

143. Please record my objection to proposal 16/0366/STCON, which I believe is a request to license a burger van to operate on Clifton Down. I feel it is an inappropriate site for such a facility and would be a source of litter.

144. I wish to preface my objection by saying that throughout my eight years as Chairman of the Sneyd Park Residents' Association I was never faced with an application which has so blatantly ignored any attempt to consult with local residents who would be most adversely affected by this proposed fast food burger van. I am appalled that such a body as the Downs Committee would behave in such an arrogant and self-seeking manner. I object most strongly to the application and also to the manner in which it has been forced through to this stage.

For the sake of brevity I will restrict my objections to four aspects.

Complete Lack of Public Consultation.

I was only made aware of this proposal by a chance remark from a neighbour, who had also heard by word of mouth. This was not until mid-May, which was apparently long after the date for formal objections to be lodged. Although my road, Cook's Folly, plus Avon Grove, Seawalls, The Avenue, etc, are only 200 - 300 yards of the Downs and well within earshot of activities there, I gather that not one house or apartment within these roads had received any notification of this application. Even more seriously is the failure to notify the Sneyd Park Residents' Association and the Neighbourhood Partnership. I had thought that there was a democratic right that residents should be notified of applications and given a legally prescribed time within to lodge objections and comments. Have I missed any recent legislation which has repealed this democratic right? If not, then I suspect that this application might be liable to a judicial review.

2. Utterly inappropriate and intrusive commercial venture in a beauty spot.

If one had been asked to suggest the most inappropriate location for a fast-food outlet of any type Seawalls would head the list. It is a renowned and world famous beauty spot and the best location for viewing the Clifton Suspension Bridge and the Avon Gorge. For the Downs Committee to have even idly thought of locating a burger van there is an act of complete vandalism - and this from a committee charged with protecting the Downs! The whole nature of Seawalls would be changed, utterly damaged by this intrusion. It is not as if the Downs is a remote area, miles and miles from civilisation - there is an excellent cafe by the water tower, and fast-food outlets line Whiteladies Road and Blackboy Hill in abundance.

3. Nuisance.

It is hard to be brief on this topic.

Litter Nuisance - there is already a serious litter problem on the Downs, particularly at Seawalls. On Saturday and Sunday mornings after any reasonably fine evening this area is nauseating! I wonder how many of the Downs Committee or the Licensing Committee have walked or driven around the Circular Road at 7.30/8.00 am? The litter is appalling - the few litter bins are stuffed to overflowing, fast-food cartons line the gutters, the pavements, the grass itself, beer cans and bottles are everywhere. One feels sorry for the staff who have to clear it up. With a fast-food van actually located there the volume would multiply - or are the Downs Committee proposing to employ clearing staff throughout the opening hours of this outlet - this would rather dent the income from the licensing fees!

Smell Nuisance - fast-food smells travel a long way in a breeze and would be intolerable for local residents when the prevailing wind was in their direction. Remember this is not a one-off event - this is for 365 days a year!

Traffic and Parking Nuisance - the increase in traffic simply cannot be visualised, with the area quickly becoming a magnet for commercial drivers - particularly with free parking! Car parking will be for eaters, not for residents and visitors who wish to enjoy peace and quiet and who will quickly be deterred from visiting.

Visual and Noise Nuisance - the presence of an ice cream van is already a jarring note in this spot, and this already is a magnet for cars to stop and create a traffic jam on a busy afternoon. The addition of a much larger burger van will be much more obtrusive and the noise associated with it will make much more of an impact. Peace and tranquillity will be a thing of the past.

4. Public Order.

The Downs already has a bad reputation for drug-dealing, nitrogen oxygen sniffing (small cylinders readily seen in a morning), cottaging, driving across the grass leaving tracks or furrows - all of which seem to be pursued with immunity. A fast-food outlet will only increase the numbers of such incidents.

In conclusion I object in the strongest possible terms to this application for a fast-food outlet of any type to be licensed on the Downs, and particularly at Seawalls. I had always understood that the Downs Committee was charged with the preservation of the Downs for posterity for the residents of the city to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of this unique and world-famous historic

open space. To seek to commercialise it is a betrayal of their duty and I believe that the members should seriously consider their position on the Downs Committee. I ask that the Licensing Committee use their authority to protect the Downs and refuse this application most firmly and give clear guidance that no further application of this nature will be considered.

145. I read that you are proposing a burger van on the Downs to be open at night.

This idea is completely inappropriate for this area many reasons:

It will be very greasy and dirty 2. It will produce a revolting smell that will drift and pollute local people's houses and gardens. 3. It will attract the rabble and gangs and poeple who are attracted to this kind of dirty food and hanging around late at night causing noise, troube and vandalism 4. This is a quiet and pleasant area and we want to keep it that way 5. We want to feel safe in the evenings. 6. Burger vans produce much stinky litter 7. Burgers are very unhealthy and are causing premature death and disease in people who eat them. 8. Burgers are made from the corpses of tortured and murdered cattle among other unimaginably horrible things and we don't want that ugly vibe near a beautiful area. 9. It will pollute a place of natural beauty 10. Burgers are helping to contribute to the destruction of the environment- therefore very inappropriate to put it on the Downs- and by people's houses who find this sort of ugly, dirty, trashy thing abhorrent.

146. I object to the siting of a burger van at Sea Walls for the following reasons:

There will undoubtedly be litter on the proposed site every morning, and very likely through the day.

People living nearby will be subjected to offensive smells and fumes if they have the misfortune to be downwind of the site.

People living nearby will be subjected to additional noise - cars starting and stopping, car doors banging, shouting and so on, which will be especially irritating late at night.

The Downs is a lovely area and a haven for wildlife, this proposal is entirely inappropriate.

We all know this is a simply a way to try and raise money without any consideration for others.

There are already dozens of places to buy burgers etc we don't need another one.

147. I have just seen the notice that an application to operate a Burger Van at Sea Walls is under consideration.

I believe this would seriously degrade an outstanding natural area and well-known view point In many ways:

adding to the litter problem;

litter from burgers will encourage gulls, which are often a nuisance to the point of being threatening and not normally present at the site today;

regrettably, there is a greater chance of poor behaviour, especially in the evenings.

Please reject this proposal as strongly as possible.

148. I object to this application for the selling of burgers and other food from a van at the Sea Walls area of the Downs. This is an area where people go for relaxation and not to smell cooking and see the litter which will be caused by such an outlet. There is already a van selling food near the slip road at the Westbury Park end of the Downs in a more "utilitarian" area for such purposes.

I sincerely hope a licence is not permitted for this purpose.

149. With reference to application ref 16/00366/STCON, I am writing to express my opposition to the intended granting of a license for the purpose of a food outlet.

I understand that the facility will be located on Circular Road, Durdham Downs adjacent to the existing toilet block.

As a resident of Sneyd Park, it is common knowledge that the area in question is already a haunt for drug dealers and for other nefarious activities. It is self evident that the police do not have the necessary resources to deal with the existing problems. The siting of a food outlet will not only encourage existing drug dealers but will also provide fresh untainted footfall and thereby increase the drug trade.

Driving home from an evening out via this spot is already an unpleasant experience, more traffic will not help.

This application will not enhance the area and is surplus to requirement. There is already an abundance of fast food outlets on Whiteladies Road. I can see no reason for such an outlet in this particular location.

I am not in a position to comment on the health, safety and sanitary issues but I would suspect that there are many areas of potential concern.

I would urge you to turn this application down.

150. I am writing to ask you to reject the application for a BURGER BAR at sea walls. My reasons are laid out below.

Litter. Already there is a major problem with litter on the downs. Burger bars, despite all efforts, have a proven history of increasing the amount of litter in their vicinity. Cuts dictate that the litter will not be collected.

Hours: the application is for a 12 hour opening. This is an open invitation for noise, mass gatherings and all that go with them in an area which is a much valued conservation quiet area.

Health. Bristol is rapidly becoming a city known for the quality and integrity of food. Burgers are classified as junk food. Hardly in tune with the desire to promote healthy eating.

