

STATEMENT A27 – Helen Adshead

The Windmill Pub has been at the beating heart of the Windmill Hill Community since I moved here about 20 years ago.

It has been the go-to venue for so many social gatherings. I myself have met people there for birthday parties, street meetings, community consultations, family gatherings, film nights, children's play dates, book clubs, good old chin wags, having a laugh with friends and finding a shoulder to cry on. And other people can no doubt give other lists of their reasons for being there, and the welcoming space that our pub offered us.

I've seen the list of other pubs that apparently offer an equivalent space for us. And they just don't. The main reason being, they are not in our community. Hopefully they work equally well for their local community But they are not for us. Apart from the Rising Sun, our smaller, second local pub, all the other pubs are not suitable for evening visits after dark. As a woman, I felt safe getting to the Windmill and being in the Windmill alone. I would not cross Victoria Park in the dark, and I would not walk down across the open spaces to East Street alone after dark.

I would also like to add that the current closure of the Windmill Pub has made a huge difference to the safety and the feeling of safety as one enters Windmill Hill in the evening. As a woman, walking or cycling alone, I always appreciated having the open pub on Windmill Hill, with people coming and going, instead of the very quiet street which we now have. The lack of the pub in this location has made the very street less safe.

The only reason for selling the pub off for housing is for the financial gain for the current owner. A few extra flats is negligible, when hundreds of flats are being built around Bedminster Green. Presumably the current owner bought the pub at a pub price, and he should sell it at a pub price. The community are committed to the pub, and there is a reasonable offer on the table from an experienced publican. There is absolutely no reason to sell the pub off for flats, as it is a very valued community asset. The huge local campaign to save The Windmill, and even to try and buy it as a CIC shows how important local demand and support is.

Keeping The Windmill as a pub is of benefit to the whole community. Change of use to flats will benefit just one person. I trust that the Planning process will make the right decision here and support what is in the interest of the wider community, an important community asset.

Helen Adshead
Resident, Windmill Hill Community.