

Adur & Worthing Planning Dep
Worthing Town Hall
Chapel Road
Worthing

47 Rectory Farm Road
Sompting Village
West Sussex
BN150ED

20th April 2026

Planning Application: AWDM/0423/26

Dear Planning Officer,

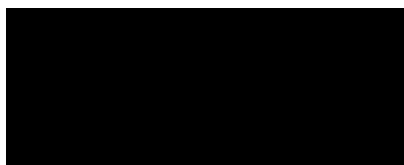
I'm writing as the manager of Alishaan Curry House to object to the proposed change of use of The Gardeners Arms from a public house to a residential dwelling. We've been part of the Sompting community for many years, and we've seen first-hand just how important the pub was to village life — not only for residents, but also for local businesses like ours.

The Gardeners Arms brought people into the village in the evenings and at weekends. A lot of our customers would stop there for a drink before or after their meal with us, and that natural flow of people benefitted both venues. In hospitality, pubs and restaurants tend to support each other; together they create a more appealing destination and a livelier atmosphere. Since the pub closed, we've noticed the difference. Sompting feels quieter, and fewer people come here. Losing the only pub in the village permanently would only make that decline worse.

From a community point of view, the pub also offered something we simply can't - a relaxed social space where people could meet without needing to eat. It was somewhere locals could drop in, chat, and feel part of the village. The alternatives suggested in the application aren't realistically walkable, especially in the evenings when public transport is limited or non-existent. That goes against the principles of sustainable access and community wellbeing set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

It's also important to point out that there *was* genuine interest in buying the freehold to keep it running as a pub. Several people came forward with serious offers. That alone shows there was demand and that the pub did have a viable future. Under Policy 33 of the Adur Local Plan, a community facility should only be lost if there is clear evidence of nonviability and no demand. The fact that credible buyers existed shows that this test has not been met.

As a local business, we're worried that allowing the loss of the village's last pub would set a damaging precedent for Sompting's hospitality and community infrastructure. For all these reasons, we respectfully ask that the application is refused. The Gardeners Arms played a big part in the social, cultural, and economic life of the village. Losing it permanently would weaken the local hospitality network, reduce footfall for neighbouring businesses, and take away a vital community space that many residents relied on.



Mr Salim Ahmed



27 APR 2026

Business Support