
From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
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To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories:

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0164 Site Address: 3 The Smithfield Centre Ashbourne Road Leek
Staffordshire ST13 5JW LEEK Comments by: Denise Wheat Town ClerkLeek Town Council

From:

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Submission: Objection

Comments: Dear Planning Officers,

At a meeting of Leek Town Council Planning Committee on Tuesday 21st May 2024, the Town Council resolved to object to this application for a change to clause 3 in the original application SMD/2018/0546 extension of opening hours from midnight to 3am with the following concerns:

The Takeaway establishment is opposite the Nicholson War Memorial which Leek Town Council are responsible for in its entirety. The Council are concerned that the seats and litter bins will be used by individuals possible under the influence of alcohol, who may vandalise or damage the War Memorial. The fact that the Monument is a War Memorial needs respect at all times. The seating will encourage a late night picnic, leaving undesirable debris for our maintenance staff to clear every morning increasing Town Council costs.

The Town Council also fund vibrant summer floral displays of three tier hanging baskets and planters which are a focal point of the Town. These are very delicate and would be easily damaged.

The risk of vandalism to the Monument structure itself will rise and as it is a Grade 2 listed building and Portland Stone has to be specialist cleaned. Vandalism would have a detrimental effect on the tourism strategy in Leek, and could cascade down to the business economy of the Town.

The Council are aware of the need to increase night time economy in the Town and do value this, but this location is not close to the late bars and nightclubs and so the Council feel this is the wrong location to allow those opening times.

The seating around the Monument is also immediately adjacent to a hotel where antisocial behaviour outside in the early morning hours may have an effect on their business through client experience and it is important that tourists wish to re-visit the town.

A late opening food outlet will also bring increased taxi frequency to the area which could disrupt residences. It has been researched that the amount of people living in a Town Centre has a positive effect on the economy of Town Centre's. Local residents would not be attracted to live in Leek in an area where a takeaway is open until 3am.

Please take these objections into consideration.

The Council resolve that this application is un-neighbourly.

Yours sincerely

Denise Wheat

Leek Town Clerk

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