

# SAVE THE DROVERS

Volume 1, Issue 2

24th April 2015

**GUSSAGE COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY LTD**

## Thank you for your support

Momentum is gathering for our community fight to Save The Drovers Inn.

Thanks to your generosity and to the fantastic grant support from the Cranborne Chase AONB Sustainable Development Fund and The Plunkett Foundation Bursary we have managed to apply for and register the Gussage Community Benefit Society Limited in record time. We are now working to finalise the details of the Community Share Prospectus whilst continuing to fight the change of use planning application.

It is imperative for our campaign that the East Dorset

District Council refuse the change of use application and allow our community the full ACV Moratorium period to acquire the pub.

In addition to establishing the Community Benefit Society we have been able to engage professional support to help strengthen our business case and provide the professional oversight for the development and launch of the Community Share Prospectus which we are planning for mid May.

The launch of our Community Share Offer provides further evidence to the EDDC of our community's commitment to save this vital



**Cranborne Chase**  
Area of Outstanding  
Natural Beauty

## Thank you for your support through the Sustainable Development Fund

community asset

We have recently undertaken a Redbook valuation for The Drovers Inn and an assessment of the kitchen; the reports will feed into our business case and P&L projections which will help to lock in our funding.

## Please encourage your friends and family to support us

Please help us to promote our Campaign to Save The Drovers for the community and generations to come. We would like to connect with as many supporters as possible over the next few weeks as we lead up to the Planning Committee meeting

and the launch of our Community Share Offer. Word of mouth and the support of friends, family and colleagues is invaluable.

There is an old adage that if we each connect with 7 people and they each connect

with 7 people and so on then in no time at all our campaign will have reached around the world. The whole of the UK would be a great start and we already have some friends supporting us from as far afield as the USA.

### Where to go for more information

#### Steering Group Contacts

Sally Marlow 01258 840531

Sally.marlow@btconnect.com

#### Save The Drovers Website

[www.droversinn.gussage.com](http://www.droversinn.gussage.com)

### Notable Dates:

Please pencil in Friday 15th May 2015 at 7:00pm in Gussage All Saints Village Hall for the launch of the Community Share Offer. Check website for any changes

Anticipated Planning Committee date for hearing The Drovers Inn planning application is 26th May 2015. Subject to EDDC confirmation

## Support from The Plunkett Foundation

Our thanks go to Donna, Liz, David and the team from The Plunkett Foundation for their support with the application and model rules for our Gussage Community Benefit Society Limited. Their help ensured that our registration with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) went through smoothly and registration was received very promptly.

It was great that a number of you got to meet David Fisher at our inter-

active open meeting held in Gussage All Saints Village Hall on 15th April.

Our enterprise is a member of The Plunkett Foundation and part of the Plunkett Community Enterprise Network. Through the Plunkett Foundation we have successfully been awarded a special bursary to help towards the feasibility and development costs of our community project. As well as providing access to information and advice, our membership pro-

vides access to a range of goods and services at preferential terms and rates. Examples include accountancy where we can use accountants experienced in the area of Community Enterprise and the financial rules and regulations that govern them and we can also benefit from various discounts through our membership; banking, energy and telecoms are some of the areas where we may benefit.



## Community Vision for The Drovers

Great input was received at the recent open meeting held in The Gussage All Saints Village hall on 15th April.

The Drovers niche was seen as being a real village pub of character, offering a warm welcome, cosy atmosphere, fairly priced good food and outstanding service. Key comments included making the most of its appeal-

ing location off the main road, its wonderful views over the open countryside and its direct access to footpaths and bridleways leading up onto Cranborne Chase.

The pub was seen as playing a key role as a social amenity providing a place for friends and neighbours to meet and the opportunity to get to know new people moving into

or visiting the community.

A great reputation and consistency together with the stunning location were seen as key requirements to attract visitors from outside the community.

Consistency, reliability of service and value for money were seen as key to ensuring that customers return on a regular basis.

**“Developing our vision for The Drovers as a Community Pub”**



## Research to Support Grant Funding

We are proposing to carry out some further research to help provide detailed evidence of the importance of The Drovers Inn as a valuable community asset. We will do this research through a series of focus groups (e.g. Parent/toddler, retired, cyclists etc.)

Email me at [sally.marlow@btconnect.com](mailto:sally.marlow@btconnect.com) if you would like to help