

Wiggenhall and Saddlebow Community Benefit Association (WSCBA)

Save Our Pub Newsletter

22/01/2024



Firstly, a Happy New Year to everyone and we welcome the very positive news that on Christmas eve the pub reopened under the tenancy of landlord Harry and his wife Kirsten. Harry has recently shared the opening hours for the pub which are available on the pub's Facebook page.

There have been a few questions as to whether our 'Save Our Pub' efforts would cease with the reopening however this is not the case, and we still are hard at work pursuing every avenue to secure it as a Community Pub.

On the 14th of December we hosted a social evening in the village hall which raised over £600, which is fantastic. A huge thank you to Sally, Roz, Jan, all the raffle prize donators and everyone that attended which made it a very positive and sociable evening for all.

On the 11th of January we held a WSCBA meeting where updates were given from developments since the social event in December. We were in the process of opening a bank account for further fundraising although there were delays with the provider. There has been development of our business plan and we hope to fully confirm the legal structure of the group in the near future. Once confirmed then work around purchasing shares will begin which will likely dominate the fundraising effort.

A survey has been booked for early February which will assist in the business planning and this looks at the potential footfall, profit/loss and other aspects that are key to ensuring that we have a clear vision for the pub and its future. The WSCBA is also planning visits to other community run pubs in the area, to meet their committees and discuss their journeys to becoming fully operational community pubs.

There is also a lot of work exploring possible options with grant applications. If you feel you can give time and assist with this please make contact.

We also discussed fundraising, social events, quiz nights and other ways in which people can contribute to the community pub effort. What we are currently looking for is fundraising ideas and events, particularly volunteers to come forward and either lead or form part of the volunteering sub-committee to organise and facilitate these efforts. If you feel you can help, please make contact.

In the last few days, we have been given the fantastic news that the pub has been declared an Asset of Community Value- this is a major step in the right direction for both the community and our effort in purchasing the pub.

We now have (at last!) a functioning bank account and in the very near future, details will be shared around a GoFundMe page. Initially we are looking to cover immediate expenses and the survey in February which is a target of approximately £4000.

Finally, we have provisionally booked Thursday 22nd February as the date for our next meeting, which will be open to everyone and held in the Wiggenhall St Germans Village Hall from 7pm. We aim to discuss further developments regarding the operational aspects of the association, results of the property survey, and give further updates around fundraising, business plans and the vision for the pub.

Currently WSCBA members include Steve Welcomme, Bob Ward, Paul Bridges, Sally Nederpel, Martin Metcalfe, Roland Merryweather, Paul Coombs and David Harrison.

To contact us email Saveourpub7@gmail.com or visit the pub social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Paul will also share updates on the Nextdoor App. If all else fails ring Steve Welcomme on 07786 234 968