

I wish to place on record my objection to and comments on application APP/24/00698.

Firstly I would like to comment on the history of the premises. The premises were vacant but previously have been used by Haylings Best - a community group which amongst other things oversees Playing on the Plaza. Playing on the Plaza organised musical events on the Plaza and has since 2008 used the store for items to use with these weekly musical events and also as a space for bands to change and store items safely whilst they played. Musical events took place every year from 2008 only stopping during lockdown but revived when allowed. Haylings Best were given notice to leave the store at the end of 2023 so the store could be let. Without the barriers and gazebos in the store it became difficult to produce these events. Another difficulty was that the Council insisted on keeping a two slab wide path around the building which couldn't be used by Playing on the Plaza. This application shows that some of this area the Council wished to retain is included - at the south and east side. Have the Council changed their mind to benefit the application? During negotiations with the Council for a licence to use the Plaza we were told that there would be no access to the south nor any use of tables and chairs on the entertainment area. Both these things are a part of the application. Whilst there was little entertainment on the Plaza for 2024 it is hoped that entertainment will be resumed in 2025 - if this application is approved then this will not be possible with the serving hatch and tables and chairs.

I don't believe that this application will benefit the economy at Eastoke Corner - the applicant already has two premises of a similar nature to this one on the corner. Whilst I realise that business competition cannot be taken into account I believe that making another cafe and in the position it is in will deter people from taking advantage of other places on the corner. They may go to the cafe and no further. I have had a shop on (Redacted) - not mentioned in the list of premises in the application, since 2000. I am concerned that this cafe will reduce footfall and therefore not be beneficial to Eastoke Corner as a whole. The traders at Eastoke Corner have all worked hard to make Eastoke Corner a vibrant place to visit.