

# Report to Buckinghamshire Council Central Area Planning Committee

Application Number:	23/03765/APP
Proposal:	Change of use from a public house (sui generis) with related C3 use to a single dwellinghouse (C3) with parking and amenity space.
Site Location:	Rose and Thistle PH, 6 Station Road, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire, HP17 8AJ.
Applicant:	Mr and Mrs Brazier
Case Officer:	Bibi Motuel
Ward(s) affected:	Bernwood
Parish-Town Council:	Haddenham
Date valid application received:	4.12.2023
Statutory determination date:	29.01.2024 (EOT agreed to 29.2.2024)
Recommendation	Approval subject to conditions and informatives

# 1.0 Summary & Recommendation/ Reason for Planning Committee Consideration

- 1.1 Cllr Greg Smith called in the application to planning committee in the event the officer recommendation is for approval. The call-in is made citing four reasons, namely that the pub was registered as a community asset (author notes that it was nominated for consideration, but that a decision was made on 23/10/2015 not to list as a Community Asset) considerable community support for the pub, depletion of a community resource in a strategic settlement and a detrimental impact on the conservation area. Cllr Sue Lewin also requested that the application be called in, for similar reasons. Following due process, it was considered that the application should be considered at the relevant committee in line with the provisions in the Council's Constitution.
- 1.2 The application seeks planning permission for the change of use of the building from a public house (sui generis) with related C3 use to a single dwellinghouse (C3) with parking and amenity space. It has been evaluated against the adopted Development Plan and the NPPF.

- 1.3 The site lies within the built up part of a strategic settlement and so the site is in principle a sustainable location for limited small-scale development. There would be economic and land supply benefits in terms of the conversion of the building itself.
- 1.4 The change of use would result in the loss of a community facility and business, but there is independent evidence that its retention as a pub would not be economically viable.
- 1.5 The scheme has been considered acceptable in terms of its impact to housing mix, transport and parking, residential amenity, flooding and drainage, trees and landscape, ecology and heritage.
- 1.6 Taking all the relevant factors into account, and having regard to the NPPF as a whole, all relevant policies of the VALP, Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered that the adverse impacts of the proposal would not significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits and it is therefore **recommended for approval subject to appropriate conditions** as set out in section 10 of this report.

# 2.0 Description of Proposed Development

<u>Site</u>

- 2.1 The application site is a rectangular (approx.) area of land approximately 0.12 hectares in size, located on the northern side of Station Road in the village of Haddenham.
- 2.2 The site consists of the Rose and Thistle Public House, a predominantly two storey building comprising two ranges, with the left hand side being set back with an open covered porch and catslide roof with a dormer window and the right hand side being a more typical two storey building with rendered finish. Both sides have a clay tiled roof. To the rear, the building has been extended with two storey and single storey extensions to create an L shape plan form. The public house has been closed since 2019.
- 2.3 To the north of the building is a car park accessed from Station Road and further to the north there is a garden area.
- 2.4 Within the garden there are a number of outbuildings and sheds. The garden area is lawned with benches. The access into the site is from the entrance to the north of the pub, leading to the tarmacked car park.
- 2.5 To the west is No.8 Station Road (Swizz Cottage), a Grade II building. To the east is No.4 Station Road, with No.2, a Grade II listed building. To the rear of No.2 and 4 are two dwellings known as Witchert and Capella. To the south of the site are No.1 and 3 Station Road, also both Grade II listed. The site lies within the Haddenham Conservation Area.

# <u>Proposal</u>

- 2.6 The application seeks full planning permission for the change of use of the building from a public house (sui generis) with related C3 use to a single dwellinghouse (C3) with parking and amenity space.
- 2.7 There would be no alterations to the external elevations of the building with alterations primarily limited to internal works at ground floor level. The proposed dwelling would have living accommodation at ground floor, a basement and six bedrooms and a bathroom at first floor level.
- 2.8 There would be no change to the existing access or parking area except for the reconfiguration of some parking bays. The existing landscaped area to the rear would be used as amenity space for the proposed dwelling.
- 2.9 The application is accompanied by:
  - 1. Application form received on 1.12.2023
  - 2. Drawing No. P100 Site Location Plan received on 1.12.2023.
  - 3. Drawing No. P101 Existing Site Plan received on 1.12.2023.
  - 4. Drawing No. P102 Proposed Site Plan received on 1.12.2023.
  - 5. Drawing No. 9873-102 Existing Ground Floor Plan + Cellar received on 1.12.2023.
  - 6. Drawing No. 9873-103- Existing First Floor Plan received on 1.12.2023.
  - 7. Drawing No. 9873-112 Proposed Ground Floor Plan + Basement received on 1.12.2023.
  - Drawing No. 9873-113 Proposed First Floor Plan received on 1.12.2023.
  - 9. Planning, Heritage and Design and Access Statement dated November 2023 prepared by JCPC received on 1.12.2023.
  - 10. Ecology and Trees Checklist received on 1.12.2023.

# 3.0 Relevant Planning History –

3.1 Reference: 74/00633/AV - Development: Change of use of two rooms from residential to club rooms.

Decision: Approved Decision Date: 14 October 1974

# 4.0 Ward Cllrs and Parish/Town Council

#### Ward - Bernwood

- Cllrs : Nic Brown
  - **Gregory Smith**

Susan Lewin

- 4.1 Comments from Cllr Smith on 14.12.2023: "I request that this application is called in for a full public discussion if officers are minded to approve this application.
  - The pub was registered as a community asset, de registered by AVDC for no apparent reason
  - there is considerable community support for the pub suggesting a high amenity asset and a change of use may therefore contravene the Neighbourhood Plan and the VALP.
  - As a designated Strategic Settlement this type of community resource has been depleted, contrary to the intention of this designation
  - Change of use may have a detrimental impact on the conservation area."

# 4.2 Comments from Cllr Lewin on 14.12.2023:

"I would like this application called in for full discussion at committee. It was registered in the past as a community asset. I don't know why it was de registered. It is in the conservation area and residents are already concerned about the dilapidation of the premises. Haddenham, as a growing strategic settlement needs more facilities, not fewer."

