

Appendix L

POLL ON SUNDAY OPENING OF CINEMAS

On Saturday 26 January 1935, a poll was held upon the question of the Sunday opening of cinemas within the area covered by the Urban District of Harrow. The question asked of the electorate, and the result, was as follows:

Are you for or against the proposal that application should be made to Parliament for powers enabling the appropriate licensing authority to allow cinematograph entertainment on Sundays in this Urban District?

Electors: 68,520 Turnout: 24.4%

Valid Votes	Option	Votes	%
16,710	For	8,761	52.4
	Against	<u>7,949</u>	<u>47.6</u>
		812	4.8

The *Harrow Observer* (Friday 1 February 1935) reported:

“Both sides had a number of cars in use taking voters to the various polling stations, of which there were 75. One of the stations was situated on the borders of Hertfordshire, near Elstree. From what one could observe during the day it appeared that the cinema people [the Sunday Films Association] had far more cars available than the opposition. On the other hand the Sunday Defence Association had about 20 sandwich men parading the principal streets and also a car fitted with a loudspeaker, urging residents to vote against the proposition. No doubt the bitterly cold weather conditions which prevailed on Saturday prevented many from going to vote. The officers at some of the polling stations had little to do all day and were not sorry when the stations closed at eight o’clock.”