

Dear Kate,

I have had a long conversation with Edward Highfield Sheffield City Council and he suggested I contacted you to ask for a place at the Casino Advisory Panel.

I am Chair of Darnall Forum and have been involved in the Casino developments, having met representatives from both Sun International and MGM. I have also been present at meeting organised by Clive Betts MP. The local press suggested that people like myself wishing to be part of the process should express a wish to speak for or against the Casino Development. I am afraid I do not want to do either because I do not think the argument for or against has yet been won. We are continually told what the benefits to our local community will be being classed as deprived and situated on the very edge of either development which might take place in the Lower Don Valley, but at present these are just words with no guarantees. I am particularly concerned that the negative impact of increased gambling facilities on our doorstep may outweigh all the benefits currently being hailed as positive. The environmental impact of increased traffic will most certainly affect the quality of the air we breath in the East End of the City and it is my view that whether the Casino is situated in the Valley or at Bramhall Lane there will be a considerable increase in traffic on the M1. and the Parkway. All the operators acknowledge this but no-one has come up with a satisfactory solution. For the development to have a regeneration effect on the local communities surrounding the Lower Don Valley there are some very serious questions to be answered about job opportunities and some commitment to local people regarding their ability to secure these.

Should Sheffield be successful in their bid I understand the licence will produce a large income for the City Council and whilst I admit it is a Regional Casino and the region can expect to benefit from any income I think the local communities who have to live with the inconvenience and negative effects should be guaranteed a percentage for a fixed number of years to come.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely.

Sylvia Hamilton
Chair Darnall Forum