

Written statement for consideration of application 20/02864/F — The Windmill Pub

When looking to move to Bristol from London, The Windmill pub was one of the things that attracted my partner and I to the area — having a welcoming, local pub, with great affordable food, close to home was something that was important to us.

It was a warm and friendly venue with a welcome variety of people and ages. It was a place to meet family and friends for a coffee, a quick drink, enjoyable lunch or supper, or parties and events. A place I could have casual work meetings. And, after becoming a parent, it was a place to meet friends of an afternoon, happily letting the babies / toddlers play and explore the family room.

As a woman, I could go to The Windmill on my own. I felt welcome and safe to sit there alone, as well as walk to the pub and back home. This is not something I feel about the other pubs mentioned in the planning officers report. The Victoria Park and The Star and Dove either require a walk through the park or a long detour through quiet streets and alleyways, and other pubs require a walk through the Green — things that, sadly, make me feel unsafe, especially during the winter months when it becomes dark during the afternoon. Additionally, many of the pubs listed in the report provide offerings for their own communities, and I'm not sure I'd feel welcome in them, or enjoy visiting them as I did The Windmill.

The Windmill is a valued (and sorely missed!) local pub, which can be seen by the support given to the crowdfunding effort that raised £175K to try and save it (and notably, this happened at the beginning of the pandemic which was a time of great uncertainty for many). My partner and I would love to see The Windmill re-vitalised into a thriving local venue. And, with an offer made by an experienced pub owner seeking to buy the Windmill, we hoped that this would be the case.

With the development of a large number of flats (including accomodation for hundreds of students) so close to the neighbourhood, is it necessary to have more flats? Is it not more important to maintain a cherished pub that brings life and a buzz to the heart of the community? With the increased number of residents, we need more facilities likes this, not less.

Please, save The Windmill! Save our beloved pub!

Hana Hybs