# Haddenham Parish Council (Verbatim):

4.3 Haddenham Parish Council comments received on 18.12.2023 as follows: "The Parish Council objects: 1. The proposal is contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF version 4 dated 2021) Chapter 6 'Supporting a prosperous rural economy' para 84(d): 'Planning policies and decisions should enable' the retention' of accessible and community facilities such as. 'public houses" 2. The proposal is contrary to NPPF Chapter 8 'Promoting healthy and safe communities' para 92(a) 'Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which' promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other ' for example through'. active street frontages'. 3. The proposal is contrary to NPPF Chapter 8 'Promoting healthy and safe communities' para 93(a) 'To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should' plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as 'public houses') and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments'. 4. This proposal fails to achieve any of the above NPPF strategic community objectives. [The applicant's Planning Statement incorrectly states that NPPF5 was introduced in autumn 2023; it is expected later in December]. 5. The proposal is contrary to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) Policy 13 'The Council will resist proposals for the change of use of community buildings and

facilities for which there is a demonstrable local need" 6. The proposal is contrary to the Haddenham Neighbourhood Plan (HNP) policy HWS2 'Protecting Community Amenities' which states 'The retention and enhancement of local services and community facilities including' pubs will be supported'. 7. Both the VALP and HNP include similar caveats relating to viability, stating that proposals involving the loss of facilities will not be permitted unless they are no longer financially viable, and that proposals to change the use of an asset must demonstrate that all reasonable steps have been taken to retain the present use as a viable concern. No viability assessment, business plan or any other information has been submitted. As with the recent 'Green Dragon' saga nearby, the impression is that the 'Rose & Thistle', was purchased in April 2020 and then left empty to deteriorate with the sole intention of realising the doubling of value which change of use would confer to the community's detriment. 8. The proposal undermines Haddenham's sustainability in the VALP as a 'strategic settlement'. The strategic settlements were assessed and designated on the basis of the presence of 'key facilities'. These included pubs. At the time of drafting the VALP, Haddenham had 5 pubs, of which 3 were at Church End. Since then, over 1000 homes have been approved in Haddenham, representing an additional population of about 2,500. But now only 2 pubs remain open in the village, with none at Church End. This proposal prejudices this community's ability to meet the challenge of absorbing growth and welcoming an enhanced community as envisaged in the NPPF policies cited above. 9. The proposal causes heritage harm to the Conservation Area. The Rose & Thistle is itself a 'Building of Local Note' designated in the 2008 Conservation Area review. Conservation is not only about conserving the buildings and physical fabric. It includes the activities within the Conservation Area, and the character, vibrancy and community cohesion which can derive from those activities: hence the reference to 'active street frontages' in the NPPF citation above. A change of use resulting in the loss of a community asset as significant as a pub causes residential 'desertification' to the detriment of the Conservation Area. 10. The Parish Council urges Buckinghamshire Council to pursue enforcement action against the use of the pub garden and car park for mobile homes and similar static temporary accommodation to the detriment of the property itself, a Building of Local Note, to the amenities of the immediate neighbours, the Conservation Area, and the setting of nearby listed buildings".

- 4.4 A similar response was received on 04.01.2024, with the Council's comments updated to reflect the revised paragraphs in NPPF 2023. The full response is given in Appendix A.
- 4.5 Following publication of the Viability Appraisal further comments were received by Haddenham Parish -Clerk highlighting what the Parish considered to be factual errors relating to housing delivery and population/population

growth. The report makes a general statement around recent developments, the list in the report was not an exhaustive list, the Parish highlights this figure to be 1162 homes by their count. There is also a slight difference of position between the parties regarding population. The report highlights Haddenham having a 5606 population in 2021 census with the Parish Council highlighting 5725 within Haddenham Parish, the difference is not considered material. The population growth for the locality is described as 2.5% within the report, Parish believes this should be 27%. The 2.5% stated in the report should be read as a population increase of 2.5% per annum, therefore there is no significant discrepancy between the stated positions.

While differences of position are noted they do not go to the heart of the assessment, and the accuracy of the report is not in doubt.

# 5.0 Representations

- 5.1 68 representations (including from the Haddenham Village Society) received at the time of writing, raising the following summarised issues:
  - Viability of pub not tested, and no marketing evidence provided.
  - Haddenham is a growing village and needs facilities. Several pubs lost in Church End in recent years.
  - Building has been deliberately and cynically allowed to deteriorate.
  - Heritage harm to the Conservation Area and Building of Local Note.
  - Should be an Asset of Community Value.
  - Loss of a vital social amenity that supports local economy.

Officer's note: a more detailed summary is given in Appendix A.

# 6.0 Policy Considerations and Evaluation

- Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) was adopted on 15th September 2021 and therefore has full weight.
- The Haddenham Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' in 2015. However, Chapter 6, relating to housing matters, was quashed by the High Court on 7th March 2016 following a legal challenge and cannot be given material weight in the determination of planning applications. However, those policies contained within the remaining chapters of the plan remain in force and attract full weighting.

Relevant policies include

- TGA1 which sets out the parking standards for new housing developments.
- SRL3 which seeks to enhance, protect and provide new Natural Environment, Habitats, Trees and Hedgerows.

- HWS2 which seeks to protect community amenities, including pubs, unless it can be demonstrated that they are no longer financially viable and that (in the case of the change of use of an asset) all reasonable steps have been taken to retain the present use and community value as a viable concern.
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023
- Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)
- Aylesbury Vale Design Guide SPD (adopted on 30 June 2023)
- Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (July 2019) Policy 1: Safeguarding Mineral Resources – not within a Mineral Safeguarding Area.
- Recycling and Waste: Advice note for developers 2015

# 7.0 Principle and Location of Development

# Sustainability of the location

- 7.1 The overall spatial strategy set out in policy S2 of VALP is to direct new development to the larger settlements, with moderate amounts of development in villages and very restricted development in the other settlements that are not defined as villages in the settlement hierarchy.
- 7.2 Haddenham is identified in Table 2 of VALP as a strategic settlement. These are the most sustainable towns and villages in Aylesbury Vale and the focus for the majority of development. These settlements act as service centres for other villages around them.
- 7.3 D3 of VALP supports small scale development within the built-up areas of strategic settlements, larger and medium villages, including infilling and development that consolidates existing development patterns.
- 7.4 The proposal, if implemented, would result in the addition of a marketable unit of residential accommodation. At present the residential element of the building is ancillary to the use as a pub.
- 7.5 The site is within the built up part of the village, enclosed by built development on all sides. Therefore, in broad sustainability terms, the site is in principle a sustainable location for limited small-scale development.

