

Golders Green Petition

Appendix of Explanation

The reason for this appendix is laid out below:

Due to the pre-election period which began on the 12th of Jan, the hearing and decision of the petition in the name of Cllr Dean Cohen regarding the parklets on Golders Green Road has been postponed. Below is a brief explanation of the reasonings and feelings regarding the parklets.

These parklets were put in by members of the Environment Committee with Cllr Dean Cohen as the former Chairman of Environment Committee. The management and decision making of the parklets were then moved to the Housing and Growth Committee.

The parklets were a temporary measure under Covid to allow businesses to have more space to retain footfall whilst adhering to government guidelines re spacing in restaurants.

It was put there to help 5 restaurants on Golders green road. Of those 5 restaurants:

- Only one uses the space
- The others have not used the space (with one closed)

Our Golders Green Town Centre Strategy 2019

It is noted that in the 2019 'Our Golders Green Town Centre Strategy' (page 20, para 2) a lack of parking was one of the main areas of concern.

It is further noted on page 29 that these parklets were supposed to be a temporary measure with the aim of promoting businesses. As stated before out of those 5 businesses only one uses this parklet and uses it effectively.

Page 30 also notes that the temporary parklets could be introduced to 'test public appetite and potential implications on traffic flow or town centre parking'.

The petitioners, in this petition, would like to relay their opposition and lack of appetite to these parklets.

In the opinion of the petitioners the community loss of these parklets is established below.

The effect on local traffic and customer footfall

Due to the parklets, local traffic has increased. The petitioners ask the council to consider the environmental of traffic congestion due to the narrowing of the road.

With the inability to park where the parklets now are, other traders alongside the strip are losing footfall. Additionally, these parklets have made it difficult for the said traders to get their deliveries in without causing traffic issues.

Cost to the taxpayer

These parklets cost £14,000 to put into place. As stated before, only one of these parklets/extended seating areas are currently in use.

It is the belief of the petitioners that the prior to these parklets, there were £40 charges for the use of the space for parking.

The petitioners ask the council to consider the cost of these parklets alongside the loss of the income. Particularly the lack of charges and the decreased business rates that may occur due to the lack of footfall in other traders.

The petitioners could compromise on the following:

- One parklet could stay.
- The ones by the closed restaurant should be removed

Golders Green cost over £14,000 each to install, get very little use and reduce parking for residents and businesses.

These parklets were originally installed as a part of the COVID-19 measures, along with other restrictions. While the restrictions have ended, these parklets have remained. Alongside lead petitioner Cllr Dean Cohen - we, the undersigned, believe that these parklets should be removed.



