
From: William Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 May 2022 17:37
To: Planning Planning
Cc: Amanda Rigby; L Whitehorn; Phoebe Reith
Subject: Application Number: 2022/2095/PVL

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Re; application Number: 2022/2095/PVL
Closure of parking bay in favour of cafe seating

Dear sir,

This proposal is completely unacceptable. Losing these residents' parking spaces on Monmouth Street would be a huge blow, given that so many spaces having been taken away already. Yet again businesses are being prioritised over residents and it is simply not fair. Through the pandemic we understood that we all had to pull together, businesses and residents alike. The residents have been very patient through this time but as the city opens up again greater consideration has to be given to people who live here full time.

This establishment has already opened a serving hatch onto the street and set up outdoor seating, all I believe without a licence, which illustrates their general contempt for due process. Where there is room, actual pavement seating for cafes is welcome and has been successful on Shaftesbury Avenue, but this is not a proposal for pavement seating, it's a proposal for parking space seating to increase their profits at the cost of a reduction of quality of life for those of us who cannot avoid the need for keeping a vehicle.

The continual erosion of residents' parking over the past few years and our constant battle to retain them is extremely disheartening. Council tax, residents' parking fees and congestion charges all continue to increase whilst what we receive for them continually decreases. Taking away yet more parking spaces doesn't mean we don't need the vehicles any more, it just punishes us for something we can't avoid.

The number of parking spaces has been reduced so dramatically that on occasion I have had to park as far away as the British Museum which, aside from being inconvenient, has the knock on effect of taking parking spaces away from the residents there.

The lack of parking is also making it harder and harder to get tradespeople to come to the house - they just won't come if it's too difficult to park which creates huge problems when we need any kind of domestic services.

Although known for its retail and tourist attractions, Seven Dials continues to be home to a great many residents, as it has been for generations (I have lived on Neal Street for 30 years and am by no means the longest-serving resident). As we saw during the pandemic, the businesses come and go but the residents remain so please give us more consideration in these planning matters.

It is time to end to Covid-era 'pavement licenses' - or at very least to restrict them to the actual pavements so we can get our parking spaces back.

Best regards,

