

Richard Hudson,
38 Nelson Close,
Sompting,
Lancing,
West Sussex.
BN15 0LY.

4th May 2026

REF:AWDM/0423/26 FAO Peter Barnett.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to object to the planning application recently submitted to yourselves.

The Gardeners Arms was the last remaining pub in Sompting, providing a vital role as the only place where friends, neighbours and anyone within the local community could meet, socialise and enjoy themselves. As a frequent user, I can confirm that it had a friendly and cosy atmosphere and hosted various team games such as cribbage and darts, held raffles and quizzes, and every few weeks, had a musician, singer or band playing. It was a viable and thriving business, and only closed because the last pub landlord was told to leave (at very short notice) by the new owner. The hundreds of new houses presently being built at nearby Malthouse Meadows (with no additional amenities) are likely to create more customers and an even greater need to retain a local pub.

Conclusion

The application fails to demonstrate non viability, fails to show lack of demand, and fails to identify alternative provision. It remains contrary to:- Policy 33 - Adur Local Plan- Policies 15 and 17 - Heritage and Character- Paragraph 98 - NPPF- Emerging Policy HC6 - Retention of Key Community Facilities The Gardeners Arms is a key community asset and the last pub in Sompting. Its loss would result in significant and irreversible harm to the village's social infrastructure.

Yours,

Richard Hudson.