

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2022/3328/PVL	Covent Garden Community Association (Elizabeth Bax, Chair of Planning Subcommittee)	10/08/2022 20:19:25	OBJNOT	<p>Covent Garden Community Association has a number of comments to make on this proposal, as the amenity society for the area where the application is located.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>We do not object to the principle of the hotel having 8 tables and 16 chairs outside, but ask that any consent is subject to the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The plan drawing should be slightly augmented to make clear that the chairs are set facing in the direction of the street, not at right angles to it. We have spoken to the General Manager of the hotel, and this is his intention. <p>However, without a clearer plan the hotel staff often set the chairs outwards, in error, as shown in the photograph below. This means that, when customers sit down, their legs stretch across the narrow pavement and insufficient clear passage remains.</p> <p>(PLEASE SEE OUR FULL LETTER FOR IMAGES)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The plan drawing should be slightly augmented to include measurements, as required by the council's long-standing guidance and by standard condition 2 for pavement licences. The clear width of pavement should be indicated, and checked that it is well above the 1.8m minimum. 3. The hours should be reduced to 10pm at the latest in this residential area. When pavement licensing was introduced in Camden, a maximum terminal hour of 10pm was agreed by many other operators in the Seven Dials area – which is already an hour later than the 9pm exception allowed under the council's long-standing Tables & Chairs guidance. Unfortunately, if furniture remains out after this time it often attracts antisocial behaviour, and when it is put away as late as 11pm it makes a noise that can disturb residents. 4. Other items should be removed from the pavement unless and until consented, as required by the council's long-standing guidance and by standard conditions 15 and 24 for pavement licences. <p>Some odd things, like an A-Board, a cart, and a pile of suitcases acting as a planter have been added outside these premises recently, as shown in the photographs below. These are sometimes placed so as to cause obstruction.</p> <p>(PLEASE SEE OUR FULL LETTER FOR IMAGES)</p> <p>In addition, if a reputable premises like this does not stick to the rules then it acts as a disincentive to other operators to do so either, as evidenced on the recent street survey with enforcement officers when we counted around 30 A-Boards and many other unconsented items on Monmouth Street alone.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. It is unfortunate that customers at these tables unwittingly attract people who approach them and beg for money. The customers of this hotel are known by the street population and by gang-related actors to be generous, with £20 notes being handed over in what customers believe to be a gesture of goodwill that helps. Of course, locals know well that this only fuels street drug and knife crime, and makes life very difficult for

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people who live in the area.

If possible, we would ask that notices are placed on the tables gently requesting that customers do not give money to anyone who approaches them in this way. They could perhaps be redirected to give to a charity such as St. Mungo's, via a QR code on the notice.

It should be noted that the applicant does not yet comply with condition 22 for pavement licences, that signage shall be placed on each of the tables requesting that patrons respect local residents and keep noise to a minimum. Please ensure that this is done, and perhaps the additional wording in relation to begging could be added to the same notice.