# Principle of development (loss of public house)

7.6 VALP policy I3 states that the council will resist proposals for the change of use of community buildings and facilities for which there is a demonstrable local need, unless the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location. It adds that in considering applications for alternative development or uses, the council will consider the viability of the

existing use, that the site/use has been marketed for a minimum period of 12 months at a price commensurate with its use together with proof there has been no viable interest, marketing of the building or facility at a price commensurate with its use, the presence of alternative local facilities and the community benefits of the proposed use.

- 7.7 Policy D7 of VALP states that local and village centres will be encouraged to grow and loss of essential facilities and businesses such as local shops, pubs and post offices will not be supported.
- 7.8 Policy HWS2 (Protecting Community Assets) of HNP states that the retention and enhancement of local services and community facilities, including pubs, will be supported. It adds that that proposals involving the loss of facilities will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that they are no longer financially viable whilst proposals to change the use of an asset must demonstrate that all reasonable steps have been taken to retain its present use and community value as a viable concern.
- 7.9 Paragraphs 88 and 97 of the NPPF seek (amongst other things) the retention of pubs in accessible locations.
- 7.10 According to the applicant, the public house closed in the summer of 2019 and has remained closed since then. The site was put forward as an Asset of Community Value in 2015, but it was decided not to list it. Reasons for it not being listed are unknown.
- 7.11 The Council's Economic Development officer does not welcome the proposed change of use from pub (281 sq. m of Sui Generis) into C3 use. The ED officer noted that no marketing report has been submitted with the pub being advertised at a reasonable price for 12 months. He added that public houses can help with the vibrancy of a community if there is a perceived need. No evidence has been provided that the facility is not a need for the facility. He added that another owner may be able to make the pub profitable.
- 7.12 Several objectors have stated that the Rose and Thistle public house was (and could still be) a valued community facility for the residents of Haddenham. They have stated that the Church End part of Haddenham cannot afford to lose another public house, following the loss of Red Lion and The Green Dragon in recent years. There is considerable concern over the loss of the facility on the community spirit and well-being, especially as a large number of new dwellings have been permitted and built in Haddenham in recent years.
- 7.13 Several local residents have raised concerns that the applicant has failed to provide any market evidence to show that there is no need for such a facility

and that viability evidence should be submitted in support of the application and professionally reviewed.

- 7.14 The Council acknowledges comments that no viability or marketing evidence was submitted with the application. The agent argues that the Inspector who dealt with the appeal for a similar proposal at the nearby Green Dragon public house at 8 Churchway concluded (in 2021) that that there was no evidence of a need for a public house in this location, and that given the close proximity of alternative pubs, the same conclusions apply here.
- 7.15 In the case of the Green Dragon application, the applicant produced at each submission a viability report which the Council verified using an independent valuer. The Council acknowledges that each site is different, and the situation may have changed since this appeal decision in 2019, with one less public house in the area as well as the continued growth of the settlement just because one public house is found unviable, does not necessarily mean that all in the area will suffer the same fate. During the course of the application, the applicant agreed to cover the cost of an independent viability assessment. The Council instructed Savills to provide an independent opinion of the long term viability of the property as a licenced premises, informed by an objective evaluation of business viability. The applicant has played no part in the approval of this document, it is a document instructed by and for the Council to further the assessment of this property.
- 7.16 The Viability Assessment acknowledges that the planning application did not provide a viability study, a marketing report nor any financial information about the business past, present or proposed.
- 7.17 Savills stated that the Property is not in derelict condition but requires significant investment to bring it up to a standard required by customers. As a result, re-opening the business would require significant initial outlay. Savills reviewed many of the public comments submitted as part of the application and in response to the points made about new housing and therefore potential new business, highlighted that such a scenario was reliant on disposable income. The report acknowledges that discretionary leisure spend is under pressure and with less trips to the pub or restaurant, a business needs lots of customers to be profitable. This is not a local trend but a national issue with pressure on pubs being well known across the country. Savills raised concerns over the location of the garden which is cut off from the pub which makes it difficult to manage.
- 7.18 With regards to alternative provision, whilst there are other pubs in Haddenham, the property is somewhat isolated, meaning that it is not part of a circuit, which can be detrimental to trade. Savills noted that the Green Dragon was extensively marketed and there was no interest from operators,

while an assumption, it is considered likely that the same would be true for this property.

- 7.19 Savills are of the opinion that the business is not viable as even without the Day 1 repair costs required, the potential business is too small to make a decent living. The previous business hardly made a profit on an annual basis, but this was before any Property costs of rent or freehold value is taken into account. The Viability Report concludes that on the balance of probabilities, the Rose & Thistle is not financially or commercially viable now and in the longer term.
- 7.20 The lack of any marketing evidence from the applicant is regrettable and is contrary to Policies I3 of VALP and HWS2 of HNP. However, Savills noted that the Green Dragon pub was extensively marketed and did not attract any interest from operators. There is clearly a strong desire from many members of the local community to retain the building as a public house. However, Savills have concluded that the public house would not be viable now or in the future. The Council is very aware that there is public interest in this application, some 60+ letters of objection have been received. However, that does not translate into 60+ customers nor does it indicate future spend potential. While, the Council acknowledges the accusations of the property being deliberately run down, there is no evidence of this. The Viability Report has looked at the soundness of a future business despite existing state of the building. While it is acknowledged that there has been no marketing, given the experience of the Green Dragon, it is the officers view that to force the applicant into marketing the property for 12 months, simply to meet policy would be a futile exercise and one that is not going to change the conclusion before Councillors today, and that is that in expert opinion the pub is inherently unviable, the Council have to be reasonable in its approach to such matters, a refusal based on a lack of marketing is not considered to be sustainable if challenged at appeal given the evidence. On the basis of the available evidence, including Savills independent assessment, it is concluded that the property cannot be properly considered financially viable as a public house and so the principle of the development is supported.
- 7.21 While it has been expressed that the building is a community asset, it has not been formally adopted as such, and it is noted that an application for its adoption in 2015 was not taken forward. No weight can therefore be attributed to this matter. While it is acknowledged that communities like to have a local pub, seldom are communities prepared to get together to operate and bear the costs of running the pub themselves. There has been no interest from CAMRA and while 60+ letters of contribution are noted, this is a small percentage of the Haddenham population that the Parish highlighted.

