EASEBOURNE
Parish Council

Easebourne Parish Council
Gosdens Farmhouse
Easebourne Street
Easebourne
GU29 0BE
Monday 16 March 2026

Dear Sirs,

I am writing regarding the next steps for the site of the former Angel Hotel on North Street, Midhurst.

Having reviewed correspondence that you have received from traders in the town, the Parish Council wishes to express its support for the call to obtain listed building consent to take down the remaining structure, including the listed façade. Although the site is outside our parish boundary, the ongoing situation has a significant impact on our residents, many of whom rely on Midhurst as their local town for shopping, services and social activities. Any road closure or traffic management within Midhurst also significantly affects Easebourne residents, not only when they want to access the town themselves.

Local traders have provided robust evidence demonstrating the economic harm caused by three years of inaction at this site. It is the Council's view that this situation cannot continue without causing further serious detriment to the community and the local economy. The question of whether the façade *could* be saved must now be reframed as whether it *should* be saved, given the further consequences for the town that this would cause. The Council does not believe that preserving a structure solely because it is historic or aesthetically pleasing should outweigh the future prosperity of the town, the ability for its businesses to continue to trade and the community's need to return to normality, including the reinstatement of a fully accessible pavement on both sides of this key route. At this stage, delisting the building to enable demolition and viable redevelopment appears to be the only realistic options within a reasonable timeframe.

Whatever the future of the site, the Parish Council strongly opposes *any disruption* to traffic flow through Midhurst. As an A-road, this is a major route for residents, tourists, visitors and businesses and any full road closure would be completely unacceptable. The alternative routes are unsuitable due to narrow back roads, poor road conditions, and the excessive journey times associated with the previous official diversion via the A3. Significant damage was done to the local road network by motorists attempting to find alternative routes. Any development must be undertaken from the rear of the site to minimise the need for traffic management, and this can only be achieved if the façade is removed.

Finally, the Parish Council fully supports the position taken by Midhurst Vision Partnership, Midhurst Business Partnership and local traders, and will continue to do so until this matter is resolved.

Yours faithfully,

E. Tremaine

Mrs Emma Tremaine

Parish Clerk

On behalf of Easebourne Parish Council