

STATEMENT A13 – Hazel Collier

Over the years since we moved to Windmill Hill nine years ago the FOUR GENERATIONS of our FAMILY have enjoyed what the Windmill Pub had to offer.

The uniqueness of the Windmill Pub was for us the FAMILY ROOM we could enjoy the ambience of the pub, drink GOOD BEER, eat SIMPLE FOOD in a space separate from the bar where the CHILDREN in our company would be away from the bar and out of earshot for the customers in that area. The children would make use of the well kept toys and books provided - it was our go to place for family GET TOGETHERS and FAMILY OCCASIONS/CELEBRATIONS always relaxed, always an easy place to be and always a place to bump into neighbours and catch up with local chat.

NO OTHER PUBS in the vicinity offer the same FAMILY ROOM EXPERIENCE, they offer a different experience for the clientele who use them, they are either DINNING PUBS, SPORTS PUBS or ALCOHOL WATERING HOLES. An example of an alternative pub taken from the list provided by the planning officer and the applicant is the APPLE TREE pub on Philip Street just off Bedminster Parade. This is in no way a place we as a family would choose, it isn't family or community orientated - not welcoming and not friendly towards children. The walk to the Apple Tree is through streets that individual members of our family would not feel safe to walk through after dark - the crime rate of Windmill Hill may be recorded as 'low crime' but the route to the Apple Tree is not in Windmill Hill locality. The only pub in the locality within walking range of 800m and a 10 min walk is the Rising Sun - it's great pub but does not offer a family room.

Before the closure of the Windmill Pub we found ourselves commenting over a period of time on CHANGES IN WHAT THE PUB WAS OFFERING:-

- FEWER DRAUGHT BEER CHOICES
- NOT SO WELL KEPT BEER
- THE FOOD MENU DISAPPEARED
- BROKEN TOYS AND RIPPED BOOKS

The pub was NEGLECTED by the owner and UNCARED FOR - and if his profits were down it shouldn't have been a surprise. With all the community support already demonstrated this pub should still be viable..

- We know there is an offer from an experienced successful publican to buy the pub at a pub price although the planning officer fails to mention this in his latest report.
- The applicant seems to want to sell the pub for a house price to a property developer.
- Bedminster Green will soon have hundreds of new flats - let the Windmill Pub have a NEW LEASE OF LIFE for us and the forthcoming NEW RESIDENTS OF BEDMINSTER GREEN.