#### Housing land supply

- 7.22 Turning to housing land supply, the latest Five-Year Housing Land Supply Position Statement (September 2023) for the Aylesbury Vale area is 4.5 years' supply of deliverable housing sites for the 2023-28 period. The proposal would not contribute to housing land supply by reason that there is already a dwelling on site ancillary to the public house. This proposal would have a nil contribution to housing supply. The application would alter the housing type offered to one more suitable for family accommodation.
- 7.23 The proposal would, therefore, comply with policies D7 of VALP, HWS2 of HNP and the NPPF.

#### Affordable Housing and Housing Mix

- SPD Affordable Housing
- VALP policies H1 Affordable Housing and H6a Housing Mix
- 7.24 Policy H1 of VALP states that developments of 11 or more dwellings gross or sites of 0.3ha or more will be required to provide a minimum of 25% affordable homes on site. Policy H6a expects that new residential development provide a mix of homes, with the housing mix negotiated having regard to the council's most up-to-date evidence on housing need.
- 7.25 This proposal would not meet the threshold for requiring affordable housing contributions to be made.
- 7.26 Given the scale of the proposal, the provision of one 6 bedroom dwelling would be acceptable and, in this instance, does not require a mix of sizes. This would accord with VALP Policy H6a of VALP. This issue is afforded neutral weight in the planning balance.

#### **Transport matters and parking**

VALP policies T5 (Delivering transport in new development) and T6 (Vehicle parking), T8 (Electric vehicle parking), Appendix B (Parking Standards)

HNP policies TGA1 (Car and Cycle Parking Standards) and TGA2 (On-site Walking and Cycling)

7.27 It is necessary to consider whether the proposed development is located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be maximised, and that safe and suitable access can be achieved, taking account of the policies in the NPPF.

- 7.28 The Council's Highways Officer was consulted and stated that Station Road is an unclassified road subject to a speed limit of 30mph.
- 7.29 The real-world surveys on the TRICS database demonstrate that a public house will generate significantly more vehicular movements than a single dwelling. Therefore, the Highways Officer considers that the proposal is acceptable in principle.
- 7.30 Turning to on-site parking provision, VALP Policy T6 states that all development must provide an appropriate level of car parking, in accordance with the standards set out in Appendix B. For a 6 bedroom dwelling, 3 spaces are required. Policy T8 requires that a new house with a garage or driveway provide one electric vehicle charging point.
- 7.31 Policy TGA1 of the HNP seeks to ensure that proposals meet minimum parking standards through allocated on-site car parking spaces. For a dwelling with 3 bedrooms or more, as is proposed in this case, two parking spaces plus 2 cycle spaces are required as a minimum.
- 7.32 The proposed development includes four car parking spaces to serve the new dwelling. The Highways Officer is happy with the proposed parking provision, and considers it meets the criteria laid out in the VALP parking standards. Each parking space should be a minimum of 2.8m x 5m and he is satisfied that the parking spaces shown on the submitted plans are of adequate dimensions. The Highways Officer also confirms that the parking arrangement would allow for vehicles to park, turn and leave the site in a forward gear and that one EV charging point can be secured by condition.
- 7.33 Mindful of the above, there is no highways objection, subject to conditions and informatives.
- 7.34 It is therefore considered that the proposal would comply with Policies T6 and T8 of VALP, the Council's Parking Standards, policies TGA1 and TGA2 of HNP and the NPPF in this regard. This issue is afforded neutral weight in the planning balance.

#### Raising the quality of place making and design

VALP policy BE2 (Design of new development), NE4 (Landscape character and locally important landscape).

Vale of Aylesbury Design SPD (adopted 2023)

- 7.35 The NPPF at paragraph 8, states that one of the overarching principles of the planning system is a social objective, including fostering well-designed, beautiful, and safe places. Policy BE2 of VALP states that new development should respect and complement the character of the site and its surroundings and the local distinctiveness and vernacular character of the locality, as well as important public views.
- 7.36 The Vale of Aylesbury Design SPD, adopted in 2023, states that the re-use of existing buildings preserves their contribution to settlements and the countryside and is also more sustainable. However, the conversion must be done with great care in order to ensure that the essential character of the original building is not lost.
- 7.37 In this proposal, there would be no changes to the external appearance of the building, with the only alterations being to internal works at ground floor level and the reconfiguration of the parking area.
- 7.38 As such, the proposal would accord with Policy BE2 of the VALP, the adopted Design SPD and the guidance set out in the NPPF. This issue is afforded neutral weight in the planning balance.

#### Amenity of existing and future residents

VALP policy BE3 (Protection of the amenity of residents).

- 7.39 The NPPF at paragraph 135 states that authorities should always seek to create places that have a high standard of amenity for all existing and future users.
- 7.40 Policy BE3 of VALP seeks to protect the amenity of existing residents and achieve a satisfactory level of amenity for future residents.
- 7.41 The nearest dwellings to the proposed house are No.8 Station Road (Swizz Cottage) to the west, No.4 to the east, two dwellings known as Witchert and Capella to the north east and No.1 Station Road to the south.
- 7.42 As no material external works are proposed, it is appropriate in this instance to consider relevant factors resulting from the proposed change of use to a dwelling. However, it is reasonable to suggest that an operating public house would return a level of noise that is greater than could be expected compared with a single family dwellinghouse. Similarly, the number of traffic movements would be expected to be fewer resulting in less potential for traffic conflicts within the immediate locality. Noise levels within the premises and outside would be anticipated to be lower as a result of the change of use. As such, it is considered that the proposal would provide some benefits in terms of reduced noise and disturbances from the continued use as a public house for the immediately adjacent existing neighbouring properties.

