

Open Meeting Update

07/09/2023 7:30pm

High Wycombe Rugby Club

The meeting was very well attended with approximately 100 attendees and it appears support for the pub is still overwhelmingly high.

The Derehams Inn Community Group Committee currently consists of 6 members; Mick Parsons, Richard Smith, Lynn Smith, Elizabeth Durning, Juliet Staddon and Jessica Harrison.

Mick Parsons and Richard Smith gave a brief overview of the history to date and outlined what the next steps are which is summarised below.

The current owner of The Derehams Inn submitted a planning application to demolish the pub and develop the site with the erection of new flats. This application was refused on the 7th August 2023. The Derehams Inn Community group were successful during the planning process of having the pub's previous status as an ACV (Asset of Community Value) reinstated which was possibly the most significant factor in the planning being refused. This ACV means that the pub must remain as a pub and cannot be redeveloped and the ACV lasts for 5 years (at which point, we could apply to have it reinstated for another 5 years and so on). The ACV also effectively means that the community must have 'first refusal' to buy the pub if the current owner wishes to sell and would allow us 6 months to raise the funds to do so.

The Derehams Inn Community Group was created with a view to purchasing the pub and running it as a community pub. The initial stage of this process is to generate a "fighting fund" to pay for things such as legal fees as we progress. There are 2 ways that people can contribute; by becoming a member of the DICG which can be done on the "Join us" page of the website at cost of £5 per person or by making donations (details of how to do this to follow).

We are in the process of making contact with the current owner who has shown initial interest in selling the pub – we will keep everyone up to date with any developments.

If and when we are in a position to buy the pub then the plan would be to sell shares (initial thoughts are £50 a share to make it accessible to everyone, but you wouldn't be limited to the number you could buy) and the target to raise would be £250,000. There is funding available for up to a further £250,000 to give a total of £500,00 which in theory is enough to buy the pub and carry out some basic refurbishment/maintenance that will be needed.

To access this funding, the first step is gathering data from a questionnaire to ascertain the demand for the pub and to assess what sort of facilities etc the local people would want. This questionnaire is available on our website on the "questionnaire" page. We really need as much data as possible so would encourage everyone to please get neighbours and friends to fill this out.

It is important for us to emphasise that this has been done successfully many times and a couple of local examples of this are The Craufurd Arms, Maidenhead (running as a community pub since 2017) and The Boundary Arms, Pinkneys Green (who are at the same stage in their journey as us). Both of

their websites are linked below and we would encourage you to read and explore the information on their websites for inspiration for this journey we are embarking on.

Other local examples of successful community pubs are also listed below with links to their corresponding websites.

The Craufurd Arms - www.craufurdarms.com/about

The Boot, Bledlow Ridge - [Home - The Boot Pub, Bledlow Ridge \(thebootbledlowridge.co.uk\)](http://thebootbledlowridge.co.uk)

The Garibaldi, Bourne End - [Community Owned | The Garibaldi Pub Co. Ltd \(garibaldipubcompany.co.uk\)](http://garibaldipubcompany.co.uk)

The Jolly Farmer, Cookham Dean - [Our History — The Jolly Farmer \(thejollyfarmerpub.co.uk\)](http://thejollyfarmerpub.co.uk)

Anybody who wants to help in any way would be most appreciated whether its becoming a member, joining the committee, distributing leaflets etc – please get in touch with us.

We are also specifically in search of an accountant and a solicitor who would be willing to offer their services to help so if you, or someone you know, might be able and willing to help, again please get in touch.