

Tel: 01722 330173

20A THE CLOSE
SALISBURY
WILTSHIRE
SP1 2EB

Development Management,
Wiltshire Council,
Bourne Hill,
Salisbury, SP1 3UZ.



15 May 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

re Planning Reference: 18/03096/FUL

I am very perturbed to learn that it is proposed to have possibly as many as fifty chalets in the Cathedral Close next December, and possibly for longer, in order to accommodate a Christmas Market. As you will see from my address above, I obviously have a personal interest in this proposal but not without reason, and I am sure that many other people will point out why this plan should not be allowed to happen.

- 1) The noise of People, of Generators and of Music going on all day will be unbearable. The Close, after all, is meant to be a peaceful area, and because of the wide open area around the Cathedral the sound will be greatly magnified, thereby adding to the irritation of those that live nearby.
- 2) This inevitable noise will impact greatly upon Cathedral services, both on the daily Evensongs and, at that time of year, upon the three Advent Carol services, as well as upon the Christmas Carol services including those of local schools.
- 3) It is not just the chalets themselves that would be placed in The Close, there will inevitably also have to be a significant number of portaloos to accommodate the Chalet-Holders and, presumably, the extra visitors that would come in. There would also have to be many service vehicles to set up the chalets, and to replenish the contents of the chalets, etc., which would all greatly increase the volume of traffic in The Close.
- 4) It is difficult enough and often dangerous at the best of times for pedestrians to make their way safely into the Close under the High Street Gate, what with all the cars (whose right of way on the road it is) both coming in and going out. The extra number of Christmas shoppers (several thousand presumably) would greatly increase this problem (especially towards the end of winter afternoons when it will naturally be dark). Traffic in both Crane Street and in New Street is often bad enough, but with all this extra coming and going the traffic at that junction will surely be completely snarled up. Shoppers visiting the chalets in the High Street will exacerbate this problem if they then try to enter The Close, as they will have to cross the busy junction just there.

5) The grass area around the Cathedral is a consecrated Graveyard. There are hundreds of people buried there, and it would be a desecration and a complete lack of respect to consider putting a Christmas Market over them. The lawns would be completely ruined by all the trappings on it. In the Cathedral Archives are

(a) a letter from William Laud, archbishop of Canterbury (1633–1645), telling the Dean and Chapter to remove any buildings that were in the churchyard. This Order has never been rescinded and so is still in force.

(b) a Map made c.1790 showing where each grave is situated and who is buried in each grave. I well remember a few years back when the then Cathedral groundsman's tractor accidentally burst open one of the graves at the north-east corner of the churchyard, and a skeleton, not buried very deep, was to be seen there until it was soon covered over again. By the means of this Map it was possible to find out whose body it was.

I am sure you would never countenance the erection of Christmas chalets over graves in the city's Cemetery up by the Crematorium (even were that situated more conveniently nearer to the centre of the town), so why should similar respect not be shown to past Cathedral people?

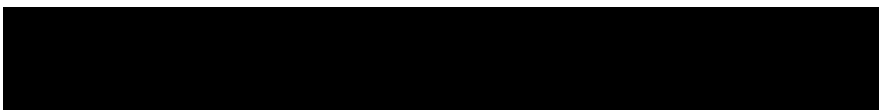
6) One quite understands the anxiety of the Council to get the city back on its feet again after the recent events in Salisbury, but that fact in itself can surely not be used as the excuse to place a Christmas Market in The Close, for I had heard as long ago as last year of this proposal for a Market in The Close complete with its chalets.

7) It is said that people visiting the Christmas Market will not be allowed to consume their own food and drink in The Close, but must buy any such either from the Bell-Tower Tea-rooms or from the Cathedral Refectory. This will obviously not help the city's financial situation.

8) Although it is said that this suggestion for Christmas chalets in The Close is meant to be a one-off, inevitably should it happen it would create a precedent whenever the city wishes to use The Close for whatever purpose.

Thank you for considering this letter.

Yours faithfully,



Suzanne Eward (Miss).