

Petitioner:	Liz Polat
Petition:	Supporting outside eating and drinking for Westmount Café
Number of signatures:	2691
The petition read as follows:	<p>We the undersigned note that Royal Borough of Greenwich Council have refused planning permission for the Westmount Cafe to retain the pergola which provides sheltered seating to the front of the shop.</p> <p>The pergola at the front of Westmount Cafe is a well used feature and has been invaluable to the Eltham community during the recent lockdowns.</p> <p>In the future we would like to continue to have a sheltered place to sit at the front of the Westmount Cafe and call upon Royal Borough of Greenwich Council to reverse its decision and grant planning permission for the retention of the pergola.</p>

Previous Cabinet Member:	Regeneration and Good Growth
Current Cabinet Member:	Regeneration
Original Ward:	Eltham North
Current Ward:	Eltham Park and Progress
Directorate:	DRES

Submitted to Council on:	26 January 2022
Presented by:	Councillor Spencer Drury

I. **Petition Response**

- I.1 Planning permission was refused on the 20th January 2022 for the installation of new ducting at the rear of the property with two additional A/C units, new temporary light-weight timber pergola at the front to accommodate a temporary sheltered outdoor seating area due to the concerns with the design and appearance of the timber pergola.
- I.2 Planning permission was granted for outside external seating as part of the original permission (18/3159/F) and as such, officers are not concerned with

the principle of external seating at the application site but instead the appearance and materiality of the timber pergola.

2 **Current actions being taken in relation to matter raised in petition**

- 2.1 Officers have discussed the application internally and have held a meeting with the applicant, Cllr Drury and Clive Efford MP on the 7th February 2022. During this meeting, officers advised the applicant that the principle of a pergola for the application site to provide additional shelter for customers using the outside seating is not opposed to in principle. However, the main concern of officers is the polythene sheeting to the sides of the pergola and the lack of details of the materials used for the roof. Officers have advised the applicant to explore the use of planters to the side and/or roof of the pergola as an alternative or to consider the use of a more temporary method of shelter which would only be used on occasions when the weather is not suitable. The applicant is currently looking into this further and Officers have agreed to review any revised proposals prior to any re-submission to assist the applicant further.