

C/26/00360/STC – Eleven Bibury – Objection Representations

Bibury Parish Council

We consider the area is not suitable as it becomes heavily congested with visitors entering the toilets and queueing and is not a hygienic area.

We are concerned any obstacle in this area could cause more congestion and possible accident as footfall is heavy at peak times on this paved area, although there are double yellow lines on the curb-side, vehicles frequently turn around here as it is the widest part of the street.

Michelle Follett Holt

I object to this pavement licence application.

The proposed location, immediately adjacent to the public toilets and along a key pedestrian route, is already a well-established high-footfall pinch point, particularly during peak visitor periods. The introduction of an external ice cream sales point will inevitably increase queuing and congregation in an already constrained space, leading to obstruction of the highway and creating avoidable safety risks.

This section of the village regularly experiences heavy pedestrian movement, informal queuing and limited passing space. Pedestrians already step into the road at this point due to congestion. Introducing a fixed point of sale here will further restrict visibility and movement, increasing the risk of conflict between pedestrians, including families and vulnerable users, and any passing vehicles.

Under the Business and Planning Act 2020, the authority must be satisfied that any pavement licence will not result in obstruction or compromise public safety. In this case, it is difficult to see how that test can be met given the existing levels of congestion at this location.

There are also clear and significant concerns regarding accessibility. Government guidance requires sufficient clear space to be maintained for all users, including wheelchair users, those with mobility impairments, and families with pushchairs. The addition of a pavement-based sales point and associated queuing risks reducing effective pavement width to an unacceptable level, particularly at busy times.

More broadly, this proposal represents a further incremental intensification of commercial activity within a highly sensitive part of Bibury Conservation Area. Small changes of this nature, when taken cumulatively, are contributing to increased pressure on both infrastructure and the character of the village.

The authority should also have regard to the principles set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, which emphasise the importance of creating safe, accessible environments and protecting the character of historic places.

For these reasons, the application fails to adequately address issues of public safety, accessibility and cumulative impact, and should be refused.

Mr Philip Challinor

Bibury is a heritage village and the present over tourism is massively damaging our community. Further cheapening the Bibury tourist experience with more street trading especially next to the exceptional heritage site of Arlington Row would accelerate the village experience towards one of a low quality mass tourism. Such a street stalls would increase litter in this sensitive area and it does not matter if more waste bins are installed as tourists simply dump their trash when they finish eating or drinking their food not at the location of purchase. As the voluntary Bibury Flood Warden one of my tasks has become clearing tourism litter out of the river every 1 or 2 weeks. The litter recovered is coffee cup lids, drink bottles and cans, ice cream tubs and spoons, crisp and chocolate wrappers and street stalls would only increase this problem. Somehow the water voles and other creatures have recently come back to this stretch of river - but having more waste and litter dumped in the river will place them at risk. There are already plenty of venues to purchase drinks and snacks in the village.

The location next to an incredibly busy road will encourage pedestrian to cross this road and put themselves and others at risk.

Mrs Maggie Catling

I object strongly to the idea of siting an ice cream outlet in front of the public toilets in Bibury village. With the number of tourists that Bibury receives, there are often long lines around the public toilets which are sited at a narrow lay-by close to a busy main road. It would seem to me to be extremely dangerous to have further queues

lining up to buy ice cream. There is already an ice cream van that parks in a lay-by opposite the Trout Farm and the Trout Farm itself sells ice cream. I fail to see why a further outlet is needed especially one so close to the public toilets! Not especially pleasant or hygienic! I would hope that someone from the Council would visit the site before giving permission

Mrs Valerie Edward

I strongly object to this application. I believe that setting such a precedent will result in further applications from street vendors reducing the village into a permanent flea market. A busy B road runs through the village - street trading will cause havoc and would be entirely unsafe for pedestrians and motorists alike in an already unsafe and congested environment!

Mr Terence Diver

Wish to object to this application on the grounds of public safety and public nuisance.

Bibury already experiences extremely high visitor numbers and significant congestion, particularly around Arlington Row and the adjacent road network. The proposed trading location is immediately beside the public toilets and directly adjacent to the main carriageway and pedestrian footway.

In my view, the introduction of an ice cream trading unit at this location would inevitably encourage additional pedestrian gathering, queuing and repeated crossing of the main road in an area that is already heavily congested with both vehicles and tourists.

The road through Bibury is frequently subject to traffic delays, congestion and restricted pedestrian movement during busy periods. Additional stopping, hesitation and pedestrian crossings associated with this proposal are likely to worsen traffic flow and create further safety concerns for both pedestrians and motorists.

The submitted application states that the unit would operate seven days per week between 11:00am and 6:00pm during the main tourist season. These are precisely the periods when Bibury already experiences the greatest pressure from visitor numbers and traffic congestion.

I am also concerned that the proposal would add further commercialisation and visual clutter to an already heavily pressured and sensitive village environment.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that the application be refused.

That keeps it measured, local, and grounded in safety/nuisance rather than sounding personal or exaggerated.

Mrs Christina Diver

Wish to object to this application on the grounds of public safety and public nuisance.

As a local resident, I am very concerned about the impact this proposal would have during the already extremely busy tourist season in Bibury.

The proposed location is beside the public toilets and close to the main road, in an area where large numbers of visitors already gather. An ice cream stall in this position is likely to encourage additional queues, stopping and repeated crossing of the road by families and tourists, particularly during peak summer periods.

Traffic congestion through the village is already a significant issue, with regular delays and heavy pedestrian activity. I believe this proposal would further increase congestion and create additional safety concerns for both pedestrians and vehicles.

I am also concerned about the cumulative impact of increasing commercial activity within such a sensitive village setting. Bibury is already under considerable pressure from tourism, and this proposal risks adding further strain to the immediate area.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that the application be refused.

Mr Matthew Liddell

The proposed location is in very close proximity to a public convenience, I don't believe food outlets should in any way be in close proximity to toilets for public health purposes. People leaving the toilets will have to walk past any sales outlet, food or otherwise, they will use the outlet and spread germs directly to the counter,

any condiments, money exchanged, just wrong in every way.

If I were to use the outlet, I wouldn't want any odour from the toilets wafting over me while I'm queuing for or being served food.

Additionally, the specific location already causes problems for locals and the excessive number of tourists due to people congregating while they wait to use the toilet or their friends do. These people then wander into the road without any consideration for their safety or the drivers who have to avoid them. Having a food outlet will exacerbate this dangerous situation.

Bibury doesn't need street food outlets, it has ample places to get a coffee, an ice cream, a cold drink. Another one is not required and will just be another bottleneck and a danger to public safety and if not a contravention of public health regulations certainly a potentially incompatible mix of food and human waste

For these reasons I object.

END