

STATEMENT A30 - Dianne James

The Planning Officer lists several pubs in his report as being available to replace The Windmill but he does not understand that our community needs a pub that is actually in Windmill Hill (WMH) and is able to provide a central focal point that made WMH such a great place to live. We shouldn't have to leave our safe community, the mechanics of which have been honed over many years by those that used The Windmill, and travel to a different, and possibly alien community for a drink. And when I say 'a drink' I am talking about everything the pub offered us, including food, films, quizzes, a real fire, parties, family space, a meeting place, a safe space, a place so safe you could go in there on your own and not feel uncomfortable, and of course a good choice of drinks.

The campaign to 'Save the Windy' demonstrated the strength of support for the pub. We had hundreds of people committing their money to our Crowd Funder. If it hadn't been for bad timing due to the Covid pandemic we would have raised the required funds and reopened The Windmill as a Community Pub.

If you look at some of the venues listed you will see that they cannot be considered as alternatives to The Windmill:

The WMH Community Centre and Fiddlers (a music venue) are not actually pubs.

The Assembly and The Brunel are sports focused with big tv screens.

The Apple Tree is a cider pub with no real ale and is very small.

The Fitzharding is a Weatherspoons, so a focus on cheap food and drink.

The Tap and Barrel is a biker pub.

The Barley Mow, Black Cat, Steam Crane and London Inn would involve walking through Bedminster Parade and East St, and as an older, single woman I would not feel safe walking home at night.

The Star & Dove and the Victoria Pub would mean a walk home through Victoria Park, which is not a safe place to walk at night.

The Rising Sun is up a steep hill and has very little inside space, certainly not enough meet the needs of WMH.

During the 'SavetheWindy' campaign I knocked on hundreds of doors and spoke to hundreds of people on the hill, asking for their support to buy the pub. Nearly everyone said they loved the pub and wanted to support and save it. I was particularly amazed by the number of people who also said The Windmill was one of the key reasons they moved to WMH.

Please save our pub by rejecting this application.