

Following on from your inspection of 82 Silk Street (Application 135169/FO/2022) for a change of usage for the creation of a tattoo studio, it was recommended that the disabled access to the studio was reviewed a scheme put in place to better the accessibility to the studio.

The officers report explains full disabled access wouldn't be possible because of the restrictions of the building.

We have an agreement in place with Swan Street Tattoo, which is 0.3 miles from our shop, and has full wheelchair access that we can work from there if a customer requires that level of access. I have attached Chris Green, the shop owners agreement on this.

As a private studio, we do custom tattooing that people specifically approach us for as individual artists for. The provision of Swan St Tattoo therefore means that the specific artist and their work is made accessible to the client albeit at a slightly different location. We book our clients in up to 3 months in advance and as a private tattoo shop we do not accept 'walk-in' customers, it is bookings only. This means we have plenty of time to make arrangements for a client in this instance.

The nature of the shop being private bookings only, means that all appointments are made ahead of time, and we will not have the studio open to the public to just enter into. We will make a point when booking in customers via email, to ask ahead of time if they need to disclose disabilities or if they have any special requirements that will need to be catered for as part of the tattoo booking process. In addition to this there will be a section on our consent forms where again, they can make the artist aware of anything that might need to be considered during the appointment. This is because we are aware not all disabilities are visible. All customers getting tattooed by any artist must complete a consent form at the start of their appointment. We can send you a copy of this if needed?

We can look into the possibility of temporary ramps for the stair once we are in the unit and have full access to the space, however the stairs and opposite wall may make this unfeasible or a health and safety risk.

Anyone with any disabled needs that would require a chaperone, carer or friend to accompany them on their appointment, there will be room made in the tattooing area to have room for the customer to be accompanied throughout their appointment. Upon arrival of the appointment, they will be met by the studio at the entrance to the building brought into the studio.

We will make sure the furniture and layout of the studio accommodates easy movability through out the space, and the waiting area, disabled toilet and tattoo stations are all easily accessible. The toilets will be clearly labelled for customers.

We will be putting in wooden flooring into the studio for cleanliness but this will also reduce any trip hazards from the carpeting.

The disabled toilet is going to be renovated and have a new toilet, hand basin and floor put in, we will of course ensure the grab rails, toilet basin, sink etc. will be at the correct height for disabled access.

We can put in grab rails on either side of the stairs to make it as easy as possible for some to make their way down the steps. We could add non-slip floor sheets or anti-slip nosing on the stairs if this would be something that could help with the studio access.

We strongly believe in tattooing being inclusive and safe space for everyone and everyone should have access to the work we do.

Thank you for your time and help.

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