Environment. Bristol has gained a reputation as a green city. A burger bar at sea walls is hardly in tune with a green environment.

Shift of focus for the downs. The downs are a much valued facility where the entire community can enjoy an area free of high street detritus. A burger bar sets a precedent for development which could challenge the integrity of the downs.

151. In the event that it is not too late to register an objection to this application, I wish to register my objection on the following grounds

The opening hours that I understand are proposed for the sale of the various items are far too wide ranging especially the option of remaining open after dark with the potential for anti-social behaviour and traffic noise

The type of products being offered make it likely that customers will drive to Sea Walls purely to purchase them thus exacerbating the problems of parking on the Downs

The likelihood of excessive amounts of litter

The reduction in the area available to those who come to enjoy the views

The enjoyment of those who currently come to the area may be marred by the smell of cooking food

152. I've just heard about this proposal and wish to object very strongly:

A hamburger trade at the viewpoint is, I feel, completely out of place. People visit the Downs mainly to enjoy its natural beauty as well as for exercise, sport and leisure, not for commercial purposes

There will be an increase in litter, traffic/cars and lorries parking, noise, and smell

Since 1861, the Downs have been a hugely beneficial special open space for residents, and attract tourists as well. A burger van and all the associated extra traffic and litter will detract from its natural appeal

Please do all you can to prevent this going ahead.

153. When I became aware of this approval I visited the site as I live close by, the purpose was to conduct a mini survey of people who were present.

They included one nearby resident who had not heard the News, but was horrified of such a proposition. A young Polish couple there to admire the view, they said that it was not very English to spoil such a sight. A man from Yate again who failed to believe that they would permit such an unlikely facility in a Beauty Spot and so on to all who shared similar opinions.

The approval sought to justify the approval by the removal of a Galvanised Box claiming the reducing of the visual impact. So replacing it with a Burger Van would by the same token would improve the visual aspect?

The reference to anticipated income, is this Gross or Net? If this is Gross then it will be of great interest to see the estimated costs associated i.e. Clearance and Policing.

We see a Council encouraging healthy use of the Downs and a Government addressing the need to avoid children consuming high levels of sugar in canned drinks alongside 'Junk Food' so where is the logic in providing the very source of these items?

I use this route regularly in the evening so I witness the issues that are currently present, I can thoroughly relate to the concerns of the Police in placing a Facility that would attract even more undesirable numbers of an evening.

This location has a natural repository for waste, a vertical drop over the Cliff Face!

I guess these and many more points will have been raised and sincerely trust that common sense will prevail.

154. I strenuously object to this proposal on the following grounds

Insufficient notice given

We are trying to cut air pollution not increase it.

We are all trying to reduce obesity not increase it

155. I am writing to voice my dissent regarding the approval for a hamburger van to trade at the Downs viewpoint from 6am to 10pm everyday.

I feel most strongly against the decision to allow this commercial interest to trade in this area of outstanding beauty and nature.

In my opinion, such a van is completely out of keeping with the surroundings, purpose and the activities of the Downs. People mostly go there to enjoy the views and the beautiful natural surroundings, to take part in sport or daily exercise for their health and well-being. Let's keep it

that way, rather than encourage the selling of food that does not help the population's health and would detract from the beauty of the area.

For people in need of food, the Downs already has a cafe and a food van that meet the varying needs of visitors here. In addition, there are hundreds of cafés, restaurants, food shops and street retailers selling food within a very short bus journey, drive or walk from the Downs whichever direction you go. The city is bursting at the seams with food retailers, restaurants galore. For example, Blackboy Hill on the edge of the Downs already has shops selling fried foods and hamburgers.

There is no doubt in my mind that a hamburger van at the Downs viewpoint will become a nuisance to local residents and to many visitors and tourists. It will bring traffic late at night disturbing local residents, perhaps heavy lorries during the daytime, as well as giving off the smell of onions and burgers which will no doubt spoil people's enjoyment of the fresh air there.

I am sure the Victorians who helped to create this area for the citizens of Bristol would be turning in their graves if they knew.

156. I am writing to object to the placement of a van on the Downs (at the sea wall).

I feel that this an area of outstanding beauty that would be adversely affected by the placement of a van.

I run round the Downs on a daily basis and see significant quantities of rubbish being dropped and left in bags that are then split open by animals overnight and scattered over a large area. I feel that this would be made worse by an additional food van.

In my opinion, there are not enough bins on the Downs as it is and that those leaving/dropping rubbish should be fined. This would act as a deterrent for all.

157. You cannot possibly allow this happen now in all good faith knowing the level of disapproval that has been voiced by residents and visitors. Surely to go against all this objection would be crazy on the Council's part.

Where will it end, burger vans, macdonald's burger mobile vans, wimpy, everyone you can think of will want to bring their businesses up there if one is approved and then it will change the nature of the area completely. I am sure this was not intended when the land was gifted to the Council.

I object strongly. Please do not approve the plan for this burger van. Most of all I feel sorry for the people who live right next to where the van will be, the constant noise and smell and rubbish practically on their doorsteps and certainly every time they look out of the window. They could have moved somewhere much cheaper if they wanted that kind of view. Houses cost a premium in this prestige area because it is so nice and unspoiled, please don't spoil it by granting this application.

158. I strongly object to this van on three grounds 1. Mess.

2.Smell

Nuisance

These are most important to local residents but also to visitors and give a bad impression of a lovely city turned into a slum.

159. I am a resident of xxxxxxxx in Sneyd Park and it has been brought to my attention that The Downs Committee has given permission for a Burger Van to be placed on the Seawalls.

Given planning permission needs to be granted to prune a fruit tree in this area I am very concerned that there has been absolutely no notification or consultation by the Downs Committee or Council. I truly cannot believe the decision to grant this permit and would like to understand the justification, as to me it seems totally unjustifiable. At the moment local residents have to tolerate drugs deals in cars in that area and blatant sexual activity further along, also drug and alcohol abuse by teenagers. We have had cars racing across the Downs and it is constantly littered with rubbish as there are so few bins, this is an eyesore, attracts vermin and is dangerous for young children and dogs. The burger van is not on a pedestrian route that is easy to walk to i.e. the university students that walking to the Halls of residents in Stoke Bishop. It will become a "destination" and a place that will encourage unsocial behaviour. have the police actually been notified? who are the individuals who have made this decision and what is their relationship to the owner of the Burger Van?.

I love the fact the Downs are widely used and do not object to it being closed for the concert, even though none of the residents were able to purchase tickets!! or for Cycling Sundays, fun runs etc I love the fact families have parties and fun on this unique and beautiful space.

I do not want crime, rubbish and disgusting smells.

Are local residents being penalised for living in a desirable neighbourhood? It is a beautiful spot with amazing views over the Suspension Bridge and to me it feels like the Downs committee has lost its way and integrity, it is happy for the area to be lorry lay by in the early morning and full of revving engines and loud music in the evening with an ugly smelly eyesore!!

What was the police report in to the proposal? There are regular fights and assaults by the burger van in Clifton Triangle are you hoping the same happens in this area?

I TOTALLY OBJECT TO THIS PROPOSAL, I look forward to your response and would have thought for such a significant change to an area of natural beauty you would have consulted residents instead of trying to sneak this through in an under handed way.

160. My objections to the location of the burger van on the Circular Road and its proposed hours of operation are these;

Location near the Gorge viewpoint The burger van will be located near the primary scenic viewpoint on the Downs. It's where Bristolians and visitors from the UK and abroad come to admire the magnificent Avon Gorge and The Clifton Suspension Bridge. So what are visitors going to think when they realise this experience is going to include an unsightly burger van pumping out cooking smells and people chomping away on burgers and hot dogs while marauding gulls feed on cast off chips? They are going to think that Bristol doesn't value or care about this stunningly beautiful spot.

Increase in litter. If visitors believe Bristol doesn't think this place is 'special' then they will treat it accordingly. They will wander about with smelly food, they will drop litter, chuck their rubbish over the railings amongst the plants and wild flowers. Litter is already a problem and it will get worse with the appearance of a burger van in this location.

