

Planning application AWDM/0423/26 - dated 16-04-2026 – Gardeners Arms, Sompting

Application Summary

Address: Gardeners Arms West Street Sompting West Sussex BN15 0AR

Proposal: Change of use from Public House with flat over to residential dwelling including relevant internal and external changes, parking and landscaping.

Case officer: Peter Barnett

My name and address: Mr Christopher Newton. 137 Sompting road, Worthing West Sussex. BN14 9EX

Commenter type: Former frequent customer of Gardeners Arms.

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment: Loss of last local pub in Sompting

Comments:

Having read several statements from the objectors regarding this planning application and as a former, and hopefully future regular customer to the Gardeners arms public house, I can only add my support for the comprehensive reasons for the objection to the properties change of use, listed in the statements.

Over recent years, locals have seen the loss of three of its long standing local public houses, leaving only the Gardeners arms as Somptings last remaining local social hub. I understand that during times of national financial hardships, it may seem that the viability of public houses remaining in their present form would be problematic, but I must stress that the local residents will be the ones who will be losing a vital cohesive element to their community.

At a time when community cohesion appears to be breaking down due to world events and the influx of peoples of all nationalities and cultures, It would seem counterproductive to do away with such an important part of the communities support structure where these new peoples can meet and interact with locals in a traditional British setting, thus dispelling damaging pre –conceptions often expressed due to lack of inter-personal contact between peoples of differing races, religions and cultures.

Many new houses are already being built in the local area to provide the needed additional housing stock, and many of these may well be used to provide accommodation for these new peoples, so as one objector notes, that one additional bedroom does not justify the loss of such an important community asset.

Finally therefore, I submit my objection to the change of use for the Gardeners Arms in Sompting, West Sussex.

Respectfully yours,

Christopher Newton.