

Ms Louise Bearcroft
Kirklees Planning Department

Dear Ms Bearcroft,

With regard to the application to extend the Dunkirk, Denby Dale.

Denby Dale Pie Hall Badminton Club are regular patrons of The Dunkirk. We are a small but social club and have many active, playing members (from teenagers to retirees), as well as elderly members who can no longer play but enjoy the social aspect of the club.

As a club, we use the pub (in normal circumstances) several times per week. We visit after practices and matches and often have meetings and functions there. We use the facilities for celebrations and club events, including presentation evenings, Christmas parties, end of season events, etc.

We are passionate about including past members who are no longer able to play Badminton, for whom the social side of the Club is essential, keeping them involved in the community and getting them out of their houses. The way the owners are providing excellent access by improving access on the ground floor and to the function room with a lift will now allow us to involve them fully.

The majority of the members also use the pub socially out of season. It is a great place for us all to meet up and catch up. We are a small club, and given the current circumstances, we are dependent upon local businesses like this in order we continue as a club. Should the pub cease then we would potentially struggle to retain membership and therefore could be at risk of losing our local community sports organisation. This would have knock on consequences for opportunities for exercise and fitness within the local community.

The Dunkirk is a vital part of the community as it is a hub for us to meet before and after matches, but also a place for us to socialise as friends. The proposed changes would benefit our club, helping us to expand our membership. The larger accessible function room will allow us and potentially the league to host inclusive events and presentations here. The environment is welcoming, accessible and friendly and allows people of all ages, genders, disabilities and ethnicity to meet in a comfortable, safe, inclusive and modern environment.

We fully support the efforts the Dunkirk is making to extend and improve the access to their facilities and we are sure that these changes will help support and create a more diverse local community.

Yours sincerely,