

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2022/2095/PVL	Julian Date	19/05/2022 16:58:41	OBJ	<p>I live at Flat 3, 3 Monmouth Street, WC2H 9DA (3 doors from the premises concerned) and usually park my car in the residents' parking bay that will be lost if this application is granted. The number of alternative parking spaces in the immediate area of Seven Dials has reduced in recent years, so this loss would be a real detriment to a number of nearby residents.</p> <p>While I am always keen to support local businesses, the cafe has not made a good start by changing the shopfront without permission (including a hatch directly onto the pavement causing congestion when people wait), and placing chairs and tables and an A-Board on the pavement without permission. This attitude does not bode well for future neighbourliness and thoughtful management of this public space. My own view is that the current chairs and small tables against the shopfront are acceptable and help create an attractive streetscape, but the hatch and A-board are an obstruction, and cause particular difficulties for passers by in wheelchairs or with pushchairs or carrying luggage.</p> <p>As well as the problem of the loss of residents' parking, I am concerned at the general principle of allocating public space to the exclusive use of private businesses. I appreciate that these "pavement licences" were introduced during the pandemic when customers needed to be outside and businesses were struggling - which was helpful and sensible - but that emergency has thankfully now passed.</p>

Total: 8