

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 29/01/2024 11:55 PM from [REDACTED]

Application Summary

Address:	The Amazon And Tiger Harvel Street Meopham Gravesend Kent DA13 0DE
Proposal:	Change of use to C3 dwellinghouse.
Case Officer:	Mrs Alison Webster

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Address:	Culverstone Meopham

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments:	This is actually a very straight forward situation where the pub is being wrongly proposed as a residential property when it is a much valued, wanted and viable Public House. The following are the facts: 1. The Amazon & Tiger Public House is, and has always been since its construction in the early 1900s, a pub. 2. The pub closed in 2020 due to Covid. Up until that point the pub was a running business and very much heart of the village and surrounding areas. There are no other similar country pubs for a 3-mile radius, which is a 50-minute walk. 3. The landlord took the opportunity to retire which is everyone's right. However, the pub became wrongly inter-twined with that decision. This was due a misconception that the Amazon & Tiger was a residential dwelling that happened to have a pub in it; as opposed to the reality that this is first and foremost a public house, with landlords living quarters existing only to run the pub. 4. Numerous offers were made to the landlord to enable him to retire and also ensure the pub retained its position in the village as the centre of community life. All offers were rejected by the landlord and prevented the pub from re-opening after Covid. 5. There are similar public houses in other rural villages which are thriving businesses. In the right hands, the Amazon & Tiger Public House could be amazing and reconnect the community again, including many lonely and isolated people where the pub is their lifeline. Sadly, the pub has been gradually run down in a bid to suggest it's an unviable business, which is not the case. 6. Meopham Parish Council submitted an application to Gravesham Borough Council to protect the Amazon & Tiger Public House, the whole building, as an Asset of Community Value. The application was successful as Gravesham Borough Council also recognised the pub's importance to the village and surrounding communities. This ACV status speaks volumes.
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7. Since 2020 the landlord has continued to live in the upstairs quarters and kept the pub closed as he sees the pub primarily as a residential dwelling. However, planning regulations are clear that the building is a pub hence this recent planning application to legally change its use to residential. This would be the final nail in the coffin for the pub and it will be gone forever.

8. The landlord's initial view when he and his partner retired was to continue to live in the village they love. Strangely over the past 3 years or so they haven't engaged with any community events whatsoever. In actual fact, they have deliberately segregated themselves from the village and the people that live there, even going away when there was anything going on.

9. The landlord has even started physically demolishing parts of the building and, given the number of skips that have been filled recently, then there's a fair chance that the pub interior and bar has been demolished too. All going against the Council's Enforcement instruction that nothing in the building should be touched.

10. This completely questions their original motives and it is now clear to see that this is all about attempting to change the pub's use so that landlord can sell the building as a residential property and reap the financial rewards this would bring.

The scale of objection to this planning application clearly demonstrates the extent and strength of public feeling on this matter. It has been said those trying to save the pub are being vindictive to the landlord and his partner. But all the residents are expressing is the wish to still have a pub in Harvel which is central to their lives, which everyone is being unfairly deprived of.

The landlord's wish to retire and the Amazon & Tiger Public House are completely separate issues. Unfortunately, personal gain is at the core of this situation and at the expense of hundreds of people.

As protectors of the public realm and champions of strong and thriving communities, the Council will undoubtedly understand the significant impact the lack of the pub has on its residents. Not just those living in Harvel but all those in neighbouring communities where the Amazon & Tiger is the only real place where they all meet, congregate and socialise. The pub is a huge part of people's lives and it shouldn't be taken away just like that because the landlord and his partner want something different for themselves. Go and find that new life absolutely, with everyone's best wishes. But not by desecrating and ruining the village they supposedly love.

This application for change of use should be rejected outright to give the pub any chance of coming back to life and regaining its rightful place at the heart of the community. Enforcement action must be taken immediately before the pub is damaged any further.

Kind regards