

Pavement tables and chairs design guide



Introduction

Cheltenham Borough Council is happy to support and encourage continental style pavement cafes and bars. We wish to ensure that they enhance the unique character and appearance of the town.

This guide sets out the types of furniture and other equipment which are likely to be suitable in Cheltenham.

These paragraphs must be read in conjunction with the relevant licence requirements and conditions.

Setting

The predominant colours in Cheltenham's streets are the shades of soft honey of the local stone and the creams of the rendered buildings. This is added to by the choice of paving in the pedestrian areas and newer pavements where the pale natural shades have been deliberately chosen to blend with the scene.

In summer the town is shaded by the green of many large trees and brightened by the flowering displays for which it is famous. These displays are

found in parks, pedestrian areas and dressing our buildings. They are an award winning summer feature which, along with our historic buildings form the context within which pavement bars and cafes operate.

The council realises owners and managers of restaurants will wish to have visibility in the street to attract customers, but this should not compete with or dominate the setting.

Colours

Colours for furniture, barriers and associated equipment should be subdued and natural so that they sit comfortably in the streetscape. Those most suitable will be darker greens, browns, beiges and creams. Colours to avoid include reds, oranges, yellows, bright greens, purples, blues and white. Metal in natural silver and greys will be acceptable but stained or bare wood is not appropriate in such an urban setting and is more suited to rustic locations in the countryside.

Signs and logos

Street advertising is something which the council controls by various legislation and for two particular reasons. One is highway safety - if drivers are distracted by a sign this can be dangerous - the other is the visual effect within the street or area.

Bearing in mind both of the above, any signs and logos on equipment such as umbrellas must be small, discreet and relate only to the business concerned. The highly coloured advertising for various beers seen in pub beer gardens for example, are not acceptable within the streets of Cheltenham.

Menu boards and signs needed for operational reasons must comply with general design guidance above.

Tables and chairs

Tables and chairs need to be of a high standard both in terms of design and quality and must be well maintained. Mass produced domestic models in plastic are not considered suitable and are unlikely to be durable enough or meet health and safety regulations.

All of the furniture used in a particular location must be the same design and colour. Variation in pattern, for example in seating, stools, benches and chairs with or without arms - will be acceptable, but only if they are from the same design range.

Furniture must be located and retained within the designated area and must be arranged so that users remain within that area.

Umbrellas

The earlier notes above relating to colour and logos are particularly applicable to umbrellas as they tend to be large and visible. In addition, they must not have a shiny or reflective finish.

Umbrellas should be stable, and must not overhang beyond the designated area. In the interests of safety, they should not be used in blustery or windy weather conditions.

Heaters

Where portable heaters are used they must adhere to the general design requirements above. In addition they must be located within the designated area and not on its boundaries. They must not be used as part of the means of enclosure.

Enclosure

When in use, the permitted area must be enclosed and clearly distinguishable. The means of enclosure may consist of solid or rope barriers at heights specified in the relevant conditions.

As an alternative, planters may be used and can often be attractive, but they must be convincing and well maintained. They must also be portable (see below) but must be robust enough so that they are not easily moveable by accident or mischief. They must also comply with height conditions.

When selecting a means of enclosure, consider the needs of people with impaired vision.

Portability

When the pavement area is not being used by the operator, all of the items associated with that use must be removed from the highway. Thus it is essential that they be suitably portable and capable of storage elsewhere. It may also be necessary to remove items from the pavement in case of emergency and this should be borne in mind when considering handling procedures.

Safety

The permission holder is responsible for the safety and suitability for use of all items placed on the highway. They should ensure that they are sufficiently robust and well maintained for their purpose. They are also responsible for the health and safety aspects relating to portability and handling procedures adopted in each case.

Questions

Any questions and queries relating to this design advice should be directed in the first instance to the licensing section on 01242 264 217 or email licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk