

## STATEMENT A5 – Georgina Griffiths

I strongly object to this planning application.

Firstly, the Windmill pub is an asset to the Windmill Hill community and a space where many of the community would meet to socialise and provide support to one another. Research has shown time and time again the importance of community spaces for peoples' mental health and the removal of such spaces only causes a deterioration in mental health. It is important to remember that once these community spaces are lost they are never repurposed again for community use. Note the Windmill Hill Community has also already lost the Fox Inn pub on Somerset Terrace and it is not fair to take away another space from the community. Another vital point why I object to the Windmill pub being closed is for the safety of women. There is just one pub in Windmill Hill which is small and does not have the space to accommodate the local community. Since the closure of the Windmill many women living on Windmill hill are required to leave their local area to find a suitable pub to attend with friends or family which then puts their safety at risk when travelling back to their homes at night. It is unfair and unsafe that women should have to do this. Please consider the importance of Windmill pub for the wellbeing of the residents of Windmill Hill. The repurposing of the pub to accommodation will benefit a handful of people looking for somewhere to live but negatively impact the whole community both now and for decades to come.

Secondly, the applicant states that there are a range of other pubs that Windmill hill residents can go to and that pubs can be defined as being in the same locality if they take 10minutes to walk to/maximum 800m away from Windmill Hill area and then goes on to list a range of pubs that are in the locality that Windmill Hill residents could use. However, in fact the applicant lists a range of pubs that are more than 800m and 10mins walking time from Windmill Hill area. For example one pub in the list is the Robert Fitzharding which is a pub that would take 16mins to walk to from Windmill Hill and a walk via East Street which police have advised for both men and women not to walk alone on at night. How can it then be expected that this is a 'pub in the Windmill Hill locality' that could be visited by the community. I do not think it is fair or just to list the Robert Fitzharding pub as an alternative location for Windmill Hill residents to go to.

Please do not remove a community asset from the Windmill Hill Community.