

STATEMENT A26 – Annie McGann

From Save Bristol nightlife Re: The determination to turn The Windmill Pub into Flats despite all public opposition.

We object to the plans to turn The Windmill pub into flats.

This battle has been going on for years and times have changed.

Since Covid 19 established itself in our world, people require social amenities close to where they live – they don't want to have to get a cab into the crowded city centre where most places to go out at night cater for students and out of town revellers. People don't want to walk across town via a shortcut through the park, or walk far in the dark – they don't want to find a pink scooter and negotiate the hills and traffic like young people may do – Women, especially, may not feel secure in walking quiet streets and that includes streets where the life and soul have been sucked out of them because the pubs are gone and the shops are shuttered. Swathes of student flats, all self-contained and turned in on themselves, create high walls and empty pavements, not overlooked by anyone, just intermittent CCTV and doorbell cameras. Gone is the natural policing of streets overlooked by windows and warmed by the familiarity of neighbours and curtained windows in streetlight – all gone, removed by the wastelands of development that is not to a human scale and replaced by a piecemeal approach to the built environment – non holistic – that doesn't take human comfort, community, or feelings of safety into account. Social wastelands with the nearest pub counted as the crow flies and not considering the character of each pub and its people and the journey to get there if you are elderly or infirm -- away from the nice online map -- away from the planner's algorithm.

Times have changed. Covid has changed everything – people need safe social spaces, need community, need to be able to live their lives within their locality – stay local. So many people now work from home – everyone needs that third space between home and work, wherein to socialise and meet their neighbours, mark times of the year, celebrate, mourn, or hangout - listen to live music – have a roast with the family – meet a future partner instead of online dating – find some company and conversation – unwind – ease loneliness – let their hair down. The people that want to keep this pub as a pub are a community of neighbours – they will use the pub as their social base – the pub is viable. Don't aid the planners and developers in wrecking our neighbourhoods, destroying what social spaces remain. Don't help inflate the price of land in the name of developer's profit margins. The price is inflated in anticipation of you giving in and letting the pub become flats. They have spent years trying to wear campaigners down, finding a way round commitment to policy DM6. Save pubs! There is a publican ready to buy at a fair price with the money ready to go. Deny planning for flats. Let The Windmill be a pub!