

The Spud Wagon
The Dukes Head Car Park, 56 Denmark Steet, Wokingham, RG40 2BQ
07841417363

Date: 03.02.2025

Wokingham Borough Council
Planning Department
Civic Offices
Shute End
Wokingham
RG40 1BN

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Community Involvement Statement for Mobile Catering Unit at The Dukes Head Car Park, 56 Denmark Steet, Wokingham, RG40 2BQ

I am writing to provide a **Community Involvement Statement** in relation to the mobile catering unit that has been permentatley located at **The Dukes Head Car Park**. The purpose of this statement is to outline how we will engage with the local community, mitigate any concerns, and ensure that the mobile catering unit contributes positively to the local area, both socially and economically.

1. Introduction

The mobile catering unit has been introduced at the car park to serve food and beverages to the public, supporting the wider area by offering additional amenities and creating a positive environment. We understand the importance of engaging with local residents, businesses, and other stakeholders, and this statement outlines how we will ensure the mobile unit operates harmoniously within the community.

2. Community Engagement Strategy

As part of our commitment to community involvement, we will undertake the following actions to keep the public informed and address any concerns that may arise:

a. Consultation with Local Residents and Businesses

We will initiate a consultation process with the immediate neighbours and nearby businesses to ensure that they are aware of the mobile catering unit's presence and its operations. This will include:

- Informing local residents about the hours of operation, potential noise levels, and any other relevant details about the unit.

- Seeking feedback from local businesses to gauge how the mobile unit may benefit or impact their operations.
- Addressing any concerns raised during the consultation process and making necessary adjustments, where feasible.

b. Public Information

To ensure that the wider community is informed about the mobile catering unit, we will provide clear signage at key entry points to the car park, including:

- Information on the unit's operating hours.
- Contact details for any feedback or complaints, ensuring that concerns can be addressed promptly.
- Details of any special events or promotions being held in conjunction with the unit, fostering a sense of inclusivity.

We also plan to use the public house's website and social media platforms to update the community on the mobile unit's operation and promote its offerings, encouraging local participation.

c. Community Feedback Mechanism

We will establish a straightforward mechanism for ongoing feedback, which will include:

- A dedicated email address or feedback form for residents and customers to express their thoughts and concerns.
- Regular monitoring of feedback to identify any recurring issues, which will be addressed proactively.
- A commitment to responding to all feedback within a reasonable timeframe to show that community input is valued and acted upon.

3. Social and Economic Impact on the Community

The introduction of the mobile catering unit is designed to have a positive impact on the local community in the following ways:

a. Support for Local Economy

The mobile unit will bring additional footfall to the area, which benefits not only The Duke's Head public house but also surrounding local businesses. Increased activity in the area can encourage new visitors and enhance the vibrancy of the local economy. We will seek to source ingredients and materials locally where possible, supporting regional producers and suppliers.

b. Enhancing Local Amenities

The mobile catering unit offers a convenient and high-quality food option for local residents and visitors, particularly those who may be attending nearby events, using public transport, or enjoying outdoor spaces. Its presence can enhance the local amenities, creating a more welcoming and enjoyable environment for everyone.

c. Community Events and Local Engagement

We plan to host regular community events in conjunction with the mobile catering unit, such as:

- **Food pop-ups or themed nights** that engage the local community and encourage social interaction.
- **Charity events or fundraisers**, with proceeds supporting local causes or community projects.
- Special promotions during community celebrations, fostering a sense of togetherness and local pride.

These initiatives aim to strengthen community bonds, support local charitable efforts, and ensure that the mobile catering unit is not just a service provider but also a community asset.

4. Environmental Responsibility and Considerations

We are committed to minimizing any environmental impact associated with the mobile catering unit. The following measures will be implemented:

- **Waste Management:** We will ensure that all waste generated from the catering unit, including food packaging, is disposed of responsibly, with recycling facilities provided on-site.
- **Sustainable Sourcing:** We will prioritize the use of sustainable, locally sourced ingredients and environmentally friendly packaging options, in line with best practices for reducing waste and carbon footprint.
- **Noise and Air Quality:** We are aware of potential concerns regarding noise from the unit, particularly during operation. We will take steps to minimize noise by using equipment that meets local noise regulations. Additionally, the mobile unit will be powered using sustainable sources to minimize its environmental impact.

5. Ongoing Monitoring and Adaptation

We understand that community dynamics can evolve, and so we commit to regularly reviewing the mobile catering unit's operations. This includes:

- Conducting periodic surveys to gauge community satisfaction and identify areas for improvement.
- Continuing to engage with local stakeholders to ensure ongoing positive relationships.
- Adjusting the operation of the unit based on feedback and changing circumstances, ensuring that we remain a positive presence within the community.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, we are committed to ensuring that the mobile catering unit at **The Dukes Head Car Park** operates in a way that benefits the local community, supports local businesses, and fosters a positive relationship with residents and visitors. Our consultation process, feedback mechanisms, and commitment to community engagement will ensure that the unit integrates well into the area and enhances the local experience.

We look forward to working with Wokingham Borough Council and the wider community to ensure that this proposal is implemented successfully and responsibly. We would appreciate any guidance or feedback you may have regarding this statement or the operation of the mobile unit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Ayres
Director
Spud Wagon Group