



The St Paul's Square Association

St Paul's Square
YORK

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PLANNING

03 AUG 2007

DESIGN

5 August 2007

Dear Ms Cockerill

LICENSING APPLICATION – ST PAUL'S SQUARE NURSERY SCHOOL

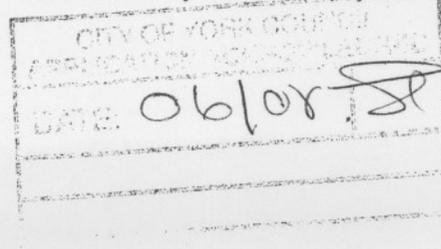
Further to our recent telephone conversation regarding the above licensing application, I am writing on behalf of the Committee of the St Paul's Square Association to **object** to the application.

Firstly, I feel that it is wrong to submit such an application shortly before the school holidays when many residents, who would be affected if it were granted, are away on holiday and may thus have no chance to make their own objections.

Secondly, it seems inappropriate to make blanket applications in respect of all York schools, regardless of their individual size, location and status. An application which may be perfectly reasonable and acceptable in the case of a large secondary school, situated in its own grounds, is unlikely to be appropriate in the case of a nursery school, converted in the past from a dwelling, physically attached to residential properties and still surrounded by an overwhelmingly residential area.

We wish to object to the specific application in respect of the St Paul's Square Nursery School on the grounds of **nuisance**, bearing in mind the particular circumstances in this case. The purposes for which the licence is sought are stated to be the staging of plays, the holding of indoor sporting events and for music and dancing. Some of these may be acceptable in themselves, but all are likely to exacerbate the existing traffic and parking situation in the Square. We have been given to understand that these applications are merely to legitimise an existing situation. However, if a licence were granted, there would clearly then be scope for extending the activities to a degree which could give rise to a nuisance to residents of the Square. I will deal briefly with each of the three activities:

- *As regards the activity itself*, we see no objection to the staging of plays.
- The Nursery School, having been converted to its present use from a private house, is unlikely to be suitable for the holding of indoor sporting events without considerable internal adaptation, if at all. Bearing in mind that the Nursery School, like most of the houses in the Square, is a listed building, any internal alterations would require listed building consent. As the City of York Council would be the applicant, any application would have to be determined by the Secretary of State.



- The nuisance to which music and dancing may give rise in an otherwise residential area, particularly to the immediately adjacent properties, No. 11 (attached) and No. 15 (directly opposite) needs little imagination or elaboration, particularly if it can take place up to 11.00 pm.

However, our main concern is with the traffic movements and parking problems to which these activities would give rise, particularly in the evenings. Parking in the Square is already extremely difficult for much of the day, simply due to the incidence of car ownership in relation to the available length of kerbside parking space. This is further aggravated by two additional circumstances:

- Extraneous parking by commuters, etc. in violation of our Access Only Order. We understand that enforcement of this is a matter for the Police, but they do not appear to regard it as a very high priority.
- Parents delivering and collecting their children to/from the Nursery School. This occurs as many as four times a day. In spite of the best efforts of the head teacher to encourage more considerate behaviour, parents frequently ignore double yellow lines and even at times block the road adjacent to the School, obstructing the passage of both residents' and emergency vehicles.

I enclose some photographs to illustrate the congestion which *already* occurs in the vicinity of the Nursery School.

Approval of this licensing application would be likely to have the effect of exacerbating and extending our already serious traffic and parking problems into the early and late evening. At present, some relief of the situation is offered by the fact that many residents are out at work when most of the problems caused by the School occur. This would not be the case if extra-curricular activities were allowed to extend into the evening.

We are not seeking to inhibit those activities which take place at the moment, but are concerned that approval of this licensing application could leave open the door to an intensification of these activities, which could become a source of further nuisance to residents.

For these reasons we strongly urge that this licensing application be disallowed.

Yours sincerely



Peter Fisher

on behalf of the St Paul's Square Association

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