- 7.43 Turning to the standard of living for future occupants, the Council's Environmental Health (EH) officer was consulted and raised no objection.
- 7.44 As a general rule, the Council expects to see a garden length of at least 10m for new dwellings to ensure adequate outdoor amenity space for the occupiers of the property. In this case, the rear garden would be about 35m in length (excluding parking area), with an area of about 680 sqm, which is more than adequate for a single dwelling. The agent notes in the Design and Access Statement that some parts of the garden are overlooked by neighbouring dwellings. However, this is largely unavoidable in an urban context and a refusal on this basis could not be sustained at appeal.
- 7.45 All habitable rooms in the proposed dwelling would have sufficient natural light and the dwelling would comfortably comply with the minimum nationally prescribed space standard for a five bedroom, eight person house over two floors of 128 sqm.
- 7.46 It is concluded therefore that the residential amenities of nearby dwellings and the occupiers of the new dwellings would not be materially affected and that this would accord with policy BE3 of VALP, and the NPPF. This issue is afforded neutral weight in the planning balance.

#### Flooding and drainage

VALP policy I4 (Flooding)

- 7.47 Paragraph 173 of the NPPF requires new development to consider the risk of flooding to the site and elsewhere.
- 7.48 The site is within Flood Zone 1 and the development would therefore be at low risk of fluvial flooding. It is not in an area susceptible to surface water flooding. With regard to drainage, the application form states that surface water would be disposed of via the main sewer.
- 7.49 Therefore, the proposed development would be resilient to climate change and flooding, and it would not increase flood risk elsewhere in accordance with Policy I4 of Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, and the National Planning Policy Framework. This issue is afforded neutral weight in the planning balance.

#### Landscape Issues, including trees and hedgerows

VALP policies NE4 (Landscape character and locally important landscape) and NE8 (Trees, hedgerows, and woodlands).

HNP - SRL3 (Enhancing, Protecting and Providing new Natural Environment Habitats, Trees and Hedgerows)

- 7.50 Policy NE4 of VALP requires that development must recognise the individual character and distinctiveness of particular landscape character areas set out in the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), their sensitivity to change and contribution to a sense of place. The site lies with the built up part of the village with development on all sides. The site is currently a public house, and it is not considered that its conversion into a dwelling would have any wider landscape implications.
- 7.51 With regard to trees, Policy NE8 of VALP resists development that would result in the unacceptable loss of, or damage to, or threaten the continued well-being of any trees and hedgerows which make an important contribution to the character and amenities of the area. It adds that where trees within or adjacent to a site could be affected by development, a full tree survey and arboricultural impact assessment will be required as part of the planning application. Policy SRL3 of HNP states that proposals impacting on trees, other than those of poor quality, should be accompanied by a Tree and Hedgerow Survey.
- 7.52 There are a number of trees across the northern part of the site, associated with the beer garden, but none of these would be affected by the proposed development.
- 7.53 Therefore, it is considered that the proposal would accord with policy NE4 and NE8 of VALP, and the NPPF. This issue is afforded neutral weight in the planning balance.

#### Ecology

VALP NE1 (Biodiversity and geodiversity)

HNP - SRL3 (Enhancing, Protecting and Providing new Natural Environment Habitats, Trees and Hedgerows).

7.54 Regard must be had as to how the proposed development contributes to the natural and local environment through protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and geological interests, minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains where possible and preventing any adverse effects of pollution, as required by the NPPF. Policy NE1 of the VALP is also reflective of the NPPF in requiring all development to deliver a biodiversity net gain. SRL3 of the HNP states that whenever possible, all new buildings must provide integrated Swift nesting features.

- 7.55 The Council's Ecologist was consulted and raised no objections, stating that there is not a reasonable likelihood of protected species or priority habitats being affected by the application.
- 7.56 As such, the proposal would comply with VALP policy NE1, and relevant NPPF advice. This issue is afforded neutral weight in the planning balance.

#### **Historic environment**

VALP policy BE1 (Heritage Assets)

- 7.57 The NPPF recognises the effect of an application on the significance of a heritage asset is a material planning consideration. Paragraph 195 identifies heritage assets as an irreplaceable resource which should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.
- 7.58 Policy BE1 states that proposals will only be supported which do not cause harm to heritage assets.
- 7.59 The Rose and Thistle is a local building of note within the Conservation Area of Haddenham and is also a candidate Local Heritage List Asset. The site also falls within the Haddenham Conservation Area. It also contributes towards the setting of other nearby listed buildings (LBs), primarily 1 Station Road to the south and 8 Station Road to the west.
- 7.60 Some local residents and the parish council raised concerns over the impact of the proposed development on the setting of heritage asset and conservation area. The Parish Council argued that conservation is not just about conserving the buildings and physical fabric, it also includes the activities within the Conservation Area, and the character, vibrancy and community cohesion which can derive from those activities.
- 7.61 The Council's Heritage Officer was consulted and queried whether a viability report has been submitted with the above application. The officer stated that although the PH is not listed, it appears to have been a pub historically, therefore contributes to the character of Haddenham Conservation Area. The officer added that if the public house is no longer viable, there are no heritage objections as the external appearance will not be altered, thereby having a neutral impact on the conservation area and nearby listed buildings. Ideally the hanging sign should be retained to evidence its previous use as a public house. A condition has therefore been suggested to ensure this happens. While the Parish Council's comments are noted, a reason for refusal substantiated by the loss of the pub and its associated activity upon the Conservation Area would not be a sustainable objection at appeal.
- 7.62 The site lies within the Haddenham Historic Core (archaeological notification area). The Council's Archaeologist was also consulted and stated that the

nature of the proposals are such that they are unlikely to substantially harm the archaeological significance of any assets. There is no objection to the proposed development, and it is not necessary to apply a condition to safeguard archaeological interest.

- 6.55 Special attention has been paid to the statutory test of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the conservation area under section 72 of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and to the statutory test of preserving the setting of the nondesignated heritage asset under section 66 of the Act, which are accepted is a higher duty. It has been concluded that the development would preserve the character and appearance of the Conservation Area also protects the significance of the Non-Designated Heritage Asset and so the proposal accords with sections 66 & 72 of the Act. In addition, no harm would be caused to the significance of the heritage assets and as such the proposal accords with guidance contained within the NPPF.
- 7.63 In conclusion, the proposal accords with guidance contained within the NPPF and with the aims of policy BE1 of VALP. This issue is afforded neutral weight in the planning balance.

