of 4, and these are now taking more money than the shop takes in bets on dogs and horses, indeed in a lot of shops each of the 4 machines can take more money each day than the tills take in bets. For this reason more and more betting shops are opening, because they want more and more of these B3 machines, and the same betting shop chain will open more shops near to its own existing shops to be able to increase its daily take.

In Deal there are 2 betting shops and two adult amusement centres in a small area of the town centre, in fact they are all within an area of 200 metres.

The same is true in the centre of Dover, there are 4 betting shops in Pencester Rd and Worthington St and 2 adult amusement centres close by.

Without some reasonable limit on the numbers within an area in the policy then areas of the district could become wall to wall gambling establishments as per Las Vegas.

It is correct to say that Deal High St lost one betting shop two years ago, but this was because it was a total dump and the punters stopped using it, because the other 2 betting shops regularly updated their machines with new games and the Tote shop didn't. Also the other 2 shops regularly improved their facilities for the punters where as the Tote shop never did, and indeed the toilets in that shop were so bad and stank so much that it would have been more hygienic to have been peeing into an open sewer, in fact it would have been understood if one thought that one actually was.

This shop closed due to market forces, in that the other shops were willing to spend money on their premises getting the latest machines and games, where as the Tote nationally was in serious trouble with its finances and could not keep up with the opposition.

I do not want this to be thought as or taken as an attack on the gambling industry by someone who is against gambling, indeed in my youth I worked in betting shops at the weekends and during college holidays as a "settler" in the days when betting shops just took bets on the horses, the dogs and football, where as now most of the turnover is with these B3 machines,

This is not being written by an anti gambling person, because I plead guilty as charged to be a very regular patron of betting shops on a daily basis, but to allow a town centre to be a shopping area there must be a limit on the number of betting shops and adult amusement centres, because otherwise they can by the nature of their business, their turnover and their profit margins they can easily afford to pay much higher rentals than other ordinary shops, and it is the ordinary shops that are needed in a town centre and in the High St to keep it vibrant and a place worth visiting by not only the people who live in the town and surrounding area, but also by the tourists that Deal and Dover go out of their way to attract.

Cllr Bill Gardner,
Labour Councillor for North Deal.

Rebecca Pordage

From: DDC Licuser
Sent: 14 December 2015 16:45
To: Rebecca Pordage
Subject: FW: Gambling Policy review

Please see email below from Dover TC



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[Our Christmas video message](#)

From: Karen Dry [<mailto:Karen.Dry@dovertowncouncil.gov.uk>]
Sent: 14 December 2015 11:11
To: DDC Licuser
Subject: Gambling Policy review

Dear Sirs

The Draft Statement of Principles under Gambling Act 2005 has been properly scrutinised and that Dover Town Council will exercise its proper responsibilities under the Act, acting as an Interested Party if any person who lives close to a premises licensed under the Act is or is likely to be affected by the operation of those premises, or if such persons have business interests that are or might be affected by the authorised activities and they ask the council to represent them. (Section 158, Gambling Act 2005).

Regards



Karen Dry

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