

# Middlesbrough

Here is summary of the 7 representations received in relation to Middlesbrough Council's casino bid.

## Support

- We received no letters in support of a casino in Middlesbrough.

## Objections

- We received 7 letters opposing Middlesbrough's casino bid.
- One was generally opposed to gambling and concerned about the negative social effects it would bring to the area; the letter also mentioned that a college and university were planned to be built on the same site.<sup>1</sup>
- Another came from a representative of a Community Council which did not support Middlesbrough's bid on the grounds that it was incompatible with faiths in the areas, and that gambling would have a harmful effect on the community.<sup>2</sup>
- Another 3 letters identified Middlesbrough as one of the most deprived areas in the country (37% unemployment and 12 of the 23 most deprived wards in the country) with a population potentially prone to problem gambling, and therefore feel it an inappropriate location for a casino.<sup>3</sup>
- The same three objected to the proposed site for the casino which is in close proximity to the local student community (University of Teeside and proposed site of Middlesbrough College – close to population of 35,000 young people).<sup>4</sup>
- The same 3 letters again expressed concern that the establishment of a casino in Middlesbrough would be detrimental to existing leisure facilities and businesses.<sup>5</sup>
- One letter called for more sporting and leisure facilities for the young, rather than a casino in Middlesbrough, which would bring about social problems. He also questions what safeguards are in place to tackle problem gambling.<sup>6</sup>
- One individual was particularly disappointed that no public meetings had been arranged in the town regarding its casino bid, and attached a letter detailing environmental problems on the Middlehaven site.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Colin Bradshaw; Middlesbrough Multi-Faith Development Group, 12 February 2006

<sup>2</sup> Kenneth E Johnson; Brookfield Community Council, 12 February 2006

<sup>3</sup> Revd Paul Wood; The Methodist Church, 10 April 2006; Mrs Jacqui Fyfe; Stockton Methodist Church, 18 March 2006; Revd Helen Jobling; The Middlesbrough and Eston Methodist Circuit, 15 March 2006

<sup>4</sup> Revd Paul Wood; The Methodist Church, 10 April 2006; Mrs Jacqui Fyfe; Stockton Methodist Church, 18 March 2006; Revd Helen Jobling; The Middlesbrough and Eston Methodist Circuit, 15 March 2006

<sup>5</sup> Revd Paul Wood; The Methodist Church, 10 April 2006; Mrs Jacqui Fyfe; Stockton Methodist Church, 18 March 2006; Revd Helen Jobling; The Middlesbrough and Eston Methodist Circuit, 15 March 2006

<sup>6</sup> George Ward, 21 March 2006

<sup>7</sup> Dennis Lane, 10 March 2006