

Planning reference: P 2009 0632.

Site address: Worthenbury Arms, Church Road, Worthenbury, Wrexham.

Welsh Assembly Government Ref: H6955/A/10/2120581.

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These comments are intended to be considered at the appeal referenced above into the application to convert the public house, the Worthenbury Arms, to two residential properties, without the retention of a public house facility.

The original application relating to this property, which occupies a central site in the now expanding residential village of Worthenbury, near Wrexham, was simply for the construction of a terrace of four properties on the carpark of the public house, with the retention of the public house facility. Since then the four properties have been built, and occupied without regard to the condition imposed that the public house should be revived first, and the main building has been allowed to deteriorate to the point where it is not an attractive proposition, and presents an eyesore in a very pleasant village.

It is the belief of the Community Council that no serious attempt has been made to let or sell the premises as a public house, and although it is appreciated that the market for such properties presents serious current problems, the fact is that this establishment was one of the premier dining restaurant public houses in the area for many years, until it began its decline about ten years ago, which has accelerated steadily since.

The Community Council points out that the population of the village has doubled in the past five years, and that even in the difficult current situation, the premises could be preserved as an important facility if some serious attempt was made to refurbish it, and seek a tenant or purchaser, and that there is no justification for permitting its final closure and replacement by residential properties, particularly when the owners have never observed the original planning conditions imposed by Wrexham County Borough Council.

Michael Arnold, Clerk.

The Willington Worthenbury Community Council.