#### 8.0 Weighing and balancing of issues / Overall Assessment

- 8.1 This section brings together the assessment that has so far been set out in order to weigh and balance relevant planning considerations in order to reach a conclusion on the application.
- 8.2 The site lies within the built up part of a strategic settlement listed within VALP, and so the site is in principle a sustainable location for limited small-scale development.
- 8.3 The change of use would result in the loss of a community facility and business, but there is independent evidence that its retention as a pub would not be economically viable.
- 8.4 The conversion of the building and the occupation of the building for residential purposes would contribute, in a limited way, to the local economy.
- 8.5 Paragraph 11 of the recently updated version of the NPPF 2023 remains relevant and the presumption set out in paragraph 11d is triggered as the Council cannot currently demonstrate a 5 year supply of deliverable housing. This is because whilst the NPPF states at paragraph 76 that Council's that have an adopted local plan less than five years old that identified at least a five year supply at the time its examination concluded, which applies to VALP, are no longer required to demonstrate a rolling 5 year supply, this policy is subject to transitional arrangements (set out in footnote 79). This states that the policy in paragraph 76 should only be taken into account as a

material consideration when dealing with applications made on or after the date of publication of this NPPF.

- 8.6 The material planning consideration of the tilted balance being engaged weighs in favour of permission being granted. In addition, no harm would be caused to the significance of the heritage asset, and as such the proposal accords with guidance contained within the NPPF and with the aims of policies BE1 of VALP. This issue is afforded great weight in the planning balance.
- 8.7 The scheme has been considered acceptable in terms of its impact to housing mix, transport and parking, residential amenity, flooding and drainage, trees and landscape, and ecology. However, these do not represent benefits of the scheme but rather demonstrate an absence of harm.
- 8.8 Taking all the relevant factors into account, and having regard to the NPPF as a whole, all relevant policies of the VALP, HNP and NPPF, it is considered that the adverse impacts of the proposal would not significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits and it is therefore recommended for approval.
- 8.9 Local Planning Authorities, when making decisions of a strategic nature, must have due regard, through the Equalities Act, to reducing the inequalities which may result from socio-economic disadvantage. In this instance, it is not considered that this proposal would disadvantage persons sharing a protected characteristic disproportionately when compared to those not sharing that characteristic.
- 8.10 Human Rights Act (1998) There may be implications under Article 8 and Article 1 of the First Protocol regarding the right of respect for a person's private and family life and home, and to the peaceful enjoyment of possessions. However, these potential issues are in this case amply covered by consideration of the environmental impact of the application under the policies of the development plan and other relevant policy guidance.

# 9.0 Working with the applicant / agent

- 9.1 In accordance with paragraph 38 of the NPPF (2023) the Council approach decision-taking in a positive and creative way taking a proactive approach to development proposals focused on solutions and work proactively with applicants to secure developments.
- 9.2 The Council work with the applicants/agents in a positive and proactive manner by offering a pre-application advice service, and as appropriate updating applications/agents of any issues that may arise in the processing of their application.

9.3 In this instance, the applicant/agent was informed of the issues arising from the proposal and given the opportunity to submit additional information. This was found to be acceptable, so the application has been approved.

#### 10.0 Recommendation

The officer recommendation is that the application be **APPROVED** subject to the following conditions:

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

**Reason**: To comply with the requirements of Section 91(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990, as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. Should it prove necessary to undertake any external works during the conversion of the property all materials are to be re-used and made good so as to match the existing building. If re-use is not possible materials are to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. External works are then to be carried out in the approved details only.

Reason: To ensure the appearance of the property is maintained within the Conservation Area.

3. The scheme for parking, and manoeuvring indicated on the submitted plans shall be laid out prior to the initial occupation of the development hereby permitted and that area shall not thereafter be used for any other purpose.

**Reason**: To enable vehicles to draw off, park and turn clear of the highway to minimise danger, obstruction, and inconvenience to users of the adjoining highway and to comply with Policy T6 of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, Policy TGA1 of the Haddenham Neighbourhood Plan and National Planning Policy Framework.

4. Prior to the occupation of the development, details of the provision of electric charging points shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, and the electric charging points shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and shall thereafter be retained as approved.

**Reason**: To ensure adequate provision is made for electric vehicles and to accord with the NPPF and Policies T6 and T8 of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

5. The development hereby permitted shall only be carried out in accordance with the details contained in the planning application hereby approved and the following drawing numbers P100, P102, 9873-112 and 9873-113 received by the Local

Planning Authority on 01.12.2023 and in accordance with any other conditions imposed by this planning permission.

**Reason**: To ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the details of the development by the Local Planning Authority and to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework.

6. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (or any Order revoking or reenacting that Order with or without modification), no enlargement of any dwelling nor the erection of any garage shall be carried out within the curtilage of any dwelling the subject of this permission, no windows, dormer windows, no buildings, structures or means of enclosure shall be erected on the site which is the subject of this permission other than those expressly authorised by this permission.

**Reason**: In order to safeguard the amenities of the area by enabling the Local Planning Authority to consider whether planning permission should be granted for enlargement of the dwellings or erection of a garage, windows, buildings, structures or means of enclosure having regard for the particular layout and design of the development, in accordance with policies BE1, BE2 and BE3 of Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework.

7. The existing hanging sign attached to the front of the building shall be retained in situ and shall not otherwise be altered or re-sited without prior agreement in writing of the local planning authority.

**Reason**: To preserve the character and appearance of the listed building and to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework.

#### Informatives:

- 1. No vehicles associated with the building operations on the development site shall be parked on the public highway so as to cause an obstruction. Any such wilful obstruction is an offence under S137 of the Highways Act 1980.
- 2. It is an offence under S151 of the Highways Act 1980 for vehicles leaving the development site to carry mud onto the public highway. Facilities should therefore be provided and used on the development site for cleaning the wheels of vehicles before they leave the site.
- 3. Developers are encouraged to maximise the water efficiency of the development. Thames Water offer environmental discounts for water efficient development which reduce the connection charges for new residential properties. Further

information on these discounts can be found at <a href="https://www.thameswater.co.uk/developers/charges">https://www.thameswater.co.uk/developers/charges</a>

# **Appendix A: Consultation Responses and Representations**

#### **Councillor Comments**

- Comments from Cllr Smith on 14.12.2023:
  - *"I request that this application is called in for a full public discussion if officers are minded to approve this application.*

- The pub was registered as a community asset, de registered by AVDC for no apparent reason

there is considerable community support for the pub suggesting a high amenity asset and a change of use may therefore contravene the Neighbourhood Plan and the VALP.
As a designated Strategic Settlement this type of community resource has been depleted, contrary to the intention of this designation

- Change of use may have a detrimental impact on the conservation area."

