

Durham County Council
Planning Development
Central/East Room 4/86-102
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UL

City of Durham Council
c/o Room 103
Floor 1
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UF

8 July 2018

Dear Ms Morina,

DM/18/01582/FPA Elm Tree Inn, 12 Crossgate, Durham DH1 4PS

I am writing on behalf of the City of Durham Council to object to one aspect of the above proposal. You will recognise these comments as they are essentially the same as the ones I submitted in a personal capacity on 28 June. Our Planning Committee has now considered them and wishes to add its weight to this objection.

Currently there is a shallow ramp at the rear of the Elm Tree, which means there is level access to the dining area and the ladies and gents toilets. This proposal would see this being replaced with four steps each 150mm high, which would mean there was no level access to the pub.

The Equality Act 2010 requires businesses such as pubs to make reasonable adjustments to remove barriers for disabled people. This planning application is actually introducing a barrier where none exists at present.

The proposal should be amended to overcome this issue. The Saved Policies of the City of Durham Local Plan, the NPPF, the emerging County Durham Plan and the draft Neighbourhood Plan all require good design, and we feel these policies are relevant here. We would draw your attention to City of Durham Saved Policy Q1.

If this can be done, we would have no objection to the amended proposals going ahead.

Yours sincerely,

ROGER CORNWELL

Chair, Planning Committee