

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2022/3671/PVL	Covent Garden Community Association (Elizabeth Bax, Chair of Planning Subcommittee)	02/09/2022 23:11:29	OBJNOT	<p>As the amenity society for the area, Covent Garden Community Association OBJECTS to this application as currently proposed.</p> <p>We would not object to a layout where the chairs could not be pulled back into the pathway of passing pedestrians.</p> <p>We ask for hours more suited to an area with many family flats close by, with furniture being put out of use by 10pm at the latest on any night.</p> <p>We also ask for the removal of the sign board and barrel, which add clutter and risk.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>LAYOUT OF FURNITURE</p> <p>Local residents have repeatedly complained about the furniture outside these premises. The problem occurs because some chairs have their backs to the kerb and, when they are in use, they are moved well back from the positions show in the plan. This results in far less than the required 1.8m clear pavement width, and people cannot easily get past. We are aware of complaints made to the council because wheelchairs have been unable to pass.</p> <p>The situation is shown in photographs supplied to us by residents, some of which are shown below.</p> <p>The plan shows a post near the kerb, but does not show the bicycles which are normally attached to it, further narrowing the available space. Nor does it take account of delivery bikes parked outside as shown below.</p> <p>Please ask the applicant to revise the plan so that no chairs have their backs to the kerb. This could be achieved by setting tables with chairs facing along the building line, for example. Indeed, 4 chairs could then be used at each table and the number of tables reduced without reducing the number of covers.</p> <p>(SEE FULL LETTER FOR IMAGES showing obstruction to pedestrians when chairs are in use.)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>HOURS</p> <p>The restaurant is situated on a quiet street away from the main commercial areas of Covent Garden. It is predominantly residential. There are flats above and beside the premises, and a block of 9 social housing flats directly opposite the premises which house families and elderly people - including children who need to get to sleep reasonably early on school nights. There is a large block of 105 social housing flats diagonally opposite.</p> <p>Sounds carries from people eating and drinking outside and cannot be kept out of people's flats when there are as many as 30 customers involved. The noise of furniture being cleared away is even more disturbing. The Tables &amp; Chairs guidance for this area has always set 9pm as an exceptional terminal hour. The</p>

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application for 10.30pm is far too late in this location. At the very most, 10pm should be the latest time for furniture to be put away. Even in Seven Dials this was the latest terminal hour for 'streateries' to operate, as an exception after the pandemic.

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**CLUTTER**

The plan shows a barrel and sign board in addition to the 10 Tables, 30 Chairs and 3 Planters mentioned on the Camden planning portal. Please ask the applicant to remove these. They add unnecessary clutter to the public realm, and sign boards notoriously end up in dangerous positions across the pavement during the course of a day as can be seen in one of the photographs above.

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