• Comments from Cllr Lewin on 14.12.2023:

"I would like this application called in for full discussion at committee. It was registered in the past as a community asset. I don't know why it was de registered. It is in the conservation area and residents are already concerned about the dilapidation of the premises. Haddenham, as a growing strategic settlement needs more facilities, not fewer."

# Haddenham Parish Council Comments received on 18.12.2023 (verbatim):

# Haddenham Parish Council (Verbatim):

"The Parish Council objects: 1. The proposal is contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF version 4 dated 2021) Chapter 6 'Supporting a prosperous rural economy' para 84(d): 'Planning policies and decisions should enable' the retention' of accessible and community facilities such as. 'public houses'' 2. The proposal is contrary to NPPF Chapter 8 'Promoting healthy and safe communities' para 92(a) 'Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which' promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other ' for example through'. active street frontages'.3. The proposal is contrary to NPPF Chapter 8 'Promoting healthy and safe communities' para 93(a) 'To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should'. plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as 'public houses') and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments'. 4. This proposal fails to achieve any of the above NPPF strategic community objectives. [The applicant's Planning Statement incorrectly states that NPPF5 was introduced in autumn 2023; it is expected later in December]. 5. The proposal is contrary to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) Policy 13 'The Council will resist proposals for the change of use of community buildings and facilities for which there is a demonstrable local need" 6. The proposal is contrary to the Haddenham Neighbourhood Plan (HNP) policy HWS2 'Protecting Community Amenities' which states 'The retention and enhancement of local services and community facilities including' pubs' will be supported'. 7. Both the VALP and HNP include similar caveats relating to viability, stating that proposals involving the loss of facilities will not be permitted unless they are no longer financially viable, and that proposals to change the use of an asset must demonstrate that all reasonable steps have been taken to retain the present use as a viable concern. No viability assessment, business plan or any other information has been submitted. As with the recent 'Green Dragon' saga nearby, the impression is that the 'Rose & Thistle', was purchased in April 2020 and then left empty to deteriorate with the sole intention of realising the doubling of value which change of use would confer to the community's detriment. 8. The proposal undermines Haddenham's sustainability in the VALP as a 'strategic settlement'. The strategic settlements were assessed and designated on the basis of the presence of 'key facilities'. These included pubs. At the time of drafting the VALP, Haddenham had 5 pubs, of which 3 were at Church End. Since then, over 1000 homes have been approved in Haddenham, representing an additional population of about 2,500. But now only 2 pubs remain open in the village, with none at Church End. This proposal prejudices this community's ability to meet the challenge of absorbing growth and welcoming an enhanced community as envisaged in the NPPF policies cited above. 9. The proposal causes heritage harm to the Conservation Area. The Rose & Thistle is itself a 'Building of Local Note' designated in the 2008 Conservation Area review. Conservation is not only about conserving the buildings and physical fabric. It includes the activities within the Conservation Area, and the character, vibrancy and community cohesion which can derive from those activities: hence the reference to 'active street frontages' in the NPPF citation above. A change of use resulting in the loss of a community asset as significant as a pub causes residential 'desertification' to the detriment of the Conservation Area. 10. The Parish Council urges Buckinghamshire Council to pursue enforcement action against the use of the pub garden and car park for mobile homes and similar static temporary accommodation to the detriment of the property itself, a Building of Local Note, to the amenities of the immediate neighbours, the Conservation Area, and the setting of nearby listed buildings."

#### Haddenham Parish Council Comments received on 04.01.2024 (verbatim):

The Parish Council's comments have been updated to reflect the revised paragraphs and wording in NPPF 2023.

The Parish Council objects as follows:

 The proposal is contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2023) Chapter 6 "Supporting a prosperous rural economy" para 88(d): "Planning policies and decisions should enable... the retention....of accessible and community facilities such as....public houses..."
 The proposal is contrary to NPPF Chapter 8 "Promoting healthy and safe communities" para 96(a) "Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places and beautiful buildings which...promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other - for example through....active street frontages".

3. The proposal is contrary to NPPF Chapter 8 "Promoting healthy and safe communities" para 97: "To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- para 97(a): plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as...public houses...) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;

para 97(c): guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services;
 para 97(d): ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community."

4. The proposal is contrary to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) Policy 13 "The Council will resist proposals for the change of use of community buildings and facilities for which there is a demonstrable local need..."

5. The proposal is contrary to the Haddenham Neighbourhood Plan (HNP) policy HWS2 "Protecting Community Amenities" which states "The retention and enhancement of local services and community facilities including... pubs...will be supported".

6. Both the VALP and HNP include similar caveats relating to viability, stating that proposals

involving the loss of facilities will not be permitted unless they are no longer financially viable, and that proposals to change the use of an asset must demonstrate that all reasonable steps have been taken to retain the present use as a viable concern. No viability assessment, business plan or any other information has been submitted. As with the recent "Green Dragon" saga nearby, the impression is that the "Rose & Thistle", was purchased in April 2020 and left empty to deteriorate with the sole intention of realising the doubling of value which change of use would confer to the community's detriment.

7. The proposal undermines Haddenham's sustainability in the VALP as a "strategic settlement". The strategic settlements were assessed and designated on the basis of the presence of "key facilities". These included pubs. At the time of drafting VALP, Haddenham had 5 pubs, of which 3 were at Church End. Since then, over 1000 homes have been approved in Haddenham, representing an additional population of about 2,500. But now only 2 pubs remain open in the village, with none at Church End. This proposal prejudices this community's ability to meet the challenge of absorbing growth and welcoming a growing community as envisaged in the NPPF policies cited above.

8. The proposal causes heritage harm to the Conservation Area. The Rose & Thistle is itself a "Building of Local Note" designated in the 2008 Conservation Area review. Conservation is not only about conserving the buildings and physical fabric. It includes the activities within the Conservation Area, and the character, vibrancy and community cohesion which can derive from those activities: hence the reference to "active street frontages" in the NPPF citation at para 96(a) above. A change of use resulting in the loss of a community asset as significant as a pub causes residential "desertification" to the detriment of the Conservation Area. 9. The Parish Council urges Buckinghamshire Council to pursue enforcement action against the use of the pub garden and car park for mobile homes and similar static temporary accommodation to the detriment of the property itself, a Building of Local Note, and to the amenities of the immediate neighbours, while harming the Conservation Area and the setting of nearby listed buildings."

