# Datchet residents raise concerns over impact of asylum seekers at Manor Hotel on housing market and community safety



Residents of Datchet, a picturesque village near Windsor Castle, have voiced deep concerns over the impact of housing asylum seekers at the local Manor Hotel since 2022. The presence of asylum seekers in the village’s four-star hotel, a once-celebrated venue visited by celebrities such as George Best, has coincided with a downturn in the local property market and increased unease among residents about safety and community wellbeing.

Typically, Datchet’s average home price sits around £526,000, but several high-value properties—some priced as high as £3.5 million—have remained unsold for extended periods. Local homeowners attribute this to the controversial use of the Manor Hotel as an asylum accommodation centre, which they say has deterred prospective buyers and altered the village’s atmosphere.

One homeowner lamented to the Daily Mail, “I put my house on the market, I've had enough. This has been such a nice village. It's been safe and it's been left to go to rack and ruin. It's just becoming a hell-hole.” Another resident, the owner of a seven-bedroom Victorian house listed for nearly £2 million, disclosed he had not received a single viewing in six months since putting the property on the market. He highlighted a wider trend, noting that several other properties, including a £3.5 million home and others around the £2 million mark, were similarly struggling to attract interest.

The local community describes a rise in anti-social behaviour, with reports of random individuals roaming the streets, youths engaging in ‘door-kicking’ vandalism, and conflicts involving the travelling community. “There are random people walking around the village all the time. You don't know where they are from… There's always people coming back and forth who are not locals — teenage boys in black masks. There's drugs, there's blatant anti-social behaviour,” said another resident.

Despite these local claims, police authorities have stated that there have been no official reports linking asylum seekers at the hotel to crime or anti-social incidents. Nonetheless, estate agent Brian Warren confirmed to MailOnline that the presence of the asylum centre had negatively influenced property sales. “It has really affected the area's real estate because people do a search online and see that there are asylum seekers in the hotel,” he said.

Data from online property portal Home.co.uk shows that house selling times in Datchet have lengthened dramatically over recent years. Where it once took under two months for a home to sell, currently it averages more than four months, with semi-detached properties taking over six months on average. Several high-end homes remain listed for months with minimal buyer engagement. These properties, including Patrixbourne—a six-bedroom historic residence with original period features priced at £1.75 million—and Pear Tree House on Montagu Road, a six-bedroom luxury home with a gym and games room, have proved difficult to sell despite their attractive locations near schools and rail links to London.

Locals attribute the situation not only to the hotel’s use for asylum accommodation but also to a perceived lack of communication from the hotel’s owners, brothers Sam and Mandip Gill, who hold the Government contract. “The Manor Hotel's owners didn't tell anyone what they were going to do with it, they haven't put any money into it,” a local resident stated. “They are making ridiculous amounts of money out of the Government to keep doing this – and it's to the detriment of everyone else.” Village councillor and former resident Gary Muir echoed these sentiments: “It has disrupted the area. We want our hotel back so our residents can pop in for a drink or a nice meal. Parents from the nearby school are particularly concerned for their children.”

The Manor Hotel’s contract to accommodate asylum seekers is scheduled to end on 29 May 2025 as part of a Home Office decision to cease the use of the hotel for asylum purposes. This action is expected to lead to the relocation of residents to other parts of the UK’s asylum estate. Local MP Jack Rankin described the announcement as “great news” for villagers who experienced the introduction of asylum seekers “with next to no notice.”

While some residents acknowledge the presence of asylum seekers without direct incidents of bad behaviour, others express concern that the hotel's use as asylum accommodation has altered the social fabric and economic appeal of the village. One local shop owner commented, “The hotel does not really fit in with the village's location - it's known for its tourism with Windsor Castle and Legoland just up the road... The residents are just not happy. It is a very conservative area and it has very strong links with the Royal Family who drive through every so often so everyone wants things clean and tidy.”

As Datchet approaches the May deadline for the Manor Hotel to revert from its current role, the village faces ongoing debate over the interaction between local housing markets, community safety perceptions, and the provision of asylum accommodation in small, historic communities. The residents’ experiences provide a detailed insight into the challenges faced when large-scale shifts in property use intersect with established local environments.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)