

From: Anita Gardner
Sent: 03 October 2017 08:59
To: Planning.Responses
Subject: FW: LU/267/17/PL Change of use from community centre to 2 flats Chilgrove House, Kimberry, Littlehampton

Please treat as additional supporting info from agent

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 October 2017 07:57
To: Anita Gardner
Cc: Keith Deane
Subject: LU/267/17/PL Change of use from community centre to 2 flats Chilgrove House, Kimberry, Littlehampton

Dear Anita,

Further to your request for supporting information in your email dated 21 September to David Fuller at Pellings, Arun District Council have provided the following outlining the background to the proposal or why permission is sought to change the use.

Community Lounge, Chilgrove House

1. Chilgrove House was temporary accommodation when it was first built. The lounge was a communal area for the residents of Chilgrove House and included the wardens offices. The warden would have coffee mornings and mother and toddler groups.
2. When the use of Chilgrove House was changed from temporary accommodation to general needs, a local group received charitable funding to run various community based activities from the lounge. The funding paid for a full time employee who ran different groups. After a year the group did not secure any further funding so the lounge was closed.
3. A local volunteer offered to run different groups from Chilgrove House. This included art groups, sewing classes, mother and toddler groups and a drug counselling service. This volunteer also ran an after school club out of The Keystone Centre.

During this time there were a number of noise complaints about the groups and regular intervention from Housing was necessary. The hours that the lounge could be used was imposed by Housing.

In March 2016 the volunteer had to withdraw her involvement due to personal reasons. Another volunteer agreed to take over responsibility for the Lounge. By this time most of the activities that had been running had long since ceased and the Lounge was being used on a very sporadic basis.

4. At this point the use of the lounge was restricted to a mother and toddler group. Generally, 3 mothers would attend the sessions, sometimes fewer. There was a complete lack of interest from the local community. The new volunteer tried leafleting and door knocking but to no avail. An advertised Christmas event in 2016 had no attendees at all.

5. At the beginning of 2017, Age UK started to use Chilgrove House as the Tamarisk Centre was closing. They used the lounge twice a week. Age UK leafleted the three sheltered housing blocks of flats in Wick and also made sure regular attendees of the Tamarisk Centre were aware of the sessions being held. They reported that they were often no attendees at all; sometimes one or two. In June they handed the keys back as they had decided the venue was not appropriate for their needs.

6. A drug rehabilitation service, Smart Recovery were using the Lounge for one afternoon per week. They had two regular attendees.

7. In the immediate vicinity are the Keystone Centre and the Wickborne Centre. The Wickborne Centre is professionally run and holds a variety of sessions for all sections of the community.

8. Housing concluded that the lounge had been under-utilised for a number of years and that even professional organisations were unable to generate much interest.

9. In the summer of 2017, the Housing Management team started to consider whether the lounge could be converted to additional housing. There is a well-documented shortage of social housing in the Arun District. There are 1300 applicants with an identified housing need on the housing register. 31 households are currently in bed and breakfast accommodation. 750 homeless households applied to the Council for assistance in the last financial year.

10. The Housing Management Team have concluded that additional housing is of far greater benefit to the local community than a lounge facility that risks duplicating the work of Wickbourne House.

We trust this answers your queries fully, however if you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Terry Hardy
Senior Partner
Pellings



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Read our article "Let's raise a glass to the clerk of works" in **Construction Manager**



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