

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Comments were submitted at 24/01/2024 5:38 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: [REDACTED]

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments:

I moved from a town into harvel in 2021 along with my husband and elderly mother. Moving to a rural community meant it was very important to me that there was a village pub. I visited the Amazon and Tiger prior to moving and although found it a little run down, intended to make full use of it to socialise and get to know the local community. Myself and my husband are also musicians and wanted to try and set up open mic and jam nights in the pub to bring more people in and again get to know our neighbours. When I actually moved I was shocked to find the pub had closed and it was particularly devastating to my mother who has since found herself quite isolated. There is nowhere in our village to really get to know our neighbours. The cricket club is open on some days but only in the summer and the village hall events are only occasionally and often in the day so a lot of locals cannot attend. The amazon and Tiger has been a pub for over 100 years, it is in a conservation area and classed as an asset of community value. The current owners bought it as a pub so I do not understand how they are now able to take it away from the community. They have not tried to sell it as a pub, in fact there was a buyer who intended to keep it as a pub but the current owners wouldn't sell. This buyer went on to purchase the Black Horse in Stansted which is another similar pub in a rural village which is thriving. There are many other pubs in local villages which are also surviving so I don't see why Harvel would be any different. The local community in Harvel offered to try and club together to buy the amazon and tiger but the owners wouldn't engage. The community also offered to run the pub as volunteers while the owners remained in the upstairs accommodation but again the owners wouldn't engage. It doesn't seem to me that the owners have tried to find any way to keep the amazon and tiger as a pub, in fact they have been obstructive to any attempt. They have put forward unsubstantiated claims as to why the pub wasn't profitable eg that local customers smuggled in alcohol! They also claimed that local events such as running and cycling events took custom away. This is not true as the pub was much used by local running and cycling clubs and even had their trophy cabinets in the pub. These type of events also take place in many local villages without being of any detriment to their village pubs (in fact it brings in custom from outside the local area). It is also odd that a previous application by the owners of the Amazon and Tiger to extend the pub to add a b&b included supporting

information regarding the local events meant the pub had a lot of customers and a need for accommodation attached to the pub. (The other odd thing is that since I have moved in that b&b is nowhere to be found on local adverts and has in fact been occupied by their family members for some time.). It has also been put forward by the owners in support of their application the fact other local amenities have closed. This is true but actually shows how vital the pub is as it is the last thing we have left. Incidentally the village shop which they mention was actually owned by one of their relatives who did the same thing and took it away and made it residential. Incidentally I don't know at what stage the planning process is at but it is clear to people who live locally that building work has already begun at the amazon and tiger, both internally and externally. Surely this shouldn't happen until a decision is made? Also could I request this application goes to committee so locals can speak publically. I have elderly neighbours who are not online who I know would like to attend
Please please save our local pub.

Kind regards