

Welburn Parish Council response to planning applications by Dogh, Welburn.

There are six Parish Councillors.

Welburn Parish Council has no objection to application for change in opening hours.

Welburn Parish Council has no objection to the sale of take away food.

There are three councillors who object to the tables being out on the village green. Two very strongly. Three councillors support the tables being out on the green. Two strongly. So the councillors are equally divided on this issue.

One table has been on the green to the right of the shop entrance for some time and the parish council did not receive complaints about it prior to covid. However three councillors object to any tables on the green.

The main issues regarding the tables are

1. They are considered an eyesore and not in keeping with a village in the AONB or indeed on registered village Green
2. They cause distress to the various neighbours to the shop
3. There might be a potential for a user of the tables to fall into the road and be injured
4. The extra tables invite more visitors which sometimes causes extra parking on the village street which then gets quite congested
5. They may cause damage to the grass on the village green
6. The tables were not there when the neighbouring house owners bought their houses which may devalue their properties. Furthermore they were not there and were clearly not permitted when the shop owners invested in the property

The main reasons for the support for these tables are

1. The tables provide pleasant outdoor seating for both villagers, visitors to the village, and patrons of Dogh. NB It is recognised that as they are on village green they **must be accessible to anyone** even if they bring their own food or drink and not for the exclusive use of patrons of Dogh.
2. The tables are of good use of the village green as they are in keeping with the ethos of the public having access to this outdoor space as it is too narrow for use as a sports or other recreation area.
3. They help provide income for Dogh which helps keep the shop in business which in turn provides a very good service to both parishioners and visitors as well as employment for local people.
4. Having a viable shop is of great benefit to the village and parishioners. It provides good food and a service to people who may not always be able to produce their own meals possibly due to old age, ill health or just a busy lifestyle. Having a shop, a pub and even a garage and excellent school in a village increases the value of properties in a village markedly. So the tables increase the shop's viability.

In conclusion it is recognised that the village green is owned by Castle Howard Estate and therefore not in the Parish Council's remit to issue a permission for tables on the green. We do recognise there are quite a few walkers and more tourism since Covid in the Howardian Hills AONB and they may appreciate more service facilities. However, there are some residents who do not want visitors to the area and particularly to the village. There is a general problem with congestion and parking in the village. Three councillors feel that if the tables were a darker colour the appearance would be improved but the other three strongly advocate The main objection is to the use of the Village Green rather than the look of it so don't think this change of colour is relevant.

Please understand the difficulty in making a response when there are diametrically held views.