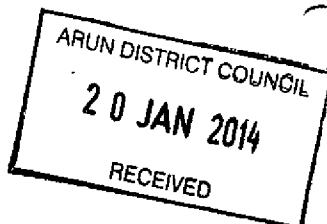


January 16, 2014

Arun District Council  
Planning Application AW 336-13.  
Russell Hotel change of Usage.



We are writing to inform you that we object strongly to the above planning application  
On the grounds that the Russell Hotel is a unique and irreplaceable establishment and should not  
Be closed..

Bognor Regis is awash with nursing/care homes. There are no less than 60 residential homes in the  
Bognor postal area and the conversion of the Russell into another home would be a body blow to the  
region, as a commercially attractive seaside resort.

The 40-bedroom hotel, designed by the blind for the blind; occupies a coveted position 200 yards from  
The seafront; boasts admirable facilities, has a caring and dedicated staff of 30. a quality restaurant,  
catering for vegetarians, swimming pool, bar, sauna, etc and is tailored for purpose.

The would-be purchasers, Livability, intend to transfer 15 disabled people to the **top floor of the  
Russell. I repeat the top floor** - displacing 30 existing hotel staff who will be dismissed. A large section  
of the hotel will be mothballed With scant outline on future development.

Ironically Livability's buoyant website totally contradicts the reasons for the move given in the planning  
application. The website reveals that residents of Ashleigh House already enjoy extremely modern and  
comfortable facilities. Why should they want to move?

On basic analysis, the Blind guests and clients at the Russell Hotel will become sacrificial lambs of  
A convenient deal between two charities dependent upon public donations. There is little transparency.  
No details of price or cost have been revealed under the Freedom of Information Act..

Meanwhile, Livability's claims that the Russell Hotel is struggling are open to questioning. The hotel  
enjoyed a very successful Christmas, was fully booked several days after Christmas, has a busy and  
popular restaurant and is a valued meeting venue for thousands throughout the season.

There is an old adage which is very applicable to the plans to close the Russell. IF IT AINT BROKE,  
DON'T FIX IT

We trust that the Parish Council, and the Arun Planning Department, will take all of this into  
consideration. To close the Russell Hotel would be a body blow to the prosperity and future of  
The region. .

The swimming pool is wonderful. It is a magnet for hundreds of older swimmers for exercise and  
therapy. The only alternative used to be Felpham. However, the bus there has been cancelled.

We rest our case.

For Russell Support Group.

Paula Campbell.

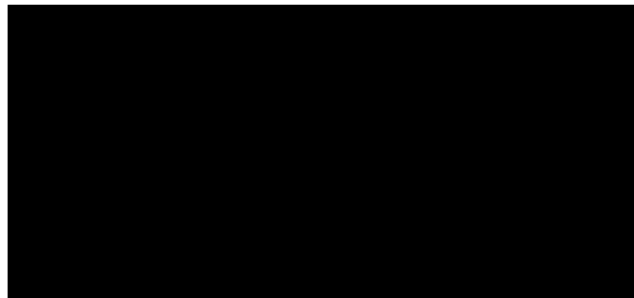
94 Barrack Lane

Arundwick

Bognor Regis

W. Sussex PO21 4DG,

E.C.



Bryan Gartside  
Beulah House  
Swansea Gardens  
Bognor Regis PO21



Simon Davies  
Arun Planning Department  
Civic Centre  
Maltravers Road  
Littlehampton  
BN17 5LS

January 14<sup>th</sup> 2014

RE: RUSSELL HOTEL Bognor Regis. Change of usage.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to state my objection to the recent planning application made by Livability for a change of usage for the above hotel in Bognor Regis.

My objection is based on the fact that Bognor Regis needs more leisure and tourism facilities if the town is to develop further in the future as a tourist destination. The existing hotel, if marketed widely, could further develop the tourist facilities for Bognor Regis and be integral to the revitalisation of the town's sea front. I note that there is in place a plan to revamp the coastal area and the future development of Bognor Regis is key to that plan.

The town already has a wide range of care homes that clearly meet the needs of the aging population. However, whereas care homes do create a number of jobs in the locality the town's future belongs in offering facilities to both British and foreign tourists.

It is not that I am unsympathetic to their needs of the residents of Ashley House. I have known several residents in the past, including one former mayor of the town and have before now helped to raise money for the provision. Clearly the current residents do need improved facilities. However, we need to look at the bigger picture and wider implications of losing what could be a first class hotel and tourist destination for the town as a whole.

It appears that Ashley House (Livability) have no clear plan for the extended usage of the current hotel, stating the two levels would be mothballed until such times as a feasibility study takes place. This clearly indicates to me that the organisation do not have a clear plan for the continued usage of this valuable facility.

Perhaps a better alternative would be for the current owners to sell the hotel and business to a larger hotel group who would be better placed to capitalise on the massive economic potential the hotel has to offer. Current usage may not be viable as the Vision Hotel group have never implemented a clear economic strategy for running the facility on a commercial basis. Such an endeavour could also include facilities for those with visual impairment.

Another important group that would be affected by a change of use are those who currently use the swimming pool as a leisure resource. I believe these number into the hundreds as recent press reportage has confirmed. To those, mainly older people, who use the facility the loss of the pool would be detrimental to the health and well-being of the individuals who will not be able to find a similar resource within the local area, unless they are able to travel and can afford to pay much higher prices for using facilities in other hotels such as: Avisford Park, Bailiffs Court and the Goodwood Hotel.

I would therefore encourage Arun's planning committee to take in to consideration the 'greater good' and maintain the current hotel as a hotel which will be integral to the future development of the town when redevelopment of the seafront area finally comes to fruition.

  
Bryan Gartside

Aw33613

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

S Please keep the Russell Hotel as it is. It is an invaluable Hotel for the Vision Impaired and totally Blind. If the Russell Hotel is sold, many Vision Impaired people will not have anywhere to go on Holiday.

23 2 Blind people do not appreciate ordinary Hotels because there is so much they won't be able to know. Finding rooms will be a problem and, if they have Guide dogs which many have, they would have great difficulty taking them out to do their toilet.

The Staff at the Russell Hotel understand the needs of vision Impaired people and there is so much they can read for themselves I.E. BRAILLE.

Surely Vision Impaired people are equally in need as are the disabled people Livability want to care for.

Please don't deprive the Vision Impaired because they will feel pushed aside for other disabilities.

PLEASE KEEP THE RUSSELL HOTEL AS IT IS.

THANK You for reading this letter.

Yours in anticipation

Ivy.

MRS TEMPLE