Increase in anti-social behaviour. Currently the site is visited primarily for its beauty with perhaps the treat of an ice cream thrown in. The introduction of a burger van will attract a group of people who simply want a fast food pit-stop. This will change the dynamic of the place and not for the good. To access the burger van, cars, vans and trucks will be coming and going on the Circular Road from 06.00 to 22.00, 7 days a week. There will be an increase in groups of people nosily hanging about, cars being revved-up and driven across the grass, then nosily around the streets etc.

Impact on visitors and local residents Visitors who don't want to share the beauty of the Gorge with a burger van and all that goes with it, will find their enjoyment of this spot diminished. The houses bordering the Downs and in the surrounding streets will be affected to varying degrees by the increase in noise, smell and litter. There is already a certain amount of noise coming from this area particularly during Summer nights. With the magnet of a burger van serving until 22.00 this is only going to get worse.

161. I am writing to fully and whole heartily object to the licensing of a burger van on The Seawalls, Downs. As a local resident in very close distance to the downs, my reasons of objections are:

The Downs is a wonderful natural tranquil space of Bristol. People come to this green space relax and enjoy a feeling of being in a rural countryside setting. A Burger Van would wholly ruin this experience for everyone. It will be an absolute eyesore on the landscape

The hours of proposed opening would cause no end of problems. Currently we have teenager/young adults in their cars late into the evening revving their engines and speeding in The Seawalls area. To have a Burger Van in operation late into the evening would only serve as a place where they could prolong their presence in the area causing additional noise and litter!

The type of van that has been proposed is totally out of character for the area. We already have a cafe on the Downs that is a tastefully converted building in keeping with the area. While set in a conservation area, we would welcome a completely different enterprise at this end of the Downs if there has to be one. For example, a mobile, home-made produce drink and snack. This would be nothing permanent (like the ice cream van) but would be in keeping with the area and thoughtful menu for the people of the downs (think picnic and coffee - rather than full fat burger and chips and coke)

The food that is suggested to be served is 100% out of keeping with what the Downs stands for - fresh air and exercise. As a dog walker I believe the Downs attracts many people taking exercise including dog walkers, like me and also runners (my husband!). I think it would be a shame also for families using the Downs having to battle with their young children who see and then want this 'junk' food offering.

As a local council should you not be promoting healthy eating options, obesity is one of the larges costs to the NHS and things like this burger van only add to these national issues .. that the council should take a moral view on!

Surely the Downs is a special offering to the Bristol residence and visitors for some 'clean living' and away from trashy commercial outlets. The ice-cream vans already pose issues on this matter.

I would urge you not let this application go through. We all feel so passionately about the area where we live and this is completely, 100% against what this vital, amazing area of Bristol stands for. Please don't spoil our special and unique conservation area.

162. I believe that to have 'fast food' at Sea Walls is a deleterious decision.

This is a beauty spot, which is already well visited by those interested in the view, geology, botany, bird watching, open green sward, running, pushing buggies, wheelchair, climbing, cycling, but they do not visit to eat burgers, nor do those from further afield.

The opportunity for a casual ice cream as you walk by is a suitable refreshment for all.

Having a Burger bar will totally change the atmosphere, the smells, and the ambience of Sea Walls. It will invite a very different clientele.

Sea Walls is a sight for quiet enjoyment, contemplation of the view, not a location for eating.

Imagine the number of people with the current free parking, able to stop and eat there from morning to nighttime, including bikers, revellers, footballers, runners, walkers, bus loads of tourists. There are enough other places to eat in Bristol without pandering to the constant need to eat, eat, eat. How will the traffic and parking be controlled?

Bristol, priding itself as a Green City, I thought the Council was trying to reduce the number of vehicles using the road around Sea Walls, and a Burger Bar will just increase vehicles, traffic congestion, aerial pollution, noise, fast food rubbish, gulls, rats, foxes etc.

What are the arguments for putting one there? Earning money, increasing footfall, pandering to junk food enthusiasts? Has there been a demand? If so who by?

The Downs are unique and should not try and increase footfall by offering fast food for 12 hours a day. There is enough litter left after sunny weekends, and is costly to clean up, and even FODAG gets involved with voluntary litter picking over the winter. If it is believed that the licence will bring in more money than the cleaning up costs, and it is a moneymaking venture I am deeply saddened by the commercial decision, and feel it does not live up to the values of the city, its inhabitants and neighbours.

I enjoy the Downs for its non commercial management, offering a semi wild place in the centre of the city where I can count butterflies, watch birds, play games with my grandchildren, take a picnic, have an ice cream, enjoy the cleanliness and walk across the Downs every week at all times of day. There are special events where fast food is specifically sold, but that is not a constant, and I accept that, but I am totally against a permanent Burger Bar at Sea Walls.

Rep 163

As you can see from the above address, I am not resident in Bristol, but am one of the many many thousands of visitors to your beautiful city and this amazing, iconic beauty spot every year. I am shocked and horrified at the proposal of a burger bar being allowed on the Downs at all, let alone in such a position overlooking the Avon Gorge and the Clifton Suspension Bridge. Visitors come from ALL OVER THE WORLD to stand in such a spot as this! They do NOT want to see or stand by a BURGER BAR to take their famous photographs to treasure, whilst they relish the magnificent view.

I wish to express my strongest objection to this licensing application on four grounds.

The failure of the Downs Committee to conduct its democratic duty of consultation with local residents, or even the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The inappropriateness of such a business in a nationally renowned beauty-spot and the fact that it is unnecessary. (There is a good Café at the Water Tower and ample take-away food shops of Blackboy Hill.)

The nuisance following the operation of such a business.

Potential impact on public order and policing.

I enlarge on these below.

Lack of public consultation. No notification was given either by the Downs Committee or the Licensing Committee to any of the 6 houses at Seawalls, nor to the house and flats

opposite. Only half of the Seawalls flats were notified. Nobody in The Avenue was notified. Nobody in Avon Grove was notified. All of these properties are within earshot (and smell downwind) of the Seawalls site.

Inappropriate and unnecessary. The Seawalls viewing area (the proposed site) is a peaceful beauty spot of national importance with a heavy use (runners, bicyclists, dog-walkers, bird-watchers, children, the disabled, etc. etc.) by local residents, other Bristolians and tourists. It needs careful management. It's character would be severely degraded by the proposed business. There is an adequate and successful café by the water tower, there are other fast-food shops on Black Boy Hill. This business is not necessary.

This proposed business will create the following nuisances that will severely degrade the experience of those visiting the site for its beauty.

Visual Nuisance - A large van completely inappropriate to the beautiful parkland surroundings and gorge, present every day from 7.00am till 10.00pm.

Noise Nuisance - The noise of preparing food and serving customers will have a severe impact on the audibility of birdsong in the trees - as well as severely disturbing the local residents, especially in their gardens. The proposed opening hours 7.0am till 10.0pm mean the nuisance will be all day.

Smell Nuisance - Cooking smells (including onions) will travel on the prevailing wind directly to the private flats, houses and gardens nearby.

Litter Nuisance - This corner of the Downs already has a severe litter problem. Fast-food buyers are notoriously messy, and local residents frequently take a plastic bag round the area to collect fast-food debris from as far afield as Black Boy Hill. The new burden of discarded packaging will be intolerable to residents and visitors alike.

Parking Nuisance - Parking on the Downs has recently had to be severely controlled. This proposed business will attract lorry-drivers for fry-up breakfasts and late-night, after-pub eaters in the evening. It will further restrict parking available to visitors who come to enjoy peace, not to fill their stomachs.

Public Order. There are substantial public order offences already committed in this corner of the Downs. Drug-dealing, criminally excessive speeding by 'boy racers' (this has caused deaths in the past), dazzling of oncoming traffic by parked 'cottagers' with headlights on, letting off fireworks. Others inhale nitrogen dioxide - which can affect driving. This business will attract far more night-time traffic to the area with a magnification of problem, antisocial and criminal behaviour.

Conclusion

Council officers have a duty of care to both the residents and the natural fabric of this great city. The Downs Committee have a legal responsibility to ensure the preservation of the Downs for the enjoyment of all. It appears that the prospect of a fat leasing fee has biased thinking in favour of this wholly inappropriate business. To damage one of the finest beauty spots in the country within months of ceasing to be European Green Capital would be a crime that Bristolians will not forget. I call on the Licensing Committee to refuse this license

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3. This proposed business will create the following nuisances that will severely degrade the experience of those visiting the site for its beauty.

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Rep 165

I wish to object to the granting of a licence for the above. My reasons are:

The Downs are an area for recreation, not consumption of unhealthy food;

The proposed hours will attract traffic from non-Downs users;

The garbage will attract smells, vermin and excess litter;

The van will look unsightly in such a beautiful area;

It will attract less desirable people at the extreme hours of the proposal;

Not in keeping with Bristol being a 'green' city.

I hope you will consider these comments when the panel meets.

Rep 166

I have seen a notice on the Downs regarding the above. I am sorry I don't have a licensing application number but I am sure you are familiar with this proposal. I understand that the license has not yet been granted - I hope that is correct.

I am a member of the Sneyd Park Residents Association as well as a Director of the Management Company of our apartment block. This is in connection with a proposal to have a Burger Van on the Downs at the viewpoint where the ice-cream van is currently located.

I feel very strongly indeed that the Downs is definitely NOT a suitable place for a burger van and it would completely spoil the natural feel of the Downs.

It would definitely be a place where people would leave litter and be noisy and possibly drunk later in the evening. It would smell strongly of meat and onions cooking in a place where the air is fresh and where lots of people walk and run. This is precisely the area where people

come to get fit and enjoy the fresh air. I personally would find the

smell of the burgers very unpleasant as I don't eat meat.

Yes there is an ice-cream van but that does not create the same problems as a burger van.

I have lived near the Downs for the last 20 years and greatly value them and appreciate them as a wonderful resource and leisure place for Bristol. They should be left as natural as possible....

If you can do anything about preventing this from going ahead, my neighbours at Ridgewood (block of 18 flats just down on Knoll Hill) would be very grateful indeed.

Rep 167

I object to the proposal on the following grounds;

It would lead to increased litter.

It would create meat-cooking smells which are incongruous in an area of fresh air and wildlife.

Rep 168

I wish to register my strong objection to the proposal to locate a burger van - or indeed any other fast-food outlet - on the Circular Road. The Downs is a Special Area for Conservation and should be preserved from such intrusive and unnecessary commercial ventures with the concomitant nuisances of noise, smell, litter, parking, etc. It is a recognised area for viewing the world-renowned Clifton Suspension Bridge and the Avon Gorge. What message would Bristol send to the world if this area was spoilt for residents and visitors alike if an eyesore of a fast-food outlet was allowed at this location.

I am disgusted at the underhand way that this proposal has been brought forward by the Downs' Committee, with no consultation with any local residents' organisations nor with notifications to individual households who would be affected on a daily basis by the noise, smell, parking and litter created. I had long understood that the Downs' Committee was created to preserve the Downs for posterity and to ensure that residents of Bristol could enjoy its peace and beauty. With this proposal they are seeking to destroy the very nature of the Downs.

I ask that this application be refused

Rep 169

I do think this application is asking for possible and likely trouble in terms of producing:

Smell

Noise

Litter

Health issues – i.e attracting vermin, e.g rats, foxes etc

e) late night noise from cars and occupants meeting up

Visual ear sore- The ice cream van during the day is noisy , smelly and emits diesel fumes.

Policing trouble

etc

I do not think that the Council should entertain it. The Downs is a precious public amenity and a tourist “hot Spot” of which we are proud.

Keep it that way

Rep 170

I must object most strongly to the proposed site for this Burger van on the beautiful viewing area of the downs. it is a monstrous proposal as NO consultation of residents except for a a VERY FEW notices dumped into the Seawalls flats entrance and about 6-12 notes to houses just by the proposed site.

No information was given to those in the Avenue OR Avon Grove whose south facing gardens all along that grove are within 50 yards of the viewing area as the crow flies and in FULL view of the viewing area so will receive all the noise, blowing litter and most of all the frightful smells that come form burger vans from 7am in the morning until 10pm at night EVERY DAY, so no let up AT

ALL from the disturbance. I have been seriously ill and my garden is my solace in which all peace and tranquillity will be ruined

I feel we have been totally hood winked by the Downs Committee none of whom live adjacent to the proposed site and also I specifically asked when the contractors were doing work there why they were putting the bases on the ground and was told that it would not damage the ground with the heavy machinery needed to sort out the piping for the public toilets and shoring up the cliff face in that area!!

The license MUST be REFUSED in this area. IF you HAVE to have a totally unnecessary burger van site . Why not put it round the other side of the downs on a perfect area by the ' twitchers' area on the other side where it will not interfere with any residents and would also serve the Zoo overflow car park.

Rep 171

Further to my objection made in May (below), I wish to make the further point about the undemocratic nature of this application.

On June 7th, the Licensing Committee (Public Safety and Protection Committee) referred the application back to the Downs Committee for clarification. At the latter's meeting on the 4th July, despite about a dozen local people attending to object, they were denied an opportunity to speak, no vote of Committee members was taken, and the Lord Mayor instructed that the application be continued and returned for licensing.

Is this the way that businesses should be allowed to trash the peace and beauty of the Downs?

You have the opportunity to send a clear message back to the (unelected) Downs Committee that in future Bristolians deserve a voice in such important decisions.

There would be little objection to such a van on the Parrys Road extension (now coach parking).

Rep 172

I am dismayed to hear that a licensing application is being made to install a burger van at Seawalls on the Downs. As a frequent visitor to this historically and ecologically unique area this seems entirely inappropriate to me and I cannot understand why there hasn't

been widespread consultation.

The Downs is used by huge numbers of people for a wide range of activities: by families, those seeking sport and fitness, for general socializing, dog walking, exercise and relaxation. In addition it is a regionally important place for geology, a site of interest for nature conservation and a protected area of importance for wildlife. As a dark sky discovery site it is also a good place to look at the night sky. The presence of a burger van seems to run counter to this whole spirit of wellbeing engendered by the Downs, in fact an anachronism when people are being encouraged to eat healthily.

Is a food outlet necessary at all in what is a renowned beauty spot and viewing point for Bristol's most iconic symbol? I've visited the Downs for over forty years and never felt the need of one. The café at the Water Tower is a good place for snacks, and visiting ice cream vans seem perfectly adequate for additional treats. We have a Saturday burger bar on the Gloucester Road outside the butchers, and the cooking smells permeate the whole area. On the Downs this would be unpleasant for vegetarians like me and unacceptable for those who live nearby. I imagine there will be an increase in both litter and noise. There is no shelter on the Downs, so if people choose to consume their burgers in their cars, parking for the disabled will be difficult and anyone wanting a quiet look at the view will have to run the gauntlet of all of the above. I imagine it will be necessary to further police the area to avoid such things as all night use by large numbers of youngsters with accompanying music as has happened in such open spaces as St Andrew's Park, and I expect public order will be compromised further as the area takes on a changed sense of identity with an increase in night time traffic.

Granting this license would seem to run counter to Bristol's green credentials and set a worrying precedent for profit motivated schemes to be set up in what should be a protected area for the use of all Bristol's citizens. I very much hope that the Licensing Committee will refuse the application.

Rep 173

I wish to express my strongest objection to this licensing application on four grounds.

The failure of the Downs Committee to conduct its democratic duty of consultation with local residents, or even the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The inappropriateness of such a business in a nationally renowned beauty-spot and the fact that it is unnecessary. (There is a good Café at the Water Tower and ample take-away food shops of Blackboy Hill.)

The nuisance following the operation of such a business.

Potential impact on public order and policing.

I enlarge on these below.

Lack of public consultation. No notification was given either by the Downs Committee or the Licensing Committee to any of the 6 houses at Seawalls, nor to the house and flats opposite. Only half of the Seawalls flats were notified. Nobody in The Avenue was notified. Nobody in Avon Grove was notified. All of these properties are within earshot (and smell downwind) of the Seawalls site.

