

To: [Licensing@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:Licensing@winchester.gov.uk)

10 May 2021

To whom it may concern

I am writing on behalf of the Wickham Society to register our objection to the request from the Old Tea House in Wickham Square to be granted a licence to occupy 6 parking spaces with tables, chairs and planters alongside their premises as well as taking up additional pavement space.

We believe this proposal will:

- further contribute to the lack of parking in the Square in normal trading conditions which is already a significant issue of concern to residents and visitors
- consequently, have a very detrimental effect on the trading opportunities of other traders in the Square, with a further risk to their continuing viability
- reduce the pedestrian accessibility of the pavement alongside the Old Tea House
- be immediately alongside a bus route at a location where buses are making 90 degree turns in the road and therefore be unlikely to create a pleasant place to sit to eat and drink
- create a precedence for other business applications of this nature.

There are approx. 160 parking places in the Square. There are over 80 parking permits for residents in the Square who are entitled to park there at all times for as long as they like. Whilst not every resident entitled to a permit will be parking in the Square at all times, the loss of 6 parking places will be a significant proportion of the remaining parking places. Every parking place throughout the day generates a significant amount churn and thus trade activity as quite a lot of people only pop in to make a purchase and carry on their way. For a shop like Hemmings this proposal could be a disaster as customers unable to park and purchase from them will just go home and order items online.

The Old Tea House already has outside space on its own terrace and is therefore in a position to offer their clients the option of sitting outside, without the need to take up parking spaces or pavements. Whilst there are frequent concerns and issues about the lack of parking in Wickham Square, there has never been any suggestion that is a lack of opportunity to get a drink or food in Wickham. There is already huge choice, both inside, outside and through take away outlets.

There must be much greater public consultation and a holistic review of the total layout, traffic flow and purpose of the Square before such a step of this nature takes place.

Whilst none of us wish to thwart companies to trade, this proposal is too detrimental to others to be justified even in these difficult times and we therefore object to this license request.

Best wishes

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Chairman of Wickham Society

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