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By Liv Rickman at 12:40 pm, Jun 26, 2023

From: [Alan Hannington](#)
To: [Planning \(Isles of Scilly\)](#)
Subject: Planning reference P/23/036/COU
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To the Chief Planning Officer,

We are contacting you again to object again to the proposed development of Holgates Green as a site for a mobile takeaway unit.

Last year we were told that this wasn't a concern for the Planning Committee, but more a decision for the street-trading licensing body. We objected then for numerous reasons. Our objections were upheld then and nothing has changed since. Now it appears that Planning permission is needed, which begs the question; as Lily's is already trading without planning permission, is it trading illegally? Our causes for concern remain the same.

We feel that turning a sheltered area of Holgates Green into a takeaway site is an inappropriate use of what is the main Open Public space on St. Mary's used by thousands of people throughout the year. What would happen to the annual events that take place on the Green? Most of these occasions benefit the community or charities here and could be cancelled or disrupted by the loss of a proportion of the site in order to favour a commercial business of benefit only to the business owner.

Our very valuable and loyal visitors come to Scilly because we are so different to the mainland with our lack of commercialism, and to enjoy the natural environment. In Penzance last week the whole of the length of the seafront road was lined with various takeaway vans. Horrible!

We already have at least 7 takeaway outlets on St. Mary's, do we really need space taken up by more? These outlets, of necessity, generate queues which on Holgates, will take up room or overspill onto what is already a narrowed road. Then there is the noise that disrupts the peace that everyone enjoys in the evening; the shouting that happens when orders are ready, and the noise of the generator which is persistent and irritating. We have been obliged to come back indoors instead of enjoying the tranquillity of a beautiful summer's evening, and we weren't the only ones. Our visitors, unprompted, have expressed the same views.

As the predominant wind is from the North-East to North-West, any cooking smells from the unit on the Green is directly blown onto the various dwellings along the Strand, some of which are Listed buildings and one a church.

We are worried that yet more rubbish will be generated even though the unit itself will be obliged to dispose of its commercial rubbish in an approved manner. In spite of the extra bins that the Council has provided, careless use by customers leads to overflowing rubbish which blows along the Strand and also onto the beach. Thus one of our greatest concerns is that using Holgates Green as an outdoor food outlet will encourage even more vicious predation from the gull population. Whilst we appreciate that nothing can be done to restrict the gulls, we certainly don't need to do anything at all that will encourage them further.

Another great concern is that by allowing development of Holgates for one takeaway

business, a precedent will be set. Further takeaway businesses will no doubt, take advantage of this planning permission for a change of use. Takeaway Alley would be a real proposition with no valid reason to deny any proposal. Quite apart from the aesthetic damage to the area, this would inevitably cause surface degradation to the Green. The rumours we've heard of about paving or rubber matting will further diminish the amount of space available for public use and enjoyment.

We appreciate that more catering options might be required, but do we actually need more takeaways? Would it not be better to do more to encourage extra cafes and restaurants in the many empty shops and the unused Pub? As was pointed out to us recently, there are far fewer B&Bs now as many have have changed to self-catering establishments. While this puts extra pressure on the Co-op and others, there is a lessening in the necessity to find meals. If takeaway vans are still considered essential, there surely must be other sites which would have less impact on residents and visitors alike.

We are so fortunate to have such a lovely space in Town for everybody's use; for events, a meeting place, for school groups and walking groups to assemble, for Cruise ship passengers to experience Scilly at its best and for the general public to relax and just enjoy the activity in the harbour and so on.

If the proposal to grant permission to develop Holgates Green were to be granted, it will be another nail in the coffin to keep Scilly Special.

We sincerely hope that you will take our concerns on board and seriously consider the implications of your decision.

Melanie Woodcock and Alan Hannington
Lyonnesse House,
Lower Strand,
St. Mary's.