

Hi all,

Please upload to 24/0168/FH.

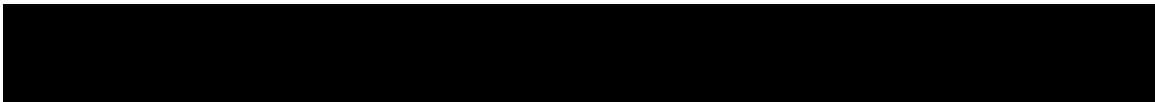
Thank you

Lizzy

-----Original Message-----



Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 7:46 PM
To: Nash, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Nash@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk>
Cc: Campbell, David <David.Campbell@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk>
Subject: Unit 1 West Hythe PLEASE RECONSIDER.



I'm really upset to hear from the local social media and from Unit 1 that the council is refusing retrospective planning permission for Unit 1's outside seating area. As you will have seen on local Facebook sites, that as local councillors you must surely monitor, you will realise the strength of the public outcry about this. This amazing enterprise was a lifesaver for many during the pandemic. It continues to be a popular, thriving concern on an industrial estate in an area that has nothing else. No public toilets, no cafe, despite the council recognising it as such a popular venue that they refurbished the parking area over the road that serves it.

You have admirably made that end of the canal an accessible route for people who walk, cycle, or walk their dogs. If it wasn't for Unit 1 that western end of the canal path would not be used. If families walk or cycle up there there would be no loos, no refreshment. As an older person I need the loo more frequently, so that far would be out of bounds for me and many others. I walk and cycle there with my husband and grandchildren. If we have disabled visitors they very much appreciate its welcoming atmosphere and accessible outdoor areas. We go there often and always sit outside as we like the fresh air and are sometimes muddy. We have never ever seen any rowdy or noisy behaviour, and few, if any, people have. I'm sorry, but a few people must be very vindictive to object to this planning, and it seems there were very few local complainers at the planning meeting when it was turned down. We often chat to people from West Hythe when we're there and they always say it the only social activity locally they have. It has become the heart and focus for this poorly served community.

It's quite unbelievable that the outside area might shut, they shut at 7pm on weekdays and 9pm at weekends. They monitor people leaving and remind them to be respectful. Any occasional evening events they might plan are rare, held inside the premises with limited numbers due to the small space.

Please, please reconsider this decision. This great place has been built up from nothing by sheer hard work and determination and will not survive if they lose the outside seating area. It interferes with no one, it provides many with a reason to get out and exercise, it brings social connections for lonely people, it encourages families to walk and cycle to a safe and welcoming space. The people who sunk their money into it are well known local people who risked a lot to bring something to an area that had nothing. It would be so sorely missed by a huge number of residents.

Please rethink your decision and save this business from closing.

Freda Denyer

Sent from my iPhone