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**From:** Contact Centre  
**Sent:** 19 October 2023 08:21  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** FW: Contact Us - Planning

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:04 PM  
**To:** Contact Centre <contact@ribblevalley.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Contact Us - Planning

  
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[REDACTED]

**Choose Address:** [REDACTED]

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**Locality:**

**County:** Lancashire

[REDACTED]

**What service area does your enquiry relate to?:** Planning

**Service Area:** Planning

**Email Service Area:** [contact@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:contact@ribblevalley.gov.uk)

**Please provide some information about your enquiry?:** I have tried to submit this but haven't been able to. this relates to planning application for Ms Despard - Application 3/2023/0707

I am writing as a resident of Longridge to give my full support to Ms Despard and her application for DMD Design, Lower Lane.

I wish firstly to commend Ms Despard for her commitment to her establishment, her ingenuity and her skill at designing, growing and nurturing a business during a turbulent time, not just as a new business but also during the pandemic. She deserves recognition for this, where so many have failed, Ms Despard has made a success.

It is worth noting in my strong recommendation that Ms Despard's application be allowed to proceed that I am incredibly biased.

was taking its grip

Over the last few years, and not in any small part because of DMD design I have found myself liking Longridge and the Ribble Valley. I have made new friends, made new memories and familiarity, friendship and community. I have found inclusivity, a group of people who accept me for me and who I feel I can be myself with.

it is essential that I emphasise the role that places like DMD play in the local community. I have witnessed how a group of relative strangers can develop an inclusive circle that starts as a whisper of a friendship and grows into a circle of trust. A cohort of people who by no previous relationship look to one another for support and kindness. Something not only to be treasured but to be celebrated. DMD Design for whatever reason manages to not only host this, but also to exemplify it – Ms Despard's business is the definition of community, of kindness, of inclusivity and of friendship.

DMD Design has during my time as a visitor played host to several charity events including concerts to raise money for local causes. The proximity to the local Church has meant that a small dot of liquid courage prior to a wedding or a toast in the memory of a loved one at a funeral has been easy and convenient.

It is important to say that in my experience Ms Despard is a stickler for her conditions, regardless of who you are when closing time is announced it is non-negotiable. Ms Despard goes out of her way to ensure that her neighbours are not disturbed, she is considerate and above all else wants to ensure that her establishment is more than a 'bar' but a place for people to be, to converse, to socialise and to relax.

In completing this I have looked at RVBC's ambitions and core values. DMD design not only 'ticks the boxes' but it embodies them. Ambitions such as a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley and helping to make lives safer and healthier through community are embodied in the establishment. Core values of excellence, service, equality and investment are evident when you walk in. DMD Design has become a focal point for so many people.

I would strongly encourage RVBC to grant DMD Design the licence it is requesting. Doing so would make a difference to numerous people who find themselves often isolated. I can give several examples of how this has already happened.

**Please email me a copy of this report:** Yes

**From:** Contact Centre (CRM) <contact@ribblevalley.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2023 11:40  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Planning Application Comments - 3/2023/0707 FS-Case-555570622

**Planning Application Reference No.:** 3/2023/0707

**Address of Development:** DMD Designs Ltd,1 Lower Lane, Longridge. PR3 3SL

**Comments:** I would like to register my support for this planning application. Previously, this venue provided an atmospheric and classy meeting place for locals to enjoy socializing in a beautiful environment quite unlike any other provided locally and is a great loss to the community of Longridge. The bar sits successfully along side the interior design shop and encourages sales for the business. Due to the small interior size with limited capacity, and the gentle quiet vibe, I believe this venue has no detrimental affect on neighboring properties and should be passed for license planning in the interest of the Local community.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Contact Centre (CRM) <contact@ribblevalley.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2023 12:59  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Planning Application Comments - 3/2023//0707 FS-Case-555608473

[REDACTED]

**Planning Application Reference No.:** 3/2023//0707

**Address of Development:** 1 Lower Lane, Longridge, PR3 3 SL

**Comments:** DMD is a fab shop with some unique items for sale. It's an asset to the local retail community as it brings in customers from all around. The fact that we can enjoy a coffee or glass of something makes an even better experience. Why it should close is beyond me when it brings in much needed business to Longridge at a time when it is very much needed. I fully support this application.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Contact Centre (CRM) <contact@ribblevalley.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2023 13:26  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Planning Application Comments - 3/2023/0707 FS-Case-555619930

[REDACTED]

**Planning Application Reference No.:** 3/2023/0707

**Address of Development:** 1 Lower Lane, Longridge, PR3 3SL

**Comments:** I have read through all documents and feel I need to add more depth to just what DMD is and what it means to our community.

DMD is located at the bottom end of Longridge, away from Berry Lane, the central hub of Longridge. Being some distance away from there, the local community was serviced by the old Public House, the Duke William. It was a great pub, with regular live music and events, but sadly, that closed several years ago and has since been turned into housing leaving the bottom end of Longridge without a place to meet, build relationships, and support each other.

Since opening in 2020, DMD has reignited the local community, not only those who live in the area but also those who travel from further afield to purchase goods and secure their interior design expertise, amazing for Longridge's economy and our brand, showing that Longridge is a lovely place to visit and spend their money. DMD is an advocate of small businesses and often has flyers and advises its customers of other places to shop, eat, and drink in central Longridge.

On a personal note [REDACTED]

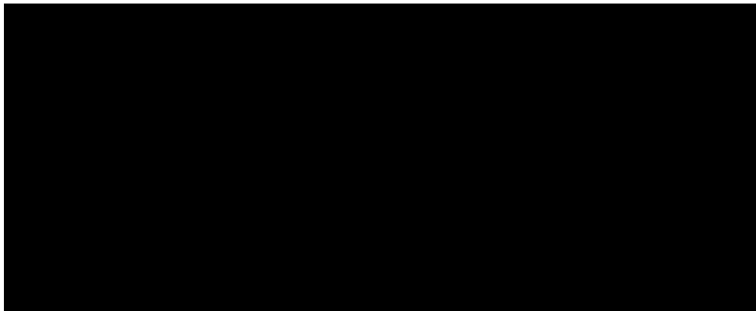
[REDACTED] DMD has reignited a lost area of Longridge. It has become a community hub where people meet and buy amazing things for their homes rather than shopping online and have made strong friendships. The age range is wide, with many older folk enjoying a shop and drink and having a face-to-face conversation, often receiving ongoing support from others. At the other end of the scale, younger folk also visit DMD again to make purchases or with their parents shopping and having a drink. It is wonderful to see our young folk feeling that sense of community – priceless, as these are our adults and decision-makers of the future – the ones that will keep Longridge a beautiful and prosperous place.

We are at a time where mental health and well-being are front of mind and I cannot recount the number of conversations I have had, personally with DMD's customers, on how DMD has either been a lifeline, stopped the loneliness, or created friendships. I have also taken advantage of the premises to hold business meetings and have held and supported several charity events there.

Whilst opening hours are minimal, closed Monday and Tuesday (in recognition of the church and events), only open till 8 pm Wednesday through Saturday, and at the earlier time of 5 pm on a Sunday DMD is an absolute gem making a huge difference to many. Whilst I can still shop there, I miss being able to take time out, sit with friends, reach out to those who need support, and feel part of a community that cares.

I strongly support this application

**From:** Contact Centre (CRM) <contact@ribblevalley.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2023 18:31  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Planning Application Comments - 35724 FS-Case-555719841



**Planning Application Reference No.:** 35724

**Address of Development:** Lower lane longridge

**Comments:** This is a lovely business, very well run and very respectful to the community