

STATEMENT A8 – Cllr Lisa Stone

The Windmill Hill pub has been part of the local community in Windmill Hill for years. It has a 5-star rating on trip advisor with over 1000 face book followers.

It is situated in a prime position on Windmill Hill, where it should continue being a viable pub, not only for benefit of the local community, but also for the benefit of the development proposed on Bedminster Green. The planning officers have made a judgement when considering the viability of the pub, stating that there are other pubs in the area which will serve the community. How dare they, many of these pubs are not within 800M of Windmill Hill residents and sometimes they will need to walk through Victoria Park at night, which has been ill advised by the local community police, and most serve a different clientele. The demographic of Windmill Hill is largely between 25 – 45 who would welcome a local pub, that suits their needs.

It is common knowledge that the residents love this Pub, this is clearly shown by their attempt to raise the money to buy the pub, as a valued community asset. They managed to raise £170,000, which is truly amazing, and shows how much the community is committed to this space. I would like to emphasis that the owner of the pub has had offers to buy the pub from him above the market value for a pub. Which needs to be considered here today, because it is not worth the value which has been put onto it, as it still does not have planning permission for 5 flats! It is still a pub. It is a real shame when we continue to see these places being eroded from the urban landscape, especially in South Bristol. A local gathering place to share stories and ignite passions, should not be easily dismissed.

I plead to the Councillor to refuse planning permission and I plead to Mr Cranney, if he is here today, to do the right thing, and sell this precious place as a pub.