



**CITY OF DURHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**

Learning from the past.
Building for the future.

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29 July 2020

Dear Michelle,

DM/20/01606/FPA | Change of use of open space to beer garden including shelving, stools, parasol and metal barriers. | Ebony Unit 8 Freemans Place Durham DH1 1SQ

The City of Durham Parish Council Planning Committee looked at this application at their meeting on the 24th July 2020 and resolved to object.

This is the third application to turn this open space in Millennium Place into an enclosed beer garden (previous applications were 18/02988 and 17/02131 and both were rejected. An attempt to use this space to site their Christmas tree in 2018 also failed when they were asked to remove it). The committee feel that this application should be refused for the same reasons that the previous applications were refused as nothing has changed in the meantime.

The Parish Council objected to the previous application citing City of Durham Saved Policies Q1, Q2 and Q7 which are still extant. We would also like to endorse Durham Constabulary's objection on safety grounds which is supported by National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 95 which states "*Planning decisions should promote public safety*". We are mindful of the tragic events of February 2018, when a student fell in a crush at adjacent premises and died. Public safety should not be compromised.

We sympathise with the desire of this business to encourage trade in the wake of the Covid19 outbreak but do not feel this merits a permanent change when a temporary relaxation of the rules may be possible, if this can be done safely. This application for a permanent change of use should therefore be refused

Yours sincerely,

ADAM SHANLEY

Clerk to the City of Durham Parish Council