RESPONSE TO SHAUN HARRIS REPRESENTATION-
Documents for reference AWDM/1370/22

Shaun Harris
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"To put table and chairs on the main street in Rowlands road would be a hindrance to the disabled, parents with children in pushchairs. the size of the pavement is around 5.5 feet to 6 foot in width, by putting table and chairs onto this would take away at least 3 - 4 foot, hence not leaving much room for people especailly disabled and parent with small children or pushchairs to pass, also if parent with a group of children should pass, someone would have to walk on the road. There is also a disabled parking bay pratically opposite to where this would be planned to be. This will obviously become a smoking area as well as seating, of which the smoke will rise and so residents would not be able to open their windows at the front of the building during Summertime. Regarding change to a public house/wine bar/drinking establishment, this bar has already increased the noise levels in this area, being able to hear doors banging (from the back of the building), bottles being tipped into bins late at night, it has been known for the establishment to already have a party of which they were messaged regarding the antics of participants and music being played loudish which can be heard throughout the buildings surrounding the bar. The bar has 2 flats above and 4 flat to the left (next to Emerald Finance), this would be a disadvantage for the tenants who have to get up early mornings for work and on days off."

Hello Shaun,
I just wanted to clarify a few things about the application to ease your concerns. We would not consider putting tables and chairs on the pavement as you are quite right, it would not leave adequate space for buggies and wheelchairs. It would also be illegal and would not be approved by the council. We are actually looking to put a few stools outside that would take up no more than 50cm, leaving more than a meter of space for pedestrians. More space than the legal requirement in fact! I would also add that we take disability access very seriously and have manufactured ramps to ensure all our customers are able move around the premises easily and hence have several disabled customers who have signed letters in support of our outside seating!

With regards to your concern about rising noise levels, I would respond by declaring that any business operating in the premises would be likely to make a bit of noise and also would need to occasionally make use of the fire escape (which due to regulations is a very heavy door that requires a firm tug to close properly). I recall when we first opened you shared concerns with me regarding the noise that the previous tenant (Ladbrokes) made and we agreed to keep in

contact and to respond quickly to any issues that arose. We have done as such and as you well know, do not use the heavy fire escape door in the evenings and empty all glass in the late morning. This has been the case for around a year now, so I'm unsure what relevance it has to this application.

Furthermore, we have always responded very quickly to minimise any concerns you have had over the time we have been open and have actively changed our practices to suit you, despite your often hostile attitude towards us. To suggest it has been known for the establishment to have big parties is also a bit of a stretch! We had one private family party in 19 months that finished at 11pm and we responded quickly that evening to your concern about the children making noise in the early evening. It's also fair to note that PCO Emma Ford and her son, who were neighbours directly above our premises, have never made any complaints at all about any noise whatsoever and were actively working with us to improve the crime and disorder in the area. As seen in the letters of support from other direct neighbours (Namely the 4 flats to the left that you mention, above emerald finance), most feel we have had a positive effect on criminal and disorderly behaviour in the neighbourhood by operating CCTV, security lights and being active members of the Worthing Pubwatch Scheme. We also take in packages for all our neighbours (including yourself and your daughter), many of whom are regular customers and have asked us to apply for the outside seating.

Finally, I would like to say that a curfew is being discussed for the outside seating in the interest of avoiding disturbance. Very few of our customers smoke and those that do are unlikely to be able to create such large fumes as to reach three stories above. I do hope that this application doesn't create further hostilities between us and yourself. We are a community focused business and would not put in this application if we thought that it would cause any inconvenience to local residents and businesses.

Kind Regards,

Fleur Penny
Company Director