

1 Wychwood Walk, Aldwick ,Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 4DP

22 January 2014

Mr Simon Davies
Planning Officer
Planning Department
Arun Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
LITTLEHAMPTON
West Sussex
BN17 5LF

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL TECHNICAL SUPPORT
24 JAN 2014
ACTION...

Dear Mr Davies,

RE: THE RUSSELL HOTEL, KINGS PARADE, BOGNOR REGIS

I attended the Aldwick Parish Council Meeting on Monday 20th February 2014 and was extremely disappointed on the vote to change the use of the Russell Hotel into a disabled Care home. The proposal is to use only two floors of the building for the disabled, with no immediate specific plans for use of the thriving Restaurant, Bar, Coffee Lounge, Swimming pool and Gym.

Bognor has already lost two major prominently positioned hotels, with the demise of the The Royal and The Norfolk Hotels. This change of use to the Russell will result in the loss of another good hotel to Bognor Regis, where we have so few quality hotels with such good facilities for those visitors who want to stay in the town.

This is not simply the loss of a good hotel for the blind and disabled, it is also a loss for the general public of a very good Restaurant, Bar, Coffee Lounge, and Swimming Pool and Gym and a loss of income generated by those visitors to the town. Can Bognor Regis afford such a loss?

Almost 18 months of negative publicity surrounding this proposed plan has led to confusion among established and potential customers when booking holidays and the current patrons who use all the facilities the Russell currently offers throughout the year.

We have more and more people choosing to take holidays at home and there are increased overseas visitors to the UK. Bognor Regis is well situated to attract these visitors with its clean safe beaches, sailing, beautiful countryside, interesting and historical places to visit in the area. WE DESPERATELY NEED TO KEEP SUCH HOTELS AS THE RUSSELL TO PROVIDE GOOD QUALITY ACCOMMODATION IN AN EXCELLENT POSITION, WITH GOOD FACILITIES FOR OUR VISITORS.

I do feel it is extremely important that Arun District Council gives thorough consideration to the impact a change of use at the Russell Hotel will have on the income its visitors generate in the town and the effect on businesses within the larger community. The proposed change of use is a **very short sighted decision and will have a negative impact on the fortunes of Bognor Regis in the long term.**

Also, you may care to consider the value of any regeneration plans to the area, if there are no longer any hotels of quality left in Bognor Regis for visitors to stay in! I wish to object to this change of use.

Yours sincerely


Valmai Chambers