

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

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

3 January 2019

Dear Mr Jones,

Planning Application DM/18/03487/VOC Variation of condition 13 pursuant to planning permission DM/18/00310/VOC in order to extend the opening hours for the D2 cinema use to be open from 9am to 3am every day at The Riverwalk, Millburngate, Durham DH1 4SL.

I am writing on behalf of the City of Durham Parish Council to object to the above application for a variation in the approved opening hours for the Odeon cinema in The Riverwalk, Durham City.

The City of Durham Parish Council Planning Committee discussed this application at its meeting on 14th December 2018. We noted that the grounds put forward for extending the opening hours so as to be open from 9am to 3 am every day including public holidays are essentially to conform to standard Odeon cinema operating hours throughout the country. There are no further explanations and no discussion of the particular circumstances in this location.

The Riverwalk development includes the houses in Lambton Walk, part of the original Milburngate development built in the mid seventies. Its occupants have not suffered significant night-time disturbance until now. There is also a large residential component, Dunholm House, now occupied by up to 253 students. The adjacent approved redevelopment scheme for the former Milburngate House site includes several hundred residential apartments. There is a real and present association between places of assembly being open until the early hours and consequential disturbance threatening the amenity and quiet enjoyment that residents should be able to expect.

The Parish Planning Committee therefore considers that this application should be refused, and that the currently approved closing times of 12 midnight Sunday-Thursdays and 2am on Friday and Saturday would be appropriate for the Odeon cinema in this particular location. Our reasons are as in the report approving application DM/18/00310/VOC: in the interests of residential amenity having regards to Policies U5 and U7 of the City of Durham Local Plan and Part 11 of the NPPF.

Yours sincerely,

ROGER CORNWELL

Chair, Parish Planning Committee