

Fwd: AWD/0423/26

Reps and Consults



Planning -

12:43 (34 minutes ago)

to me

Planning | Adur & Worthing Councils
01903 221065 | <http://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gemma Monoogian**

Date: Wed, 29 Apr 2026 at 12:16

Subject: AWD/0423/26

To: planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk <planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk>

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to the proposed change of use of The Gardeners Arms. As a young family living in Sompting, this pub was one of the very few places we could reach safely on foot with our children. Losing it has had a real impact on our daily lives, and I believe its permanent removal would be a serious loss for families like ours who depend on local, walkable amenities. What made The Gardeners so important was not simply that it was a pub, but that it was close enough to reach without a car. With the roads around Sompting often busy and difficult to navigate, especially with young children, having somewhere we could walk to for a meal or a bit of time together was invaluable. It meant we could enjoy family life without adding to the traffic problems, without the stress of driving, and without the cost and planning that comes with travelling further afield. None of the alternative pubs suggested by the applicant offer this. They are all too far to walk with children, particularly in the evenings or in bad weather, and public transport is non-existent. For families, older residents, and anyone without a car, these alternatives are not alternatives at all.

Inside, The Gardeners offered something that is increasingly rare: a genuinely welcoming, family friendly space, where children were not just tolerated but made to feel part of the community. We would often see other families doing the same; sharing food, chatting, and enjoying a moment of calm together. It became a place where we felt connected to our neighbours and part of village life. Losing that has left a noticeable gap. There is nowhere else within walking distance that provides the same sense of safety, ease, and belonging.

From a planning perspective, this matters. Paragraph 98 of the National Planning Policy Framework requires councils to guard against the unnecessary loss of valued community facilities, especially where this would reduce a community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs. For families like ours, being able to walk somewhere local is not a luxury, it is a necessity. Policy 33 of the Adur Local Plan also makes clear that community facilities should only be lost where there is strong evidence that they are no longer needed or viable. The previous refusal notice confirmed that this evidence had not been provided, and nothing in the new application changes that.

The Gardeners Arms was not just a business, it was a lifeline for families who wanted to enjoy time together without relying on cars. It supported social wellbeing, reduced traffic pressures, and

offered a safe, welcoming environment for children. No other venue in the area provides this combination, and once it is gone, it cannot be replaced.

For these reasons, I strongly object to the proposed change of use and ask that the application be refused.

Kind regards,

Gemma Monoogian