

I wish to register my objection to AWDM/0664/26, the revised plan for additional bedrooms at Linfield House.

There has been no attempt by GuildCare to address the previous concerns about the loss of sunlight in the existing Richmond Lounge. The submitted light survey seems to only apply to the new bedrooms, not Richmond Lounge. The proposed blocking of the two windows means there will be no sunlight entering the lounge and no outlook onto a sunny garden. Just a northerly outlook of a short distance onto a fence or park railings with bushes behind. A sunny garden outlook is familiar, comforting and homely to residents with dementia who have given up their own garden to move into care. The existing windows provide the amenity for the less mobile to observe the wildlife and other residents outside enjoying the garden and the opportunity to walk and sit in the sun, encouraging and maintaining mobility in a safe space. This would be a great loss. Two new north facing windows are not an acceptable substitute. Light quality can affect mood and consequently behaviour. This is not considerate of the wellbeing of residents with dementia.

Worthing may have good local public transport, but visitors travel to see their loved ones from out of area by car too. Last week on daytime visit there were no spaces available in the car park and already 2 cars pulled onto the grass verge. There are 2 spaces reserved for management and a sign requesting other staff not to park. I had to make several circuits of the local roads to find a space not limited to residents. Many visitors are elderly themselves and carrying bags. My experience over the years is the Parking is not adequate, especially when you factor in workmen, deliveries and transporting residents who are slow and need a lot of space to transition into a car.

The conversion of the "Tea Room" into another bedroom loses another Richmond amenity, that of an alternative quiet safe space for private discussion of care needs with staff or a family get together. It is also a haven for staff to take a resident to when they are distressed or disruptive and unwilling to return to their bedroom. I have in the past taken my loved one there when other lounge users got noisy and she was disturbed and frightened.

I submit this for your consideration

Susan Hills