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To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories:

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0527

Submission: Objection

Comments: I object to the demolition of the Cross Inn (SMD/2024/0527).

The building has always been the hub of the village accompanied by a long thriving history going back to the 1700s with people travelling for miles around to visit in the pre covid years. Demolishing this building not only prevents the heart of the village from returning today but removes it forever. We are simply custodians of grand buildings and scenery with a decision to demolish this building making it more difficult to foster a sense of community not only today but in 10, 15, 100, 200 years time. In the future it would likely be difficult to get permission and investment to build a new pub in the village to replace this one if it is demolished.

It is correct that whilst the site was up for sale and under its new ownership it has not been used as a pub. However, this is to be expected if the ownership desires to demolish the building as opposed to being under ownership who desire to use it for its historic purpose. The location is becoming more and more desirable experiencing increasing footfall with the theme park, wildlife park and access to the national park in very close proximity hence the wish to expand the caravan park.

I am not necessarily opposed to more caravan pitches in the area and am happy to support local business but to me it would seem a shame to knock this historic building down especially during a housing crisis with the government seeking to accelerate house building. In the future it could be possible to use the building for housing or as part of the caravan site infrastructure if it does not return to being a pub at least in the foreseeable future. Even if there was no desire to use the building today for me it would be churlish to deprive future generations of its use.

