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Comments for Planning Application AWDM/0664/26

1 message

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

10 July 2026 at 19:23

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 10/07/2026 7:23 PM from Mrs Theresa Slatter.

Application Summary

Address:	Linfield Care Home 18 - 22 Wykeham Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 4JD
Proposal:	Three storey side/rear extension to the south-east elevation; installation of new windows and rooflight; and rooftop photovoltaic panels
Case Officer:	Rebekah Hincke

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Customer Details

Name:	Mrs Theresa Slatter
Email:	terislatter65@gmail.com
Address:	25 Navarino Road Worthing West Sussex

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Member of the Public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	- Highway Access and Parking - Loss of General Amenity - Overdevelopment - Privacy Light and Noise
Comments:	I am writing to strongly object to the revised plans put forward by Guildcare (GC) to build a three-storey extension at Linfield House, to create three extra bedrooms, plus an extra bedroom on Richmond Suite (utilising the space that is currently a family room). Guild Care believe these plans to be of a minor nature. However, I believe that the proposed building work would be far from minor for the vulnerable residents, especially those with dementia. It is these residents that will be most adversely affected by the noise, dust and disruption that the building work would cause. I do not feel that due diligence has been applied and that safeguarding concerns have been addressed. A taste of the kind of disruption the building work would cause is the recent redecoration of the Richmond Suite lounge. The work took three weeks, during which time the residents were camped out in the small tea/ meeting room (the room proposed to be a bedroom). The room size was not big enough to accommodate all the residents, especially those requiring a hoist to get into a chair. This led to many residents, including my mother (who is a resident of Richmond Suite), spending an inordinate amount of time in her room in bed. I observed that many of the residents appeared to be disorientated and confused and that general anxiety levels were raised. This then put staff under additional pressure, not only navigating the difficult working environment, but also having to give distressed residents additional support.

The building work also added to the difficulty in getting a parking space, as the already limited spaces were used by contractors. This raises concerns for what would be a far more extensive building project. The potential ensuing chaos, on what is a main road and bus route in and out of Worthing town centre, would be significant if these proposals were to proceed. Added to this would be the number of unfamiliar faces of tradespeople on site. This, again, would be very unsettling for residents.

It has previously been proposed that residents could be moved to other units or bedrooms within the home during any proposed work. This, once more, demonstrates little regard for the detrimental effects this can have on vulnerable individuals with dementia. As it is well-documented that routine and familiarity are essential for the comfort and well-being of dementia patients, so too is the potential increase in disorientation, confusion and fear that unfamiliar surroundings can cause.

Another cause for concern, that has already been raised with previous applications, is the reduction of natural light from the southeast of the lounge in Richmond Suite. The current proposal incorporates making windows on the northern side of the lounge being made bigger to compensate. However, the light from the north is much colder than from the east. Studies show that poor natural light can disrupt the internal body clock of dementia sufferers and can lead to significant cognitive decline and a range of challenging behaviours. My mother also suffers from SAD (seasonal affective disorder) and this can lead to a significant level of depression and anxiety. She also suffers from claustrophobia, which is related to a lack of light and space. The beautiful, calm, open aspect of the Richmond Suite lounge was one of the major selling points of Linfield House, as was the dedicated garden space specifically for residents with dementia. Since arriving at Linfield, my mother's mobility has declined significantly. Outside of being taken out by family members, the option of being able to access the dedicated garden space easily is paramount. This access to plants, animals and sky is so important for the wellbeing of all the Richmond and Selden Suite residents.

Confusingly, GC claim the extension would create additional frontline care jobs and housekeeper positions. However, in a later section, they assert that, due to the minor nature of the proposal, no additional staffing requirements are foreseen. As the ratio of staff to residents is often already stretched, particularly when residents are unsettled, the addition of these extra bedrooms, as well as the aforementioned disruption, would raise significant safeguarding concerns.

As GC pride themselves on being dementia specialists, they should fully understand the ramifications and implications on the residents if such building work should progress. The addition of four bedrooms, when taking into account the statistical figures for dementia numbers in Worthing, will hardly be significant. Therefore, the proposed plans, which involve extensive disruption for already vulnerable individuals, for very little gain outside of monetary value for GC, do not fulfil the requirement of promoting the physical and mental wellbeing of our loved ones.

Kind regards