

Press Release



Residents Still Worried by Casino Plans

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Status: For immediate use

The Bell Tower Community Association in Reading has welcomed rejection of a planning application for a late-night casino on Caversham Road, but residents are still worried by an application for a premises licence for the same venue.

Landowners had applied to convert two shops between Reading fire station and Drews the Ironmongers into a casino, which would have been open until 6am every night. The Bell Tower Community Association coordinated objections to the plans from local residents who were concerned about late night noise, traffic and disruption.

Bell Tower member David Neale spoke at a recent Council planning committee meeting against the plans. After hearing of local residents' concerns, councillors threw out the plans.

Chairman of Bell Tower, Teresa Colliass, said, "We're pleased that Reading Borough Councillors rejected the planning application but unfortunately the fight isn't over. There is still an application for a premises licence that would allow late night use of the venue, and if that's granted it would be much easier for any future planning application to succeed. The site is right next to a quiet residential area and is completely the wrong site for a late night venue."

The casino was proposed to be open until 6am, with a smoking terrace at the rear. Residents, especially those whose gardens back on to the site and who live next to the car park, felt that it would have been impossible to avoid disruption from noise, shouting and traffic movements late at night.

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Teresa continued, “We have objected to the premises licence and hope that the Council refuse the application. But in any case, the owners might appeal against refusal of their planning application, or submit a new scheme to the Council. Either way, we’ll be ready to fight it again if we need to.”

Ends.

Notes to Editors

Bell Tower Community Association

- The Association was founded in October 2005.
- It represents 600 homes and businesses in the area bounded by Caversham Road, Northfield Road, Barry Place, the residential end of Cardiff Road, Addison Road, Denbeigh Place and Randolph Road.
- It represents the local community, organises events, publishes a quarterly newsletter and operates a members' discount scheme with local businesses.
- It has been nominated for a Pride of Reading Award for its work on cleaning up graffiti.
- The neighbourhood has no historic name so the association took on the name of a local landmark, the bell tower on E P Collier Primary School in Swansea Road. The tower can be seen from all over the area.

Information

For more information please contact:

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