2. Inappropriate and unnecessary. The Seawalls viewing area (the proposed site) is a peaceful beauty spot of national importance with a heavy use (runners, bicyclists, dog-walkers, bird-watchers, children, the disabled, etc. etc.) by local residents, other Bristolians and tourists. It needs careful management. It's character would be severely degraded by the proposed business. There is an adequate and successful café by the water tower, there are other fast-food shops on Black Boy Hill. This business is not necessary.

3. This proposed business will create the following nuisances that will severely degrade the experience of those visiting the site for its beauty.

Visual Nuisance - A large van completely inappropriate to the beautiful parkland surroundings and gorge, present every day from 7.00am till 10.00pm.

Noise Nuisance - The noise of preparing food and serving customers will have a severe impact on the audibility of birdsong in the trees - as well as severely disturbing the local residents, especially in their gardens. The proposed opening hours 7.0am till 10.0pm mean the nuisance will be all day.

Smell Nuisance - Cooking smells (including onions) will travel on the prevailing wind directly to the private flats, houses and gardens nearby.

Litter Nuisance - This corner of the Downs already has a severe litter problem. Fast-food buyers are notoriously messy, and local residents frequently take a plastic bag round the area to collect fast-food debris from as far afield as Black Boy Hill. The new burden of discarded packaging will be intolerable to residents and visitors alike.

Parking Nuisance - Parking on the Downs has recently had to be severely controlled. This proposed business will attract lorry-drivers for fry-up breakfasts and late-night, after-pub eaters in the evening. It will further restrict parking available to visitors who come to enjoy peace, not to fill their stomachs.

Public Order. There are substantial public order offences already committed in this corner of the Downs. Drug-dealing, criminally excessive speeding by 'boy racers' (this has caused deaths in the past), dazzling of oncoming traffic by parked 'cottagers' with headlights on, letting off fireworks. Others inhale nitrogen dioxide - which can affect driving. This business will attract far more night-time traffic to the area with a magnification of problem, antisocial and criminal behaviour.

Conclusion

Council officers have a duty of care to both the residents and the natural fabric of this great city. The Downs Committee have a legal responsibility to ensure the preservation of the Downs for the enjoyment of all. It appears that the prospect of a fat leasing fee has biased thinking in favour of this wholly inappropriate business. To damage one of the finest beauty spots in the country within months of ceasing to be European Green Capital would be a crime that Bristolians will not forget. I call on the Licensing Committee to refuse this license.

Rep 174

I object in the strongest possible manner to this licensing application on four grounds.

The failure of the Downs Committee to conduct its democratic duty of consultation with local residents and also the Neighbourhood Partnership including the Sneyd Park Residents Association.

The inappropriateness of such a business in a nationally renowned and special beauty-spot and the fact that it is unnecessary. (There is a good Café at the Water Tower, ample take-away food shops on Blackboy Hill together with stands for non litter producing ice-cream vans)

The nuisance and disturbance following the operation of such a business especially beyond the hours of darkness.

Potential impact on public order and policing.

I enlarge on these below.

Lack of public consultation.

No notification was given either by the Downs Committee or the Licensing Committee to any of the 6 houses at Seawalls, nor to the house and flats opposite. Only half of the Seawalls flats were notified. Nobody in The Avenue was notified. Nobody in Avon Grove was notified. All of these properties are within earshot (and smell downwind) of the Seawalls site.

2. Inappropriate and unnecessary.

The Seawalls viewing area (the proposed site) is a peaceful beauty spot of national importance with a heavy use (runners, bicyclists, dog-walkers, bird-watchers, children, the disabled, etc. etc.) by local residents, other Bristolians and tourists. It needs careful management. Its character would be severely degraded (in sight sound and smell) by the proposed business. There is an adequate and successful café by the water tower, there are other fast-food shops on Black Boy Hill. This business is not necessary.

3. This proposed business will create the following nuisances that will severely degrade the experience of those visiting the site for its beauty.

Visual Nuisance - A large van completely inappropriate to the beautiful parkland surroundings and gorge, present every day from 7.00am till 10.00pm.

Noise Nuisance - The noise of preparing food and serving customers will have a severe impact on the tranquility of the area - as well as severely disturbing the local residents, especially in their gardens. The proposed opening hours 7.00am till 10.00pm mean the nuisance will be all day including evening and nighttime.

Smell Nuisance - Cooking smells (including onions) will travel on the prevailing wind directly to the private flats, houses and gardens nearby.

Litter Nuisance - This corner of the Downs already has a severe litter problem especially at weekends, after dark and at Bank Holidays. Fast-food buyers are notoriously messy, and local residents frequently take a plastic bag round the area to collect fast-food debris from as far afield as Black Boy Hill. The new burden of discarded packaging will be intolerable to residents and visitors alike.

Parking Nuisance - Parking on the Downs has recently had to be severely controlled. This proposed business will attract lorry-drivers for fry-up breakfasts and late-night, after-pub eaters in the evening. It will further restrict parking available to visitors who come to enjoy peace, not to fill their stomachs.

Impact on wildlife - Already foxes regularly raid the litter thrown out of car windows after dark and also the litter bins filled with food eaten at seawalls together with the cartons that contained it

the rooks crows and jackdaws spreading the result over a wide areas. This nuisance will be exacerbated by the smells, rubbish and litter created by the burger van and will further impact the special wildlife of this area.

Public Order.

There are substantial public order offences already committed in this corner of the Downs. Drug-dealing, criminally excessive speeding by 'boy racers' (this has caused deaths in the past), dazzling of oncoming traffic by parked 'cottagers' with headlights on, letting off fireworks. Others inhale nitrogen dioxide - which can affect driving. This business will attract far more night-time traffic to the area with a magnification of these issues, with antisocial and criminal behaviour.

Conclusion

Council officers have a duty of care to both the residents and the natural fabric of this great city. The Downs Committee have a legal responsibility to ensure the preservation of the Downs for the enjoyment of all. It appears that the prospect of a fat leasing fee has biased thinking in favour of this wholly inappropriate business. To damage one of the finest beauty spots in the country within months of ceasing to be European Green Capital would be a crime that Bristolians will not forget.

I strongly recommend the Licensing Committee refuses this license.

Rep 175

Objections from my sister and myself to the Street Trading Consent Application
16/00366/STCON

The Downs Committee has not kept to the principles on which the Downs are based, ie they were set up for everyone to enjoy for ever; not just for local residents - you and me - but for anyone who comes from anywhere in Britain and worldwide, as they do, to see this wonderful beauty spot and its wild life areas.

There has been no consultation with local residents and the Neighbourhood Partnership and this should have been done.

The nuisance created by this street trader will be widespread with its size, smell and litter as well as creating parking difficulties and noise in a peaceful area, upsetting everyone. They will wonder why we were ever termed a Green Capital !

Rep 176

I wish to express my strongest objection to this licensing application on four grounds.

The failure of the Downs Committee to conduct its democratic duty of consultation with local residents, or even the Neighbourhood Partnership. 2. The inappropriateness of such a business in a nationally renowned beauty-spot and the fact that it is unnecessary. (There ...

I enlarge on these below.

Lack of public consultation. No notification was given either by the Downs Committee or the Licensing Committee to any of the 6 houses at Seawalls, nor to the house and flats opposite. Only half of the Seawalls flats were notified.

Nobody in The Avenue was notified. Nobody in Avon Grove was notified. All of these properties are within earshot (and smell downwind) of the Seawalls site.

Inappropriate and unnecessary. The Seawalls viewing area (the proposed site) is a peaceful beauty spot of national importance with a heavy use (runners, bicyclists, dog-walkers, bird-watchers, children, the disabled, etc. etc.) by local residents, other Bristolians and tourists. It needs careful management. It's character would be severely degraded by the proposed business. There is an adequate and successful café by the water tower, there are other fast-food shops on Black Boy Hill. This business is not necessary.

This proposed business will create the following nuisances that will severely degrade the experience of those visiting the site for its beauty.

Visual Nuisance - A large van completely inappropriate to the beautiful parkland surroundings and gorge, present every day from 7.00am till 10.00pm.

