

Comments for Planning Application AWDM/0423/26

Reps and Consults



planning@adur-worth

10:10 (1 hour ago)

to me

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 29/04/2026 10:10 AM from Mr Malcolm Foster.

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

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name:	Mr Malcolm Foster
Email:	
Address:	53 Beaumont Road Worthing West Sussex

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Member of the Public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	- Loss of General Amenity
Comments:	I wish to formally object to the resubmitted application for the change of use of the Gardeners Arms, located on West Street, Sompting. Having lived and worked in the Gainsborough ward of Worthing for over 40 years, I have witnessed the steady decline in the number of pubs in our area. The closures of establishments such as The Marquis of Granby, The Ball Tree, The Joyful Whippet, The Dolphin, The Elms, and The Wigmore have resulted in a significant reduction of social spaces for our community. The number of residential properties in the area has increased over the same period, sometimes replacing the very pubs that once served as local gathering points. This trend creates a clear irony: while more people are being brought into the area to support

the local economy, they are increasingly deprived of places to meet and socialize. The potential loss of the Gardeners Arms as the last remaining pub in Sompting would cause lasting harm to the village's social fabric, character, and community cohesion. This impact would extend beyond Sompting itself, affecting the surrounding areas as well. With the recent development of new housing in the village, it is particularly concerning that these new residents may soon be without a nearby pub to frequent. A welcoming pub is often a cornerstone of any community, offering a space for residents to connect with family and friends. Its loss would create a void that could be hard to fill.

I have many fond memories of the Gardeners Arms, a place where I have enjoyed spending time with friends, colleagues, and family. It offered a friendly, welcoming atmosphere, with its charming sun terrace providing a lovely setting for relaxation. It was a place where families of all generations, from children to grandparents, could gather with no concerns for their safety. The quirky 1962 British Rail passenger carriage attached to the pub and the home-cooked food served daily added to its unique appeal.

In recent years, the pub has hosted events such as quiz nights and live music, further cementing its role as a hub for community interaction. As a member of the local Arun & Adur branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), the Gardeners Arms holds a special place in my heart. It was here that we held our branch's inaugural meeting in 1989, and it earned a strong reputation for serving high-quality cask ale.

In recognition of its excellence, the pub was named Arun & Adur CAMRA Pub of the Year in 2013 and has featured multiple times in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide, which highlights the best pubs for beer across the UK. To qualify for the guide, the Gardeners Arms had to rank among the top 18 cask ale pubs in the Arun and Adur area, competing with more than 130 other pubs. Against that background, it is difficult to understand why the current owners believe the business is not commercially viable. Cask ale remains in peak condition for only two to three days after being tapped, so serving beer consistently to the standard required for the Good Beer Guide demands a high turnover. The Gardeners Arms also proved an ideal venue for our branch meetings, reinforcing its status as a valued community asset.

Given all these factors, I respectfully urge that the concerns raised here be taken into account during the decision-making process. The potential loss of this historic and beloved local pub would be a significant blow to the community.
