



**CITY OF DURHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**

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22nd December 2021

Dear Ms Eden,

DM/21/03052/FPA | Change of use of circulation/amenity space to outdoor seating areas | The Riverwalk Millburngate Durham DH1 4SL

Thank you for re-consulting the Parish Council on the amended plans for this application. The Parish Council writes to confirm its intention to maintain its objection.

The Parish Council fully sympathises with the desire of local businesses to use outdoor seating to encourage trade in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Parish Council also thanks the applicant for providing the additional information regarding the layout of the outdoor seating proposed, the reduction in proposed seating and the proposed outdoor management plan.

On 2nd October 2020, the County Council granted permission for a temporary change of use of the part circulation/amenity space to allow outdoor seating areas for the following premises at Riverwalk: Biz R, Old Tom's, Thai River, Flip and Stack, Delaney's Donkey and El Pincho (DM/20/01718/FPA). Condition 1 of the Approval Notice states: *"This permission is granted for a temporary period until 30th September 2021, thereafter the site shall be reinstated to its former use and condition. Reason: The development is only considered suitable for a temporary period in response to the ongoing Covid-19 situation."*

As set out in our letter of September 2021 to the original proposals, the Local Planning Authority has a duty to consider public safety and take into account any third-party views from interested parties. It is therefore imperative that the Police take a view on whether the provision of additional outdoor trading areas at the location proposed would be at the detriment of public safety and the ease of evacuation of the site.

The Parish Council maintains its objection to this application, subject to the responses from both Environmental Health and the Police on the suitability of this amended scheme.

I would be most grateful if you could keep me updated on any response you receive from both parties but, in the meantime, the Local Planning Authority cannot move to determine this application in our view.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Shanley

Clerk to the City of Durham Parish Council