Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:
2022/4403/PVL	Covent Garden Community Association (Elizabeth Bax, Chair of Planning Subcommittee)	19/10/2022 16:39:11	OBJNOT

Response:

The Covent Garden Community Association (CGCA), as the recognised amenity society for the area, OBJECTS to this application.

Printed on: 20/10/2022

09:10:18

We ask you to refuse it as it stands, and to give consent at most for 1 table and 2 chairs (facing along the building line) until 21:00 hours.

The premises most recently had consent for:

- 2 tables & 2 chairs immediately outside the premises until 30/09/22, ref. 2021/5376/PVL.
- 4 tables & 8 chairs in the middle of Neal's Yard until 30/09/22, ref. 2022/2540/TC (for joint use by its sister restaurant, The Barbary).

There are two main issues with the application: excessive amount of furniture for the location, and too late a terminal hour.

You will also be aware from numerous complaints that the premises has failed to keep to their pavement licence as listed above, showing no respect for the rules or for their neighbours.

OBSTUCTION CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF FURNITURE FOR THE LOCATION

The unit is located at the South East corner of Neal's Yard, just before the alleyway to Shorts Gardens which is only 2.1m wide. The area where tables & chairs are proposed is a 'pinch point' and it can hardly accommodate any items without narrowing the space needed for pedestrians. It is worrying that the edges of buildings in Neal's Yard are not shown on the plan. They should be shown in the bottom right corner.

The furniture immediately outside the premises has already caused problems. The premises has put out 2 tables & 4 chairs all Summer, which is 2 more chairs than consented, but 1 less than now being applied for. These block clear passage for pedestrians when they are actually being used by customers rather than in their initial position.

Footfall has increased in Covent Garden since the pandemic. The volume of pedestrian traffic requires far more than the 1.8m minimum free width required in the council's Tables & Chairs guidance and Condition 2 of Camden's Conditions of Pavement Licences. However, even this amount will be unavailable with 5 chairs in this spot, once they are in use by customers. The impact on wheelchair and pushchair users in these situations is particularly upsetting.

At a push we believe that the space immediately outside the premises could accommodate 1 table and 2 chairs facing along the building line. This configuration has less potential to cause obstruction when moved around by customers, because chairs do not have their backs facing across the direction of pedestrian flow.

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				NOISE NUISANCE CAUSED BY TOO LATE A TERMINAL HOUR
				Noise from table service outside in Neal's Yards can be at such a high level as to pass through residents' windows into their flats even with the windows closed. It causes nuisance in contravention of Condition 12 of Camden's Conditions of Pavement Licences.
				Causes of high noise levels in this area include:
				 Noise from service, and from customers at tables and chairs, which echoes in the narrow space with its high walls.
				- Painful sound spikes that are generated from tables and chairs being put away late, after everything else in the area has fallen silent, and sometimes after the end of the permitted period in contravention of Condition 11 of Camden's Conditions of Pavement Licences.
				- Staff talking loudly as they clear up, often despite repeated requests from residents that they show respect to the families sleeping above.
				These premises are located in a residential courtyard where families with children live. In very recent years some furniture has been allowed outside at much later hours by the council, which is unfair to them and very difficult to live with.
				We do not understand why any premises here have been allowed to have a terminal hour later than the 21:00 set out in Camden's Tables & Chairs guidance for many years, which families can generally live with.
				This application for 22:00 is too late. We ask you to revert to a 21:00 terminal hour at the latest.
2022/4403/PVL	Simvar LACH	18/10/2022 11:45:03	OBJ	Hi, I strongly object this application for Tables and Chairs from this restaurant. First, the passage between Neal's Yard and Short Gardens is narrow so having tables and chairs would obstruct it. Second, there are so many table and chairs in the Yard that it becomes a food court rather than a place where people can just hand around.
				Last but not least, the owners totally disrespect the residents not respecting their current license which only allows 2 Tables + 2 Chairs as they have continuously been installing 4 chairs.
				Regards.