



Bromsgrove
District Council

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Bromsgrove District Council

Street Amenity Policy (Control of Street Furniture)

Consultation

Why do the Council want to introduce a Street Amenity Policy?

Bromsgrove High Street has benefitted from a major reconstruction project involving the replacement of the public highway and installation of new lighting, planting and seating. Bromsgrove District Council wishes to further support this transformation by establishing and encouraging the creation of street café areas along the length of the pedestrianised part of the High Street. The new High Street has been designed to accommodate areas for outdoor seating and the aim is to enable good quality cafes, pubs and restaurants which can enhance the ambience of the High Street and contribute to a relaxed and sociable style of eating and drinking.

The powers to licence street café areas are currently exercised by the County Council as the Highways Authority. In order to encourage a consistent approach and to have local input into the use by residents and businesses of the High Street the District Council are proposing that the power to issue street café licences should in the future be exercised by the District Council. In accordance with good practice the District Council has developed a policy or a set of rules as to how it would regulate street cafes on the High Street.

What area will the policy apply to?

The policy will apply to the main pedestrian thoroughfare of the High Street not including Chapel Walk, Mill Lane and Church Street.

What will the policy cover?

The policy will cover the rules around the placing of street furniture (tables and chairs) on the pavement. Although the area in question has been opened up to pedestrians it is still classed as a highway and the power for the Council to licence the placing of tables and chairs on the highway is set out in the Highways Act. The Council intends to use the policy to ensure that tables and chairs are set out in appropriate locations and that ease of access along the High Street can be maintained to pedestrians and permitted vehicles. The aim of the policy is to promote the use of good quality street furniture which will enhance the appearance of the town centre. There will be strict conditions around maintaining cleanliness, not allowing noise nuisance and ensuring that the tables are used for the purpose of consuming food and beverages.

Who will applications be decided by and will there be a fee to pay for a licence?

The policy once adopted will be administered for the Council by Worcestershire Regulatory Services. Applications that meet the criteria and to which there are no objections will be granted. Additional conditions may be added. Each licence will last 12 months and will then have to be re-newed. Applications which fall outside the criteria or to which there are objections will be referred to the Licensing Committee to be decided. In line with other Councils that operate street café policies, the Council will be charging applicants a fee to cover the administration costs of considering and deciding applications. The proposed fees will be £200 for a new licence and £55 for an annual renewal.

Why is this consultation taking place now?

The Council has developed a draft policy and wishes to find out the views of all those who would be affected by the introduction of the policy including:

- Businesses on the High Street
- Residents
- Market Traders
- West Mercia Police, the fire service and the ambulance service
- The Highways Authority - Worcestershire County Council
- Environmental Health
- District Councillors

How long does the consultation period last for

The consultation is open until 2nd March 2015. All responses received will be considered and a report recommending whether the policy should be adopted will be presented to the Licensing Committee on 23rd March 2015

Where should I send my response to this consultation

Responses should be forward to:

Street Amenity Consultation
Town Centre Regeneration Team
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
B60 1AA

Alternatively responses can be submitted to the Council by email using the subject line "Street Amenity Policy Consultation" and sent to:

regeneration@bromsgrove.gov.uk

A copy of the policy document can be found on the Council's website at:

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/streetamenity

Consultation Questions

Question 1

Bromsgrove District Council wishes to encourage good quality street cafes on the High Street and proposes to do this through introducing a Street Amenity Policy. Do you agree with the aim of encouraging street cafes?	YES	NO
Please provide reasons for your answer above		

Question 2

Do you agree with the proposals in the draft policy for size and lay out of café seating areas and the proposals for type of furniture and use of barriers? If you have any specific comments please use the space below.	YES	NO

Question 3

Do you agree with the proposals in the draft policy as to the fees for the licences of £200 for an initial licence and £55 for an annual renewal? If you have any specific comments please use the space below.	YES	NO

General comments

Do you have any other suggestions or comments in relation to street cafes on the High Street, or in relation to any specific parts of the draft policy

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In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

High Street business with an existing street café licence or intending to apply for a street café licence		Market Trader	
Other High Street Business		District Councillor	
Member of the Public			
Other (please specify)			

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation