

Fwd: Objection - Planning application AWDM/0423/26

Reps and Consults



Planning -

15:45 (1 hour ago)

to me

Planning | Adur & Worthing Councils
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From: **Justin Williams** <justwills66@me.com>
Date: Tue, 5 May 2026 at 14:21
Subject: Objection - Planning application AWDM/0423/26
To: <planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk>

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

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:

Justin Williams 69 Rectory Farm Road, Sompting, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 0ED

Commenter type:

Former frequent customer of Gardeners Arms.

Previous licensee for Berkeley Arms in Bognor and ran by my family for 50 years at The Alex Public House in Bognor Regis.

Publisher and Managing director at Local and National newspapers for Southnews PLC and Johnston Press PLC.

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment: Loss of last local pub in Sompting

Comments:

As a current local resident as well as a schoolboy at Boundstone School in the late 1970's and early 1980's as well as licensee experience for myself and my family pub business alongside my previous employment with community newspapers I feel I have a good understanding and contribution to this subject.

From 2017 / 2018 I was seriously ill and created Aphasia (PPA Dementia) and mental issues when I wanted to base in Rectory Farm Road.

After being a regular customer at the Gardeners I found great comfort and support by the local community visiting this pub. With my experience I also realised I was not alone with other regular various health issues both physical and mentally and people in that pub helped each others through friendship, laughter and comfort.

This has all been lost throughout the whole of Sompting since The Gardeners Arms closed .

I spent time to visit the further other current pubs in Lancing and Broadwater but the distance meant others couldn't rebuild their free valuable times lives in the same way as the community at the Gardeners Arms was created. Those people were both disparate, despaired and lost between many friends and the community and dare I say, our councils unseen losses as a result.

Just allowing to develop the site as a residential property is very sad and a waste of true function for the community and hopefully I can show my experience here.

Our humorous local Felpham poet and writer William Blake says ' *"A good local pub has much in common with a church, except that a pub is warmer, and there's more conversation."*

""The pub is one of the basic institutions of English life... the heart of the neighbourhood."

Ladies and gentlemen we have just one chance. An opportunity to stop losing a key central hub of community from Sompting village and parish. Please don't allow personal profiteering by changing our local pub to a residential house. Thank you your time.

your sincerely

Justin Williams

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