

Good morning

My wife and I support Derek Warwick Development's plan to redevelop the site of the former Queens Hotel.

We have lived at the back of the Queens Hotel in Huckers Lane since December 2005 and I have been closely associated with Selborne and its 2 public houses since 1979 (45 years). We have seen the deterioration of not only the Queens building, but of its use both as a pub and providing accommodation.

Two of the main objectors to the proposed development cite the tenancy of Nick Mortlake and Eric Choubert, following the refurbishment, as a period of success for the Queens. What they didn't mention was that at the end of that tenancy there was a substantial amount of money owed to several businesses who supplied the Queens with essentials such as meat and wine. In recent years hundreds of pubs have closed and are still closing because of lack of custom and the Queens was a classic example. The village of Selborne has establishments that can cater for any of the events which in the past have been held at the Queens.

When DWD purchased the site they listened to what the villagers had to say about what the village needed. That was serviced accommodation with perhaps a small bar. Hence we have a wonderful Tap Room which has benefitted White's Museum with the sale of their home produced ale and 3 wonderful refurbished flats. The Taproom has become a popular meeting place for many villagers and visitors.

The flats are not only rented to tourists visiting the South Downs National Park, but they have also been a lifeline for locals, from surrounding areas, to rent while their houses have been flooded

or uninhabitable due to other reasons. We have had a families from the USA, Australia and all parts of Europe staying there. We speak regularly to the occupants of these 3 flats and everyone has nothing but good to say about DWD. This refurbished accommodation also means that money is spent in other village establishments i.e. White's Museum, The Selborne Arms, La Luna Café and gift shop and the other 2 shops in the village. Residents can have breakfast and lunch at Whites' cafe, use the shop at White's for their provisions, have coffee/tea and buy gifts at La Luna and have lunch/dinner at the Selborne Arms. Every other business in the village has benefitted from DWD's development.

As one of it's closest neighbours, over the years, we watched the Queens Hotel lose most of its customers. This happened over time, with several different tenants renting it, because the village could not sustain 2 pubs. We also watched the beautiful 400 year old building fall into disrepair. It has now been so carefully restored that it will now last another 400 years.

The majority of the village are in favour of DWD's development of the Queens site and the few that are opposed to it rarely used the premises when it was a Public House and Hotel. We cannot see what the opponents ulterior motives are as it certainly is not the interests of the majority of the villagers of Selborne. We do not believe that 150 local people are against this redevelopment. We know most people in this village and there are only a handful that are against it.

John Walsh