



CITY OF DURHAM  
PARISH COUNCIL

Learning from the past.  
Building for the future.

Mr Jonathon Hughes  
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Durham  
DH1 5UQ

City of Durham Parish Council  
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8 Millennium Place  
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DH1 1WA

17 August 2020

Dear Mr Hughes,

**Tables and Chairs licensing consultation - Champagne Bar, Millennium Place, Durham, DH1 1SQ**

The Parish Council Licensing Committee considered this application at its meeting on 14 August 2020 and resolved to object to this application.

It should firstly be noted that a number of planning applications to turn this open space in Millennium Place into an enclosed beer garden have been submitted to the Local Authority; one of which (DM/20/01606/FPA) is currently pending consideration and the two previous applications (DM/18/02988/FPA and DM/17/02131/FPA) were both rejected on public safety grounds.

In the report for application DM/17/02131/FPA for instance, the officer states: ***“the proposed change of use by virtue of its siting would be considered to have an adverse impact on the visual amenity of the public open space and represent an unacceptable incursion into the public realm that would in turn adversely impact on the requirements of users, in terms of personal safety and crime prevention, the access needs of people with disabilities, the elderly and children, and introduce conflict between users, pedestrians and effective access at all times for emergency services.”***

The committee fully supports the objection from Durham Constabulary to the current change of use application (DM/20/01606/FPA) which states: ***“in the event of a mass evacuation the head of each stairwell is a potential pinch point, the area proposed for the Beer Garden is an integral part of the landing designed to help absorb the press of people in the event of a blockage on the lower staircase, in that respect we suggest the area must be kept clear, we are against the installation of anything in this space...With customers having to leave the bar and then descend the staircase to access the beer garden, there is a lack of ownership for this area. When the area is not in use as a beer garden the tables, chairs and balustrades will be in the public domain and open to anyone who wishes to use them. This is likely to create a conflict point as well as an enforcement issue”.***

The Committee believes that this application also breaches the no-obstruction condition as set out in the Business and Planning Act 2020.

It should also be noted that an attempt to use this space to site a Christmas tree in 2018 also failed when the business was asked to remove it. We are also mindful of the tragic events of February 2018, when a student fell in a crush at adjacent premises and died.

The committee sympathises with the desire of this business to encourage trade in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak however this application should be refused on the grounds of public safety being compromised.

Yours sincerely,

**Adam Shanley**  
**Clerk to the City of Durham Parish Council**