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To: planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk <planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk>
Cc: Stacey Gumpright , Alex Pearcy

Response to Fleur Pennys response to our initial statement – Palling Reference AWDM/0064/25

Although it is good to hear the feedback presented our concerns and objections stand. Our issue is not one with the Signal Post which has added a social venue in the local area, but one with the proposals for use of the outside public space as their own and the impact it will have. This represents the view of all the team at Emerald Finance who are concerned with this proposal and would be affected by it. This is a direct response to the points raised in Fleur Pennys response to our initial objection.

'Increased Noise Pollution and Disturbance' – If it is a nice sunny day most people would rather sit outside and this will be from lunchtime or opening times onwards. As there is a minimal number of seats/stools proposed due to the limited space it wont take a 'busy period' for this to fill up and create noise and disturbance. Our office is open from 12.00 and often until 6.00 pm so will also be affected by the 'drink on the way home' customer. It would also be difficult to police only allowing access to this area at certain times as once a client has used this at one time, they will no doubt use it on repeated visits at different times.

'Smoking and Smell' - Clearly you can't tell people where to smoke outside but if you give them an area in which they can smoke it is much more likely that they will do so in that area. Milton Road is the other side of the premises and you will be unable to control whether people only smoke there and to suggest you can is far-fetched. If people are sat outside and wish to smoke they aren't going to get up and move round the corner when they are perfectly comfortable where they are, whether seated or standing, at a table or a ledge. Our statement did not state that the smell of food was unpleasant, but demonstrates the ability for such smells to drift into the office, which when it is cigarette smoke is clearly unpleasant, unhealthy and unwarranted.

'Social Issues' – to suggest that the presence of the pub has 'vastly reduced' drugs, vandalism and homelessness' in the area and has now stopped entirely is quite frankly a false statement. This area has higher than average social issues compared to other areas in the town as seen by the frequent presence of police in the area and break ins. Whether it has reduced is a moot topic and one for the police to confirm, but it certainly isn't as a result of the Signal Posts presence. On more than one occasion staff from the Signal Post have come into our offices to ask if we have CCTV after the pub has been broken into at the rear of the premises, which clearly attracts trouble rather than being as managed as Fleur may suggest, and its clear social issues remain locally.

'Space' – The walkway is not wide and no-one enjoys passing or brushing past those drinking on the street, regardless of whether they are 30 or 50 years of age. This is

even more prevalent for the elderly who are frequent patrons of this road and who on the whole will not be aware of this proposal. Whether this is a table and chairs or a ledge and stools, people do not chat in an orderly line and this area could easily fill up when busy or people are waiting to get in, and effectively block the pavement, resulting in the risk that passers-by may end up in the road. It will be impossible for the staff to police or control this. I urge those making this decision to have a close look at the actual space available and the impact if this were only two people deep with a chair or stool in place.

'Impact on Neighbours' – I am conscious that having a local drinking venue is attractive, and it is a very pleasant environment that you have created that provides a service for many in the area that has been created in a tasteful and well presented way. However it does not impact the majority of those people in the local area and the number of signatures doesn't really reflect those outside seating would impact. Those impacted are literally those either side and above your premises. The stools and tables will be used by those that prefer the outdoors or the sun, or smokers who don't want to get up and go to a smoking area. The pub is rarely so busy that people would have to wait outside for a table inside. It does not matter whether it is a chair and table or a stool and ledge, it is the presence of people outside that results in a disturbance by the natural conversation and social noise and smells that environment creates.

'Lack of Privacy' – If people were outside your premises they would have direct sight into ours. Our frosted windows are advertising and stop at waist level so this 'privacy glass' will not provide the privacy you allude to. Those sat outside will have a clear view into our offices. We deal with clients private affairs and they have the right to privacy whilst in our premises as well.

'Anti-social behaviour' – This week there was a dried blood splatter all over the pavement on the corner outside the entrance to the Signal Post so there is clearly some anti-social behaviour in the area, although this clearly may not be related to your business and may be an unfortunate coincidence. You can only do so much to control the behaviour of others which we fully appreciate but alcohol is a known contributor. It will be harder to monitor those outside your doors than those in it.

Our concerns as stated stand and we maintain that this should not be approved.

Best regards

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