

Sarah Valentine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2025 18:33
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Planning Application DM/25/0736 – Castle Inn, London Road, Hickstead, RH17 5LZ

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Zeidler,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development as outlined in planning application DM/25/0736 for the Castle Inn, London Road, Hickstead.

The Castle Inn is a Grade II listed building of significant historic and architectural value, and the proposed erection of a new outbuilding, along with internal and external alterations and a change of use to C1 on the upper floors, is deeply concerning.

This application appears to have been submitted and development commenced **prior to full planning consent being granted**, which is wholly inappropriate for a listed property of this nature. Undertaking works before planning permission is granted is not only premature but may also compromise the heritage integrity of the building.

Furthermore, I would like to draw attention to the fact that **similar applications submitted by the previous owner were rejected**, setting a clear precedent that such changes were considered unsuitable or harmful to the character of the building and the surrounding area. These rejections should be taken seriously as they reflect consistent planning principles that should not be overridden without significant justification or material change in circumstance which is not evident in the current proposal.

Given the sensitive status of the Castle Inn and the potential for irreversible harm, I urge the council to **refuse this application** in line with previous decisions and in the interest of preserving our local heritage.

Please confirm receipt of this objection, and do not hesitate to contact me if further clarification is needed.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
45 Charlwood Gardens
Burgess Hill