

Planning Design and Access Statement

LA MERIDIANA, Ockham Rd S, East Horsley, Leatherhead KT24 6QU

June 2023

1.0 Amount

This application is solely for the provision of works to create an outdoor terrace dining area and 2 no. food cabins at La Meridiana restaurant in East Horsley.

La Meridiana restaurant is located in an existing building of period character with a large gravel car park in front with unmarked car parking spaces.

The outdoor terrace works were completed in Spring 2023 and the application is for retrospective planning approval.

2.0 Layout

The proposed terrace and cabins are within the demise of the car park and are rectangular in shape.

3.0 Scale

The proposed outdoor terrace occupies approximately 1 third of the car park area. The cabins are small single storey units to serve ice cream and coffee, maximum occupancy 2-3 persons.

4.0 Landscaping

The proposed outdoor terrace and cabins are timber construction with some Astro grass surfacing. Built-in timber planters with live planting frame the edge of the terrace area. The terrace is approximately 100mm raised from the car park surface and provides ramps up for wheelchair access at the 2 entrance points.

5.0 Appearance & Specification

The outdoor terrace predominantly comprises of timber deck board construction, with artificial corrugated roof surface to the 2 no. cabins. The cabins have some glazed windows in clear and opaque corrugated Perspex.

6.0 Access

The access locations into the restaurant itself remain unchanged. The access to the outdoor terrace is via the car park gravel area. 2 points of entry are located on the raised decked area with ramps up.

7.0 Planning History

A pre-application was attempted in September 2022 however, the planning department was unable to accept pre planning applications at that time.

The outdoor terrace has been constructed in Spring 2023 and is subject to an enforcement notice from the council recently issued due to it having no prior planning approval.

8.0 Operation

The proposed operation of the outdoor terrace area would be 8 am - 9.30 pm Monday – Sunday.

Food cabin 1 will provide an ice cream bar manned by 1 or 2 members of staff and food cabin 2 will provide a coffee bar facility manned by 1 member of staff.

The outdoor seating would be table service, with the same menu options available as the internal restaurant. All food and beverages (apart from ice cream and coffee/hot drinks) would be prepared within the existing restaurant interior and brought out to the tables via waiter service.

9.0 Customers

La Meridiana is aiming to attract customers to the outdoor terrace who would not normally come to the internal restaurant. Customers such as hikers, cyclists and dog walkers enjoying the Surrey countryside. The outdoor terrace area would provide a more informal food and drinks experience with a pavement café-culture feel. Its location on the high street adjacent to other retail offers adds to its appeal to customers looking for a café-culture experience.

Currently La Meridiana is struggling to survive as a business without outdoor dining options due to a change in demand brought about by warmer temperatures generally and a shift in demand for outdoor dining since the Covid pandemic.

Local rival businesses such as The Black Swan and The Duke of Wellington offer outdoor dining options which attract customers who would like to dine outside on warm rain-free days.

10.0 Transport

La Meridiana is situated immediately opposite Horsley train station. The new outdoor terrace area is intended to attract ambulant passers by who are walking in the countryside or using the train station. For this reason, it is not expected that the terrace will increase demand for road-use or car parking. Demand for car parking spaces at the restaurant has been low and the loss of approx. 8 soaces is not believed to have an impact on the car park or surrounding streets.

11.0 Neighbours

La Meridiana has some residential units in proximity to the car park and acknowledges their potential concerns regarding noise. For this reason the terrace would be closed from 9.30pm and La Meridiana will not encourage large group bookings particularly in the evening, such bookings can be housed inside. The terrace is aiming to provide a more ad-hoc café experience for passers by enjoying outdoor activities in the Surrey countryside.

10.0 Photographs

Photographs prior to construction:







Photographs showing the constructed outdoor terrace and 2 food cabins:











End.