Adur and Worthing Councils
Development Management
Economy Directorate
Portland House
Richmond Road
Worthing
BN11 1HS

Planning reference: AWDM/0351/24

Dear Sir/Madam.

We the undersigned wish to object to this planning application on the following grounds.

- The original planning application AWDM/1227/23 stated that the application was for a roof covering to replace the original structure knocked down previously. This did not state that a full stand was to be built in the application, other than a small note on the drawings.
- The club have gone on to build a stand that is materially different to the original plans submitted and hoped that no one would challenge the build or indeed notice the variance from the originally submitted plan.
- The stand was built with full knowledge of WFC, who to my observations did not stop or question why the stand was different than plan, and I can only conclude there was no intention to build the original structure.
- The height of the stand blocks light from the adjoining gardens because of its height.
- The stand is made of a material that amplifies the noise of the attendees at a game, and also is used as a drum by the supporters. This was noticeable at the game on 24/03/24, where the noise reached 91db as measured in a back garden when the stand was used as a drum during the match.
- The steel construction of the stand does not fit at all with the surrounding areas aesthetics. It is like having a steel container or warehouse wall next to the property, which would be fine in an industrial estate than a residential area.
- The roof slants backwards towards the properties, and the colour of the roof is almost neon when lit by floodlights, which is virtually every evening, and this is visible from ground level, and even worse from the first floor of the properties.
- The colour of this roof is a glaring contrast to the previous view and is offensive to view.
- The stand also acts as a drum when the balls used in training are shot against it as the players miss the goals set up in front of it and hit the steel back wall of the stand. This does not happen in matches but is constant in training or other activities on the pitch.
- The noise problems of the stand were present with the old stand, and one of the objections in planning AWDC/1227/23 was that the new stand should be constructed of a different material. This was dismissed by the club who said there was no issue and all stands are made of this material. This is not the case, as the stand on the East side relies on the wall of the building at the rear, this could have been the case when erecting the new structure, this would have alleviated at least

some of the noise now produced by the new stand. Had the existing walling been used, there would be a significant reduction in the noise produced.

- The height of the stand is disproportionate in relation to the existing boundary wall. The wall provided adequate privacy, it shielded the neighbour from view and did not create the noise the steel structure does.
- The constant banging, the height and the physical appearance of the structure severely impact on the adjoining resident's quality of enjoyment of their properties and gardens. The noise from the stand can be heard through to the front of the houses, and the view of the sky that was visible from the gardens is no longer there.
- It has now been seen that at the last match, 1st April 2024, the supporters were using the stand as a drum continuously, due in part to the objections toward the stand made by neighbours. The banging was heard prior to the match with persons walking the length of the stand banging in different areas with a regular beat, this was not someone just randomly banging as they went along as they went up and down the stand. Despite the submission made by the club that they would police this, contrary to their statement, nothing was done to discourage this throughout the whole match.

Further to these objections, the constant development of the ground is a real strain on the local environment. The parking is the most obvious intrusion when the ground is in use, I am sure that a residential development would not be allowed on this scale if there was no provision made for the safe parking of vehicles. On match days it would be difficult for fire appliances to reach some of the houses in the local area, Nutbourne and Henty Road are examples of this, with parking narrowing the Roads considerably.

Whilst we as neighbours object, it is not to the expansion of the club, it is that the expansion is too much for this area, and the club should really think about relocating to achieve the level of expansion they require in a more suitable location with better infrastructure for their needs.

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