

Information on the Gambling Act, 2005 for Local Residents

Local residents will be able to make representations to the Licensing Section of Surrey Heath Borough Council when an application is made to obtain a premises licence within their local area. Residents can also make representations when an existing licence is varied or being reviewed.

Representations can only be made by Interested parties or a responsible authority.

An interested Party is a person who:

- Lives sufficiently close to the premises to be affected by the proposed activities
- Has business interests that might be affected by the proposed activities
- Represents people in either of the above groups (e.g. lawyer, accountant, councillor, community association, chamber of commerce etc)

Responsible Authorities include those who are responsible for the well being of children and vulnerable people, and other public bodies such as the Police.

➤ ***How will I know when a licence is being applied for or reviewed?***

Licence applicants will be required to advertise their intention to apply for a licence for a set period, probably 28 days.

They must do so on, or close to the site itself and probably within a local publication, such as the local newspaper.

Notices may also be placed in a main public building, such as the local library.

➤ ***How do I make Representations?***

To make a representation, you will need to write to the Licensing section, Surrey Heath Borough Council stating your concerns about a particular application or an existing licence.

You will need to meet the criteria of an 'Interested party' or a 'responsible authority' and all concerns must be relevant.

Concerns should not be about gambling in general, nor should they be about planning issues, which should be addressed to Surrey Heath Borough Council Planning department, or anti social issues which should be reported to the Police. A representative may write on your behalf.

If, under delegated powers, the licensing Manager agrees that you meet the criteria of interested party **AND** that your concerns are relevant, you will be invited to a formal hearing.

The applicant and other people who have made representations may also attend this hearing, at which the application is discussed. You may ask a representative to speak on your behalf.

If, however you decide that you want to withdraw your representations or that you are happy for Surrey Heath Borough Council to determine the application without a hearing, you may give your consent for the hearing to be dispensed with. Surrey Heath Borough Council may endeavour to involve you in informal discussions to see if your concerns can be addressed prior to a hearing.

Surrey Heath Borough Council Licensing Section will advise you of the outcome of the application. If a licence is to be granted, you will be advised of the conditions under which gambling may take place.

➤ ***What if I don't agree with the decision?***

Appeals against any decision made by Surrey Heath Borough Council are made to the Magistrates' Court.

➤ ***What if I have concerns about a gambling premises once it has been issued with a licence?***

The Council may review a licence at any time. It may do this if local people have expressed concerns about a premises.

For any further information regarding any other the issues raised, please do not hesitate to contact the Licensing Section.

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