

## **Bath & North East Somerset Council**

### **Tables & chairs in the public realm**

Please read the following guidance before submitting your application for a pavement permit in Bath & North East Somerset. This guidance document gives tips on how to define the space you would like to use for tables and chairs and the appearance of your outdoor seating space.

### **Layout & design guidance**

The following design guide can help you to define the space you'd like to use for outdoor seating space, giving consideration to; how the street is laid out, how people move to and around your business, and, how to keep streets safe for all types of user. These guides are intended to help you submit the most suitable application for your location, though do bear in mind that every application is assessed individually so these tips cannot be considered a guarantee of success.

#### ***Movement of people***

- Space must be left for pedestrians moving to and past your shop, this space should be a minimum of 2m
- This pedestrian route should ideally be on the pavement to ensure routes are fully accessible for everyone, including those using wheelchairs or buggies.
- In some circumstances where there is a low/no kerb and pedestrians can move safely into the street, tables and chairs could fill the pavement with a safe route for pedestrians on the road.

#### ***Consider your neighbours***

- If you would like to use space that is not directly outside your business, either outside another business or on a nearby street, for example, you should discuss this with your neighbours in advance of submission. They will be consulted on your application and could delay the process if they are not kept well informed or disagree with the proposal.
- Where other traders have tables and chairs on the same street that you intend to apply for, try and keep a similar layout where possible to avoid pedestrians needing to weave back and forth across the street. For example, if your neighbours have tables and chairs in the street with pavements left clear, try to follow that same template.

#### ***Access restrictions***

- If your shop is on a road which has an access restriction in place during the day, you may be able to use some of the road or parking bays to have tables and chairs during this time. You would not be able to have tables and chairs in parking bays or the street once the road is open to traffic as this wouldn't be safe for your customers. You may wish to apply for the

permit with two layouts, one during the hours of the restriction and one for outside of these hours. This will not increase the cost of the application.

- If you wish to use some of the street for outdoor seating, a route for emergency and exempt vehicles should be left clear. This should be a minimum 2.5 metres usually, though this can depend on the location of the street so please discuss this with the Licensing team and they can consult Highways to advise.

## Appearance and furniture

Although there is no specific criteria for exact types of furniture you should use, there is an expectation that all outdoor seating will be neat and clean. Unattractive or inappropriate furniture could negatively impact the street so should be avoided. For detailed advice relevant to your location and business, please contact the Licensing team who can advise.

There will be a cost of either £36 or £90 depending on the pre-application advice you require.

Please follow link below for further information;

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/business/licences/pre-application-advice>

- When considered what furniture to use, please be sensitive to the context of the area. For example, in Bath City Centre avoid garish colours in plastics. Plain and simple designs will be sought which respect the historic character of the buildings and their settings. Furniture should be as sustainable as possible and look clean and neat.

- Though not essential, putting café barriers around your space will help to avoid trip hazards and encourage customers to stay within your permitted tables and chairs area. They will also help to distinguish which tables and chairs belong to which shop. Any advertising on barriers is unlikely to be acceptable. They should be no higher than 900mm from the ground and should be of railed construction either vertical or horizontal.

- Fixed umbrellas must be a minimum of 2 metres high, have only one leg/pole and have a low pitch. Gazebos with 4 legs and high pitches will not be acceptable. Umbrellas should be of muted colours and unbranded. Umbrellas should not have curtained sides to enclose the space.

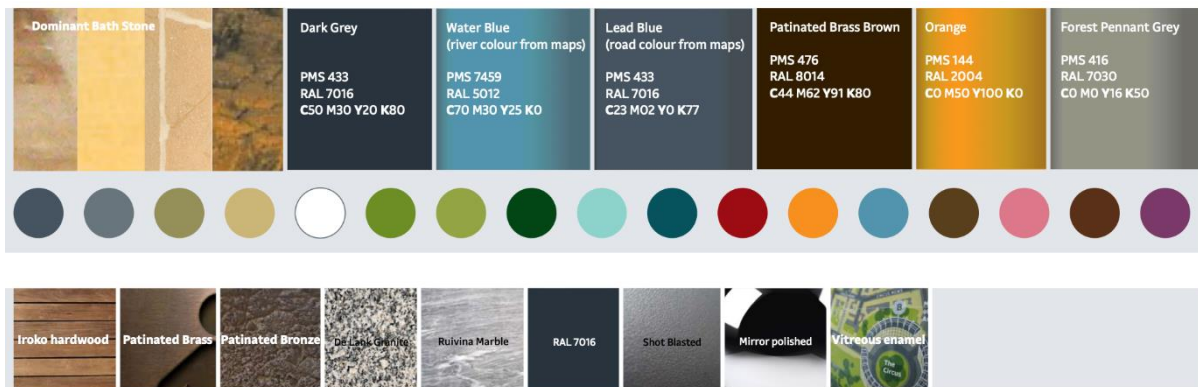
The following examples are **considered acceptable**;



The following examples are **not considered acceptable**;



- The Bath Pattern Book is a piece of policy which suggests what materials are appropriate in the public realm in Bath City Centre. An extract of this palette is included below to suggest what colours and materials will be considered acceptable for the city centre



- Please be aware that large advertising and branding on furniture could need Advertising consent from the Planning department, which would involve an application process.

### Guidance on how to submit the accompanying plan

This can be found on the Licensing web page and must be followed for your application to proceed. Please follow the link below: -

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/business/licences/pavement-licence>