



Dear Sir

I am contacting you on behalf of those concerned regarding the following
Ref Planning application no PL/2026/01862 .

32 Market Place , Warminster , Wiltshire , BA12 9AN

I would like to draw your attention to the enclosed newspaper article in
the Wiltshire Times dated Friday August 28 2026 .(page 14)

I would like to state that the applicant a Mr A Drake , a property
developer ,who lives in Poole Dorset , and his agents has tried
unsuccessfully to apply for permission to build on this land , see
application numbers ,PL/2026/01982 and application number
PL/2026/01683 ,which are identical to the present application , but with
very minor alterations both times ,

,The space , which is currently being leased by a Mr & Mrs Turlsand on
a five year leasehold ,which was legally agreed and signed last August
2025 with the option of another five years after the current term expires
,from which they are running a business includes the whole of the
ground floor room ,the rear space, office ,toilet , etc and including the
cellar / old vault from the time the building was a bank plus parking for
two vehicles,

I should also like to point out that the building is grade two listed ,
including the doors to the vault and the safes within the vault area ,
these were installed in the early 1860s , after the bank closed it was left
empty for a period of three years ,and was deteriorating , before the
present tenant took possession and they spent a lot of time and effort
preserving this buildings structure , and on conservation projects within
the building just to get it fit for purpose .

The access into and out of the site is very narrow ,and on to the main road that runs through the town centre with its many historic buildings and, which is closed four times a year for the quarterly markets to take place, both buildings have been damaged in the past by large vehicles entering and exiting the road way trying to deliver goods , most have to stop in the main road as entering is almost impossible , and also the road is over the vault of the old bank , the coffee shop has designated parking for its staff on the side ,along with the charity shop staff parking , while the exhaust from the banks radon gas extraction system protrudes approximately 24 inches from the bank building wall into the road way .

After Speaking to nearby residents above the site of 32 Market Place , the occupiers of the coffee shop next to 32 Market Place , the owner of Harridge's gym , the tenant of the cottage ,and the newsagent and stationary store owner, in the area ,all who have parking spaces , delivery access etc and the other landlords who have properties in the area they had no knowledge of the plans until they were informed by their clients or members of the public . or by seeing planning notices etc.

The business owners , residents etc are feeling that if this project were to proceed that it might set a dangerous precedent for other developments that would harm the prosperity and financial stability of a growing community and possibly discourage further business investment in the town .Before making any decision on this important matter that clearly is disturbing to all those affected by this plan
Would you please consider the possibility of a site visit / meeting to talk to those whose livelihoods and lives would be affected by this development and hear their views and opinions .

NOTE = DISCLAIMER

The views stated here are not and never have been the opinions of the town council , of Warminster or any committee or councillor of said council , but merely expressing the concerns of those whose lives and businesses would be affected by this development should it be allowed,

Yours Sincerely



Stephen Kirkwood. I s m

Town Councillor & Conservationist

Business owner 'blindsided' by town centre housing scheme

Andrea Glennon

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A business owner has expressed her frustration after discovering she was not consulted about a planning application which could have a detrimental impact on her customers.

Julie Harridge has run Hartridges Gym in Warminster for more than two decades and said she only found out about plans to redevelop a nearby site through members of the public. Bournemouth-based Ellis and Partners submitted plans in March to convert the rear part of the former Barclays Bank property in Market Place into a flat and construct an additional single dwelling.

However, Hartridges Gym, which has shared access rights, received no warning about the application and Mrs Harridge said she only became aware of it while speaking with clients.

She said: "As the only business directly impacted, why were we not even on the list of neighbours consulted? Presumably because they knew we would strongly object due to the long-term impact on our business."

"We have shared access rights on this driveway to our private car park, with members

and staff coming and going seven days a week from 7am till 9pm.

"Where are the building site lorries going to park? Where are the building supplies going to be stored? Where are scaffold lorries and builders' vehicles parking?"

"The only car park spaces on this site are on Hartridges' members and staff private property. How is anyone guaranteeing we have constant clear access?"

"A lot of our members are now elderly and some are disabled. They rely on being able to park easily in our car park."

She noted that the entrance to the site was narrow and "totally unsuitable" for lorry access.

Mrs Harridge added: "Small businesses are having a hard enough time right now with soaring costs and business rates, let alone losing members because they are unable to park onsite anymore due to someone trying to squeeze a building into a very small area with shared access rights."

Jonathan Shannessy, of Ellis and Partners, said it was Wiltshire Council's responsibility to notify neighbours about planning applications.

"This is not something the applicants are required to do," he explained.

"The planning officers have

been in regular contact with us and changes have been made to the plans and parking arrangements to ensure that the application complies with all the comments made by the consultees that you would normally expect to be involved in the planning process."

"The application mirrors similar infill developments in the town centre that have recently been granted planning consent."

Warminster Town Council voted to object to the application again when members met on Monday August 17.

In April, councillors unanimously objected to the application on the grounds of over development of the site and the impact increased traffic entering the site could have on neighbouring businesses.

Cliff Stacie Allensby was alarmed that people living and working nearby had not been notified.

"After speaking to several people in the area I learned that none of the residents or business owners had been contacted in regard to the application," she said.

"The council voted to object to the planning application on the grounds of access and things they had previously objected on."



Julie Harridge of family-run Hartridges Gym has objected to the plans. Image: Hartridges Gym