#### **Consultation Responses**

Highways:

• 13.12.2023 – No objection subject to condition and informatives.

Ecologist:

• 07.12.2023 – No objection. No further supporting information required.

Environment Health:

• **11.12.2023** – no objection or comments to make.

Heritage Officer:

• **21.12.2023** – If the public house is no longer viable, there are no heritage objections as the external appearance will not be altered. Ideally the hanging sign should be retained.

Archaeologist:

• 18.12.2023 – No objection and no condition necessary.

Economic Development Officer:

28.12.2023 – ED does not welcome this application to convert this pub into a residential dwelling. No evidence has been provided that it has been marketed for 12 months at a suitable price. No proof has been submitted that it is not needed. Another owner might make it more profitable.

#### **Representations**

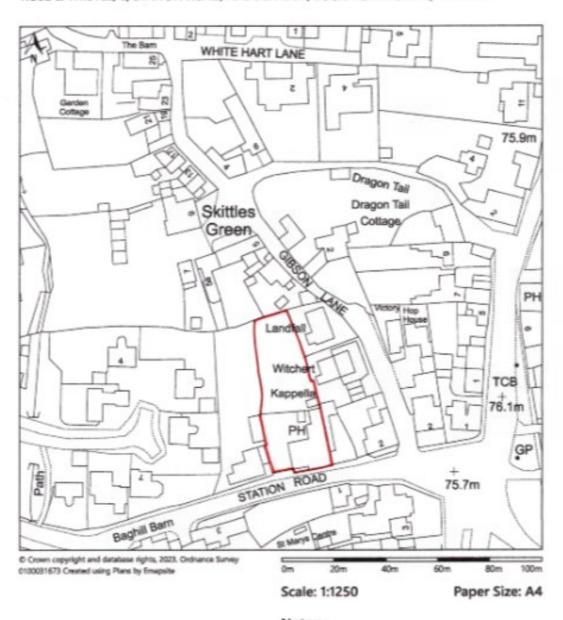
68 representation received, summarised as follows:

- A cynical attempt to circumvent Planning Regulations.
- Statements in Ecology & Trees checklist are conflicting. Haddenham Church Pond is within 250m of property. Haddenham Main River is within 20m of boundary wall.
- Commercial viability of the pub has not been tested in over five years.
- Haddenham has absorbed rapid growth in housing stock (approximately 1,000 new homes). Amenities needed for our growing population.
- Permanently removing this venue as a pub and public meeting place is contrary to VALP Policy I3 & Haddenham NP policy HWS2
- Community has already lost two other pubs in Church End in very recent years (Red Lion and The Green Dragon)
- Haddenham cannot afford to lose yet another vital amenity. It will revitalise this end of the village.
- Rose & Thistle was a much used asset to the village.
- There is an ample local market for a well-run good quality PH which would be a viable business.
- The village really needs a second PH.
- Rose and Thistle is part of the diminishing social infrastructure for the historic centre of the village.
- Losing this public house would mean losing a vital social hub that contributes to the overall well-being of the community.
- Public houses play a significant role in supporting the local economy.
- Rose & Thistle holds historical and cultural significance for our community.
- As population continues to grow, demand for public spaces, including public houses, is likely to increase.
- Owners have deliberately mothballed the pub for 4 years for private gain and left the property to fall into dis-repair.
- A lack of any community consultation regarding this proposed change.
- Application should be refused on the grounds that it is contrary to national planning policy.
- There is no reason why the Rose & Thistle cannot be commercially viable.

- No effort has been made to run the pub as a business.
- A village this size should have at least 2 pubs that do food particularly as it's growing so rapidly.
- Removing the last village pub from this area will have a detrimental effect on tourism to the village.
- The beating heart of Haddenham is being eroded by loss of facilities.
- There is a need for a further pub in the village due to the amount of residents now.
- Applicant has failed to provide any market evidence to show that there is no need for such a facility.
- Viability evidence should be submitted in support of the application and professionally reviewed.
- Proposal causes heritage harm to the Conservation Area. The Rose & Thistle is itself a Building of Local Note.
- Haddenham residents need more options of places to visit to eat and drink, especially in the evening or at weekends.
- This is a community asset for Haddenham and needs to remain a Public House.
- The car park and garden have been turned into a site for unsightly mobile home accommodation whilst the pub building is being allowed to fall into disrepair.
- Haddenham has built enough new houses to support another pub and/or restaurant.
- Haddenham is becoming a dormitory village.
- The case against viability as a pub has not been made.
- Anything would be better than the mess it is now.
- Reopening pub would help village become carbon neutral by enabling customers to walk to a high-end eating establishment instead of driving to surrounding villages or towns.
- Haddenham is an expanding village and needs more local amenities, not less.
- There is a desire from the local community for the site to be registered as an Asset of Community Value again.
- Rose & Thistle is a valued facility which could continue to meet the needs of the local community as a pub and restaurant.
- Once this last pub at Church End disappears there will be no opportunity for a new one to emerge.
- We are fast becoming a village of sprawling housing estates with few village amenities.
- This well loved and used local amenity should once again available to the community as a public house.
- Application runs completely counter to the needs of a growing residential area.

- With the size of grounds available, there is significant opportunity to retain it as a public house for the village.
- The church end area of the village should be a hub for the community as it once was.
- The village is not in short supply of new housing it does desperately need more community assets.
- There is a palpable sense of a community disappearing.
- the applicant has failed to provide evidence that the pub has been properly marketed at a suitable price nor provided any evidence that it is not needed.
- The Rose and Thistle was the only pub with a large garden and kids play area. It should therefore be left as a pub.
- Owners do not appear to have done any maintenance on the building in the years they have owned it and it has become very run down.
- Haddenham cannot afford to lose yet another public house.
- There is an overwhelming need for the Rose and Thistle to reopen as a pub restaurant.
- Contrary to NPPF paras 88d, 96a, 97a, 97c, VALP and HNP policy HWS2. Haddenham Village Society strongly objects to the proposed change of use.

# **Appendix B: Site Location plan**



# ROSE & THISTLE, 6, STATION ROAD, HADDENHAM, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP17 8AJ

Notes: