
Sent: 26/08/2024 8:36:16 PM
Subject: PEX2024/0005

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to lodge an objection to the DA for the Harbord Beach Hotel.

As a former long term resident of Harbord, for more than 50 years, I remember well when the hotel was the heart of the Harbord community. Since the new owners have taken over the licence, they have gutted the community feel of the hotel. Up until the new owner took over, I was a regular at the hotel, but when the new owner arrived he made us locals feel very much unwelcome. You will not find an over 55 year old local there these days. Not only that, but he discontinued the long established tradition of supporting the Freshwater SLSC, the Valley United Rugby League Club, the fishing and golf clubs and many other local organisations. They no longer have meat raffles on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings to raise money for the sporting and social clubs.

Today the hotel is frequented by young people from all over the peninsular and beyond. There aren't enough young people in Harbord to sustain the hotel, so they have to come from beyond the suburb. Regardless of the many changes that have occurred to Harbord in recent years, including its name, it is still primarily a residential suburb and not suitable for intensive commercial activity. The new owner is looking to promote the hotel as a 'night time economy' venue but this does not sit well with the character of the suburb. You only need to look at the comments from residents opposed to this development detailing how the hotel patrons impact upon their quiet enjoyment of the suburb.

The owner will argue that the hotel has been there longer than the surrounding residents, but the truth of the matter is that most residents have been there longer than the new owner and it is the new owner who is attempting to subvert the character of the hotel for their financial gain to the detriment of the local residents.

We lost the Harbord Diggers because of incompetent management leading to a takeover by The Mounties who turned the club into a food hall with poker machines. Do not allow another Harbord icon to be destroyed by carpetbaggers.

Sincerely
Brian Dunphy