Noise Nuisance - The noise of preparing food and serving customers will have a severe impact on the audibility of birdsong in the trees - as well as severely disturbing the local residents, especially in their gardens. The proposed opening hours 7.0am till 10.0pm mean the nuisance will be all day.

Smell Nuisance - Cooking smells (including onions) will travel on the prevailing wind directly to the private flats, houses and gardens nearby.

Litter Nuisance - This corner of the Downs already has a severe litter problem. Fast-food buyers are notoriously messy, and local residents frequently take a plastic bag round the area to collect fast-food debris from as far afield as Black Boy Hill. The new burden of discarded packaging will be intolerable to residents and visitors alike.

Parking Nuisance - Parking on the Downs has recently had to be severely controlled. This proposed business will attract lorry-drivers for fry-up breakfasts and late-night, after-pub eaters in the evening. It will further

restrict parking available to visitors who come to enjoy peace, not to fill their stomachs.

Public Order. There are substantial public order offences already committed in this corner of the Downs. Drug-dealing, criminally excessive speeding by 'boy racers' (this has caused deaths in the past), dazzling of oncoming traffic by parked 'cottagers' with headlights on, letting off fireworks. Others inhale nitrogen dioxide - which can affect driving. This business will attract far more night-time traffic to the area with a magnification of problem, antisocial and criminal behaviour.

I use the Downs most days to exercise and in the mornings, and the amount of rubbish is a dreadful abuse of this wonderful piece of Bristols legacy. The cost of clearing up the huge amount of additional waste, even if there is more than the usual superficial clean up I see at present, and the disfiguring of this jewel of Bristols wonderful Downs is frankly offensive.

If more revenue is the target for granting this, then at least stop the nighttime activity, who, after eating a burger mixed down with alcohol, just throw the burger packaging out of the car window. STOP DISFIGURING OUR DOWNS. Stop burger vans after 16:00hrs at least.

Conclusion

Council officers have a duty of care to both the residents and the natural fabric of this great city. The Downs Committee have a legal responsibility to ensure the preservation of the Downs for the enjoyment of all. It appears that the prospect of a fat leasing fee has biased thinking in favour of this wholly inappropriate business. To damage one of the finest beauty spots in the country within months of ceasing to be European Green Capital would be a crime that Bristolians will not forget. I call on the Licensing Committee to refuse this license.

Rep 177

Please note my strongest objection to this licensing application

a] The lack of consultation with local residents b] The lack of public consultation with regards to an inappropriate installation in a renowned beauty spot.

c] There is an adequate and successful cafe at the Water Tower and nearby fast food shops Black Boy Hill.

d] The obvious smell nuisance accompanied with the consequent litter e] This will certainly be attractive to lorry drivers for fryup breakfasts and late night after pub custom.

f] Council officers have a duty of care to maintain a beauty spot and The Downs Committee has a legal responsibility to ensure

the preservation of the Downs for the enjoyment of all.

Rep 178

I am a resident at xxxxxxxx. I am writing to plead with you not to allow the application for the Burger Van to go ahead.

I go onto the Downs almost every day and love the viewpoint where they are thinking of putting the van. It is such a special place and it will spoil it's character so much.

A family of Kestrels has just fledged and it is lovely to watch them learning their flying skills.

I cannot believe that the litter will not increase horribly. It is quite enough of a problem all ready.

Folk come a long way to show visitors this beautiful and memorable spot.

Rep 179

I wish to express my strongest objection to this licensing application on four grounds.

The failure of the Downs Committee to conduct its democratic duty of consultation with local residents, or even the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The inappropriateness of such a business in a nationally renowned beauty-spot and the fact that it is unnecessary. (There is a good Café at the Water Tower and ample take-away food shops of Blackboy Hill.)

The nuisance following the operation of such a business.

Potential impact on public order and policing.

I enlarge on these below.

Lack of public consultation. No notification was given either by the Downs Committee or the Licensing Committee to any of the 6 houses at Seawalls, nor to the house and flats opposite. Only half of the Seawalls flats were notified. Nobody in The Avenue was notified. Nobody in Avon Grove was notified. All of these properties are within earshot (and smell downwind) of the Seawalls site.

2. Inappropriate and unnecessary. The Seawalls viewing area (the proposed site) is a peaceful beauty spot of national importance with a heavy use (runners, bicyclists, dog-walkers, bird-watchers, children, the disabled, etc. etc.) by local residents, other Bristolians and tourists. It needs careful management. It's character would be severely degraded by the proposed business. There is an adequate and successful café by the water tower, there are other fast-food shops on Black Boy Hill. This business is not necessary.

This proposed business will create the following nuisances that will severely degrade the experience of those visiting the site for its beauty.

Visual Nuisance - A large van completely inappropriate to the beautiful parkland surroundings and gorge, present every day from 7.00am till 10.00pm.

Noise Nuisance - The noise of preparing food and serving customers will have a severe impact on the audibility of birdsong in the trees - as well as severely disturbing the local residents, especially in their gardens. The proposed opening hours 7.0am till 10.0pm mean the nuisance will be all day.

Smell Nuisance - Cooking smells (including onions) will travel on the prevailing wind directly to the private flats, houses and gardens nearby.

Litter Nuisance - This corner of the Downs already has a severe litter problem. Fast-food buyers are notoriously messy, and local residents frequently take a plastic bag round the

area to collect fast-food debris from as far afield as Black Boy Hill. The new burden of discarded packaging will be intolerable to residents and visitors alike.

Parking Nuisance - Parking on the Downs has recently had to be severely controlled. This proposed business will attract lorry-drivers for fry-up breakfasts and late-night, after-pub eaters in the evening. It will further restrict parking available to visitors who come to enjoy peace, not to fill their stomachs.

Public Order. There are substantial public order offences already committed in this corner of the Downs. Drug-dealing, criminally excessive speeding by 'boy racers' (this has caused deaths in the past), dazzling of oncoming traffic by parked 'cottagers' with headlights on, letting off fireworks. Others inhale nitrogen dioxide - which can affect driving. This business will attract far more night-time traffic to the area with a magnification of problem, antisocial and criminal behaviour.

Conclusion

Council officers have a duty of care to both the residents and the natural fabric of this great city. The Downs Committee have a legal responsibility to ensure the preservation of the Downs for the enjoyment of all. It appears that the prospect of a fat leasing fee has biased thinking in favour of this wholly inappropriate business. To damage one of the finest beauty spots in the country within months of ceasing to be European Green Capital would be a crime that Bristolians will not forget. I call on the Licensing Committee to refuse this license.

Rep 180

My objections to Application 16/00366/STCON for consideration are as follows:

I was so appalled at the suggestion when I first heard of it that I was stunned into silence - but that won't do.

So here are my objections to this awful proposal to site a Burger van selling food at this most iconic and sensitive spot in the whole of Bristol. I can only think that financial greed and a feeling of political correctness can be underpinning any suggestion or thought that this might be an acceptable site for such a facility.

- Firstly it is unnecessary. There are food outlets a plenty in the surrounding area (a Café near the Water Tower, shops and restaurants line Blackboy Hill, and Whiteladies Gate/Clifton Down/Whiteladies Road) all which can well provide for the food requirements of anyone in, or going to and from, this area.
- Secondly its presence will increase litter. I quote from the Minutes of the April 2016 meeting of the Downs Committee:

“ The summer months on the Downs inevitably result in a large part of the team's time being taken up by litter removal to make the site presentable and useable, before they are able

to do other important work. As the weather improves visitor numbers increase and the amount of litter the team has to collect rises in volume. To help with this temporary oil drum bins are placed in strategic positions around the Downs”

This comment describes what the situation is like at present. Just imagine how much worse it will be with an increased number of food wrappers, drinks containers and utensils being scattered as people go to and from the van. I live in a road with two take-aways nearby and I clear up lots of litter from the verges. Who is going to clear up all this litter and at whose expense? How quickly will it all be cleared up?

- Thirdly its presence will spoil the area. The ambience and visual amenity will be ruined. The visitors have a right to enjoy the area and the views as they are now. No one on the Downs Committee seems to have thought of them and their opinions. They cannot speak for themselves because they are not there all the time - they come from all over the UK and the rest of the World and it is up to discerning Bristolians to speak up for them so that their visit continues to be worth their effort and remain enjoyable.

- Fourthly it could be damaging and could lead to damage by others. The site around Sea Walls, and indeed the whole of the Downs, deserves continued protection so that all may continue to enjoy this most important site. On the local PinPoint Mapping I note that areas of the Downs, and the whole area of the Sea Walls part of the Downs are included in the following categories:

Special Area of Conservation

Site of Special Scientific Interest

Special Protection Area

Site of Nature Conservation Interest

The site is internationally important for its wildlife (designated as a Special Area of Conservation). It is home to rare plants and insects as well as nesting peregrine falcons.

- Fifthly from Seawalls one gets spectacular views along the Avon Gorge, including of the most iconic feature of Bristol - the Clifton Suspension Bridge. Frankly how dare anyone think of spoiling people’s enjoyment of that by placing a Burger Van food outlet nearby?

There are facilities enough for everyone nearby: A Café, a Children’s Playground, a Barbecue Area, Ice Cream Vans and Toilets and other food outlets - Point No 1).

- Sixthly - it is proposed that this Van should be permitted to operate until 10 pm. Whilst this would surely be unnecessary in the winter months (I am not accepting that it should be there at all) it will cause a noise and traffic nuisance to nearby residents.

- Seventhly - its presence would ruin this part of the Downs as a Dark Sky Discovery Park - a status which it currently enjoys. It is an “Orion” site. At these sites, the seven main stars in the winter constellation Orion are visible to the naked eye. This is because this part of Bristol is away from, or shielded from, bright lights such as street lights, security lights or approaching car lights.

- Eighthly the smell of the cooking will be a considerable nuisance to those people wanting to visit this iconic spot as well as to local residents.
- Ninthly the increased traffic and resultant parking problem will be very difficult to cope with and accommodate legally, and I foresee all sorts of problems with cars, vans and lorries visiting for the 15 hours proposed opening times and then parking on the Downs grassland itself. Who is going to police that? Certainly not the Police, and if it is to be done by the one Downs Ranger for all the hours of operation every day of the year, who will pay for that?
- Tenthly one is always concerned about the more criminal and anti-social elements of society frequenting more isolated food outlets after the hours of darkness. We have evidence of drug use on Stoke Lodge parkland (discarded canisters of nitrous oxide, syringes etc.) and there is every reason to believe that the presence of a Burger van on such a spot would encourage similar on the Downs - where I suspect it already occurs although I have no knowledge in the matter.

So I object in the strongest possible terms to this quite ridiculous proposal to site a Burger Van operating for any hours, let alone 15 hrs a day, on the Downs, and most particularly at Sea Walls. It would spoil the enjoyment of the area for visitors, it could well damage the area and it is unnecessary.

Rep 181

I live some distance from the Downs, but walk there a lot, at all times of the day, with family and often with visitors from elsewhere to whom I would like to give a good impression of Bristol.

I wish to express my strongest objection to this licensing application on four grounds:

The failure of the Downs Committee, an unelected body, to conduct its democratic duty of consultation with local residents, or even the Neighbourhood Partnership, in taking this decision.

The inappropriateness of such a business on the Downs, a nationally renowned beauty-spot of national importance, sited adjacent to a UK Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and internationally recognised as a Special Area of Conservation.

I would have expected this inappropriateness to be obvious to the Downs committee, but nevertheless, I will elaborate my reasons:

Apart from the wildlife value of the Downs and the Gorge, the burger bar would be totally out of keeping with the character of the place, which is for walking, jogging, enjoying the views and quiet recreation.

There are quite enough fast food outlets within walking distance of the area and an extra one in this location is totally unnecessary and completely unacceptable for the above reasons alone, whatever the hours of operation.

Furthermore, the presence of the burger bar will undoubtedly generate a lot of waste and litter. I have walked around myself collecting cans, bottles, ice cream wrappers etc. and placing them in a bin, left by people determined to discard them rather than walk to a nearby bin or take their rubbish home. The further large amounts of litter that will inevitably be generated will have to be cleared away and much of it not placed in bins is very likely to end up in the Gorge, i.e. the SSSI.

The presence of the burger van is likely to result in noise nuisance and other anti-social behaviour (details of which I'm sure will be elaborated by others).

It would seem that the decision of the committee is entirely commercial – i.e. receipt of the trader's fee (the longer the hours the better).

The Downs committee members have a legal duty to protect the Downs and, I reiterate, the presence of such a fast food outlet is inappropriate and unacceptable at this site.

Finally, I was a proud participant during Bristol's European Green Capital year as a resident volunteer. The granting of this licence is quite contrary to the commitments made by the council and supported by the majority of Bristol residents to develop a truly sustainable city and set an example to others. This will send out entirely the wrong message to all and I call on the Licensing Committee to refuse this license.

Rep 182

I am a lifelong Northwest Bristol resident.

Does it mean that now we have a Labour Lord Mayor and BCC majority that they want to take it out on whom they think the rich selfish nasty folk up here.???

What right had the Lord Mayor or whoever has done so. .. to push this through so...in apparent major lack of consultation with local Down's conservation groups and residents who will be right nearby this outlet .

If this had been proposed in a beauty spots in south Labour Bristol...would it have been carried forth in such fashion, as I understand it has been so. If locals were not keen to have it there.??

I fail to see any other reason as to why there has been a way in this of oddity, as I believe has been so. Unless....it is party politics moved .

Rep 183

I write to express an objection to licencing application number 16/00366/STCON for provision of a burger van to be situated on Clifton Downs in Bristol.

Whilst I am not a resident within the local area I am of the opinion that allowing such an application would impact upon my enjoyment of the area as a Bristol resident.

I am familiar with the area as I visit it regularly. It appeals to me and a vast number of other visitors due to its unspoiled natural beauty. It goes without saying that its natural beauty is dependent upon it being one of the few areas of the city unspoiled by litter and unsightly construction.

In my opinion, provision of a burger van would be entirely out of keeping the area and would also present litter problems. Whilst there are no doubt provisions in place to deal with the litter, such provisions cannot account for the subjective tendencies of the human population. There are already problems with people leaving litter on the Downs following visits to the area. It has taken a long time and much cost to implement a system to resolve this issue. Provision of the burger van would only serve to increase this problem and the associated costs of attempting to tackle it.

Litter is not only unsightly but is also hazardous to both children and animals. Needless to say, bringing children or animals to the Downs to enjoy themselves is self-evidently the main reason to visit the area.

There are no realistic provisions that could be put in place to prevent the smell and noise nuisance associated with such an establishment. It is unfeasible to restrict or adequately reduce such problems.

I am also unsure why such services are being located in this vicinity. There is an existing hard standing and was provision of a similar service by White Tree Roundabout. I would like a full explanation as to why that location is no longer considered suitable given that it comparable services were established there for such a considerable period of time.

I also note that many large vehicles including lorries used to park in this area to utilise the van. I foresee considerable problems being posed if they were to park in the new location.

The circular road has a restricted weight limit for the very reason that the road is unsuitable for such vehicles in this location. Not only would such vehicles cause traffic issues, they would also pose a considerable risk to pedestrians, particularly children.

Whilst there is a weight restriction sign in place, there is nothing to stop such vehicles parking immediately prior to the sign nor is there, again, any provision which will tackle subjective tendencies of such drivers to ignore the sign. I appreciate that liabilities will be attached to any such driver who contravenes the restriction. However, to argue about liabilities post event is futile given that it will not reverse any damage or, god forbidding, injury that results.

To allow the application would have far reaching ramifications. Not only for the residents of the area but for the wider population who continue to enjoy one of Bristol's very few remaining unspoiled areas.

I must also express considerable concern that this application has not been drawn to the attention of the wider population of Bristol given that it is an area visited by people from within the city as opposed to simply a residential area.

I would be particularly concerned if it were to transpire that there has been no adequate consultation and consideration of views. Unless there is a reasoned response to my objection I shall presume that there has not been such adequate consultation and consideration.

