

From: planningcomments@highpeak.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(HPBC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
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Application Reference No. : HPK/2023/0545

Site Address: 3 The Old Clubhouse Water Street Buxton Derbyshire SK17 6XN

Comments by: Cllr Madeline HallHPBC, Corbar Ward

From:

39

Park Road

Corbar

Buxton

Derbyshire

SK17 6SQ

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Neither

Comments: I believe that an opportunity is missed in these refurbishment plans for improving accessibility to this large traditional public house with restaurant and function rooms. The Equality Act 2010 requires service providers, including pubs, to make reasonable adjustments, if asked, to ensure that disabled people can use their services. The Equality Act also requires service providers to think ahead and develop adjustments they think disabled people using their services are likely to ask for.

The ground floor is well-appointed with its entrance ramp to a dining room and lounge, level access to a bar and a unisex accessible toilet. The upper floor in contrast has steps to the only external door, no entrance ramp and cramped toilets, inconvenient for anyone with mobility challenges. I suggest that with a little imagination the existing toilet facilities could be reconfigured to afford more generous ingress and cubicles.

Installing a ramp for safe and dignified access to the external door would require more thought but is urgently needed. I know of at least one customer who needs help to navigate the steps and the temporary ramp - a heavy wooden board. (He shuffles up the steps on his bum and needs support to stand upright again at the top. He has asked the landlord for reasonable adjustments. Refurbishment provides an opportunity to meet his needs and anticipate those of others who wish to attend events in the function rooms.

On a separate issue, I have concerns about the jumbrella. Whilst the external heater proposed is amongst the most energy efficient of its type, it is still heating outside air, often chilly in Buxton. The covered area is likely to be used by smokers as a warm space in preference to the designated smoking area, more discreetly tucked in, at the other end of the building. I suggest that a covered but unheated area in such a prominent spot would be more appropriate and attractive.

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