

# Chelmsford

Here is summary of representations received in relation to Chelmsford's' casino bid.

## Support

- We received 6 letters of support for Chelmsford's casino bid.
- One letter suggested that there is a lack of facilities in Chelmsford for older residents, and that this would be a facility for the older residents of Chelmsford to enjoy<sup>1</sup>.
- Another letter pointed out that Chelmsford is currently in a recession and the casino would contribute many jobs<sup>2</sup>.
- It was suggested that a casino would enhance the town's attraction as a progressive and forward looking borough, with one respondent suggesting that casinos offered a safe way for single, and perhaps older, women to meet friends in a safe environment<sup>3</sup>.

## Objections

- We received 56 letters opposing Chelmsford's bid.
- 5 Coupons from a local newspaper were received all against the bid. Typical of the comments were that a casino would alter the tone and respectability of Chelmsford<sup>4</sup>.
- Several letters were received from those in the Christian community<sup>5</sup>, including the Chelmsford Community Church, worried about the impact that gambling and debt would have on the community<sup>6</sup>.
- Rising levels of debt was suggested as a reason why there should not be a casino in Chelmsford<sup>7</sup>.
- It was argued by a couple of respondents that there are already enough premises in Chelmsford for betting and gambling<sup>8</sup>.
- It was argued that there will be little benefit at all to local shops since they will not be open when the casino would be operating, and that local pubs, clubs would lose out as customers spent their money at the casino instead<sup>9</sup>.
- One letter highlights the fears that there will be negative impact on public order in the vicinity of the casino.<sup>10</sup>
- A large number of respondents commented on the general harm that gambling addiction can have on those who get hooked.

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<sup>1</sup> Barry Mountain, 10 June 06

<sup>2</sup> Mr A Benson, 5 June 06

<sup>3</sup> BK Greenaway, by email

<sup>4</sup> A Casino For Chelmsford? Coupon from Local Chronicle Chelmsford Newspaper

<sup>5</sup> Including Pamela Stevens, 45 Aubrey Close, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 4EJ, Rev Robin Merrifield & James Bell, Tile Kiln Church, Robin Way, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 8AU, Rev Jane Mortimer & Mrs Gwyneth Rye, of the Chelmsford Group of United Reformed Churches, Chelmsford, Jean McAslan, Church Secretary, Christ Church United Reformed Church, Chelmsford and Peter Balls, Senior Pastor of Chelmsford Community Church

<sup>6</sup> Chelmsford Community Church, PO Box 7764 Chelmsford.

<sup>7</sup> Elizabeth Fowler, 68 Haig Court, Chelmsford CA72 OBJ 25 June 2006, Mrs Pam Myrall, by email,

<sup>8</sup> Andrew and Jill Luce, 10 Berkely Drive Chelmsford, CM2 6XR 19 June 2006, C.A Turner 18 June 2006, Annemarie Berry, 9 June 06

<sup>9</sup> John Bedwell Chelmsford Essex 23 June 2006

<sup>10</sup> Patricia and John Lillywhite, 12 June 06

