

Andrew King

From: Planning (Isles of Scilly)
Subject: FW: Planning Application Representation P/22/056/COU
Attachments: Planning Application Representation P-22-056-COU.docx

From: Jeremy Phillips <PROVIDED>
Sent: 02 September 2022 13:19
To: Planning (Isles of Scilly) <planning@scilly.gov.uk>
Subject: Planning Application Representation P/22/056/COU

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Dear Sirs

Planning Application P/22/056/COU

In 2017 the Council licensing department, with no consultation with the public, and no planning permission, tried to establish a number of "fixed trading sites" for takeaway food outlets at various locations in Hugh Town. This resulted in a lot of opposition from the public, particularly from residents whose homes and lives would be adversely affected. It was established that it was illegal to create these sites without planning permission and the plan didn't materialise.

It was therefore disappointing that when early this year the licensing department introduced a scheme to extend street trading to more areas of Hugh town, including Holgates Green and the pavement at Higher Strand, that it was done with no effective consultation with residents and the public (unless you happened to read the notices on the town hall notice board or delved deep into the council's website). We understand that a number of elected councillors were not even aware of the scheme until long after it had been passed into policy.

It was only when residents living in the vicinity of Holgates Green discovered that "Lily's" was about to start trading that the Council conceded that planning permission was required and it was agreed that a retrospective application could be made instead of following the normal process.

"Lily's" may be relatively unobtrusive, but this is not to say that it does not cause nuisance to those living nearby. We believe that this will be used as the thin edge of the wedge, allowing future applicants who wish to operate similar businesses along the Strand to use this as a precedent.

While some forms of street trading could operate without causing disturbance and nuisance, it appears that from some quarters there is a desire to allow the Strand area to be used for more disruptive trading (most obviously takeaway food vans) and to get this policy into place without going through a transparent planning and consultation process. If this goes ahead it will totally change the character of the area, contrary to all the conservation policies and the Council's own local plan.

If this change of use of the whole Holgates Green and Strand area is to be pursued, surely it should not be done piece by piece and pushed in under the radar. The Council should put together a proper planning application for the change of use and allow the public & conservation bodies to make their representations before the elected Councillors consider the issue. It is for this reason that we strongly object to the current application.

The applicant has obtained a number of letters of support. While we understand that a new food outlet is attractive, all of these letters are from people whose homes and lives will not be affected.

Finally, we understand that most, if not all the residents in the immediate area of the application wrote to Council officers voicing their opposition before the planning application, so these letters are not included on the website. We hope that they will also be made available to the planning committee members before a decision is made.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy and Karen Phillips

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