Rep 184

I wish to express my strongest objection to this licensing application on four grounds.

The failure of the Downs Committee to conduct its democratic duty of consultation with local residents, or even the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The inappropriateness of such a business in a nationally renowned beauty-spot and the fact that it is unnecessary. (There is a good Café at the Water Tower and ample take-away food shops of Blackboy Hill.)

The nuisance following the operation of such a business.

Potential impact on public order and policing.

I enlarge on these below.

Lack of public consultation. No notification was given either by the Downs Committee or the Licensing Committee to any of the 6 houses at Seawalls, nor to the house and flats opposite. Only half of the Seawalls flats were notified. Nobody in The Avenue was notified. Nobody in Avon Grove was notified. All of these properties are within earshot (and smell downwind) of the Seawalls site.

2. Inappropriate and unnecessary. The Seawalls viewing area (the proposed site) is a peaceful beauty spot of national importance with a heavy use (runners, bicyclists, dog-walkers, bird-watchers, children, the disabled, etc. etc.) by local residents, other Bristolians and tourists. It needs careful management. It's character would be severely degraded by the proposed business. There is an adequate and successful café by the water tower, and there are other fast-food shops on Black Boy Hill. This business is not necessary.

3. This proposed business will create the following nuisances that will severely degrade the experience of those visiting the site for its beauty.

Visual Nuisance - A large van completely inappropriate to the beautiful parkland surroundings and gorge, present every day from 7.00am till 10.00pm.

Noise Nuisance - The noise of preparing food and serving customers will have a severe impact on the audibility of birdsong in the trees - as well as severely disturbing the local residents, especially in their gardens. The proposed opening hours 7.0am till 10.0pm mean the nuisance will be all day.

Smell Nuisance - Cooking smells (including onions) will travel on the prevailing wind directly to the private flats, houses and gardens nearby.

Litter Nuisance - This corner of the Downs already has a severe litter problem. Fast-food buyers are notoriously messy, and local residents frequently take a plastic bag round the area to collect fast-food debris from as far afield as Black Boy Hill. The new burden of discarded packaging will be intolerable to residents and visitors alike.

Parking Nuisance - Parking on the Downs has recently had to be severely controlled. This proposed business will attract lorry-drivers for fry-up breakfasts and late-night, after-pub eaters in the evening. It will further restrict parking available to visitors who come to enjoy peace, not to fill their stomachs.

Public Order. There are substantial public order offences already committed in this corner of the Downs. Drug-dealing, criminally excessive speeding by 'boy racers' (this has caused deaths in the past), dazzling of oncoming traffic by parked 'cottagers' with headlights on, letting off fireworks. Others inhale nitrogen dioxide - which can affect driving. This business will attract far more night-time traffic to the area with a magnification of problem, antisocial and criminal behaviour.

Conclusion

Council officers have a duty of care to both the residents and the natural fabric of this great city. The Downs Committee have a legal responsibility to ensure the preservation of the Downs for the enjoyment of all. It appears that the prospect of a fat leasing fee has biased thinking in favour of this wholly inappropriate business. To damage one of the finest beauty spots in the country within months of ceasing to be European Green Capital would be a crime that Bristolians will not forget. I call on the Licensing Committee to refuse this license.

A failure by the Licensing Committee to refuse the licence will set an extremely bad precedent for other sensitive parts of Bristol as a whole. Furthermore, as the Downs Committee is not a democratically elected body, it is questionable whether they really have the right to make decisions in the names of the residents of the area as a whole.

Rep 185

I am objecting, very strongly, to the granting of a license for a burger van to trade, 7 days a week at the Seawalls. The Street Trading Consent Application 16/00366/STCON is the reference.

I could to draw your attention to the many reasons I am objecting, but would just invite you to use your sensitivities to travel with the very many tourists, from outside as well as inside, the city who travel on the open top tourist bus. The clash of senses! The uniqueness of the Bristol Suspension Bridge, the surrounding beauty of the Downs around that point and then, the assault on the senses of the smell of onions and burgers.

Please deny this application and by doing so for ever keep this area as it is, and earn the gratitude of Bristolians now and future generations.

Rep 186

I OBJECT to this application and ask you to please REFUSE it.

The proposed location, in one of the most beautiful parts of Bristol, is entirely inappropriate for a burger van. I often visit the Seawalls area to walk and to enjoy the views. The presence of a burger van will spoil the visual beauty of the area and create smells.

There is a good cafe nearby at the Water Tower, which I have used myself, or I walk to nearby Clifton Village. There is no need for a burger van in this location.

Please refuse this application.

Rep 187

As daily users of the Downs we wish to object in the strongest terms to the proposal to allow the establishment of a take-away food and drinks outlet in this protected area - an area that Bristol advertises as a natural attraction for visitors. When the Downs area was originally purchased by the Council it stated that the intention was to preserve the area for recreational use by the people of Bristol and to **prevent** continued commercial development. To seek now to introduce commercial development is a significant about-turn and, we would argue, in total contradiction of the aims of the 1861 Act of Parliament.

From our personal observations we are convinced that there is no demand for the proposed take-away food outlet on this site. The nearby Whiteladies Road has a number of such outlets and, judging by the frequent business changes, they are already struggling to find sufficient customers. To seek to draw trade away from these shops hardly seems sensible. Indeed the whole idea of creating more trading outlets when there are so many vacant shops in the locality is quite absurd.

If the above application is allowed it will be virtually impossible to refuse subsequent applications - fish and chip sales, souvenirs, memorabilia, whatever. **We strongly urge the Committee not to begin the decline of a unique Bristol asset that our forefathers had the wisdom to preserve.**

Rep 188

I understand that there is an application with yourselves for a burger van by Seawalls – I am writing to object to this piece of cultural vandalism that is clearly not in keeping with the Downs area and is possibly in contradiction to the 1861 Act of Parliament. I am sure if you visit the area you will see that it is a natural beauty spot already under extreme pressure, the idea of placing a burger van there is truly appalling.

Bristol City is on the whole a rather dirty place to live, the litter and graffiti are dreadful and the efforts to keep the city neat and tidy are poor – to make a bad situation worse by placing a burger van, with all the associated litter seems short sighted in the extreme – the Downs are a beacon on natural beauty in a city that looks rather down at heel, don't make it worse.

I noticed that there was a hard stand put down nearly two years ago – why was this done? Has this been planned for in advance? What is next for the area – A little novelty shop?

So much for Green Capital of Europe

Rep 189

I should like to join my objections to those of others who have been alerted to this unwelcome proposal and to object to this licensing application on four grounds.

The failure of the Downs Committee to conduct its democratic duty of consultation with local residents, especially even the Neighbourhood Partnership.

2. The inappropriateness of such a business in a nationally renowned beauty-spot and the fact that it is unnecessary. (There is a good Café at the Water Tower and ample take-away food shops in Blackboy Hill.)

3. The nuisance following the operation of such a business.

4. Potential impact on public order and policing.

Rep 190

I see no reason to alter and the following letter that has been circulated as it expresses exactly in all aspects what I feel about this wretched proposal to install a burger van at Sea Walls. Even the proposed trader would rather be at the original place where it was circulated. The truck stop that you will be creating apart from the details below will spoil the place for the foreseeable future.

Street Trading Consent Application 16/00366/STCON

I wish to express my strongest objection to this licensing application on four grounds.

The failure of the Downs Committee to conduct its democratic duty of consultation with local residents, or even the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The inappropriateness of such a business in a nationally renowned beauty-spot and the fact that it is unnecessary. (There is a good Café at the Water Tower and ample take-away food shops of Blackboy Hill.)

The nuisance following the operation of such a business.

Potential impact on public order and policing.

I enlarge on these below.

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Rep 191

I have heard of the proposal to permit a burger van at the Sea Walls from 7 am to 10 pm every day. I am strongly against this on the grounds of smell, and added litter which would be spread all over the Downs. The ice cream van which is there quite often is just about acceptable but a burger van would be completely detrimental to the beauty spot and to the rest of the Downs. It is a place I have always been proud to show to visitors but will no longer be, if this proposal is approved.

Please take note of my objection. Thank you.