



**CITY OF DURHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**

Learning from the past.
Building for the future.

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13 July 2020

Dear Ms Eden,

DM/20/01718/FPA | Temporary change of use of part circulation/amenity space to allow outdoor seating areas (until 30th September 2021) The Riverwalk Millburngate Durham DH1 4SL

The Parish Council is sympathetic to this planning application, but feels that if it is approved it must be subject to an overriding condition that it must at all times comply with whatever social distancing regulations apply at the relevant time. As we have seen over the past four months, these are subject to frequent change and this will doubtless continue to be the case over the next fourteen months.

The Government advice¹ at the time of writing is "... that you keep two metres away from people as a precaution or one metre when you can mitigate the risk by taking other precautions in this list."

Our view is that where there are two seating areas separated by circulation/amenity space then there should be a gap of four metres between the two areas to enable people to pass between these areas while remaining two metres or more away from the seated patrons, bearing in mind that there could be people sitting on both sides of this passageway. If the rules change then this limit would obviously change.

On checking the plans, we have no problems with Delaney's Donkey, Flip Stack, and El Pincho. But it seems to us that Thai River, BizR and Old Toms do not leave enough space for people to pass safely at the present time. Therefore the amount of outdoor seating allocated to these premises needs to be reduced in order to comply with the social distancing regulations. If this can be done, we would be happy to support this planning application.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Shanley
Clerk to the City of Durham Parish Council

1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home/staying-safe-outside-your-home>