

## **PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF THE TRAVELLERS REST PUBLIC HOUSE**

It is proposed that the Travellers Rest Public House, located on Intake Lane, Pogmoor, Barnsley will be demolished and the site redeveloped for Residential purposes.

The recent history of the site is that due to falling sales the business ceased trading a number of years ago despite efforts to sell the property as a going concern.

The property remained vacant and no acceptable offers were received.

The selling agents received offers from developers seeking to acquire the site for residential purposes and the present owner acquired the property in 2014.

Proposals were prepared for residential development following initial informal enquiries to Barnsley M.B.C. Planning Department that were positive with regard to the proposed residential use.

However the site owner was approached by an interested party who wished to re-open the property as a Public House. The premises began trading again in 2014 and despite an initial period of reasonable business this has declined and the Public House has now closed with little or no prospect of re-opening.

A new study in 2014 by the Institute of Economic Affairs examined the causes behind a decline in the pub industry. A summary of their findings is given below:

- The UK has lost 21,000 pubs since 1980. Half of these closures have taken place since 2006. This paper examines the likely causes of the recent surge in closures.
- Taxation, regulation and the recent decline in disposable incomes are the leading causes of the decimation of the UK pub industry since 2006, responsible for around 6,000 pub closures. The smoking ban and the alcohol duty escalator are particularly culpable.
- Long-term cultural changes have been responsible for a further 4,000 pub closures. Other factors, such as the decline in alcohol consumption, may have played a part, but we cannot rule out reverse causality, particularly with regards to the exceptionally large decline in beer consumption.

- The blame attached to the beer tie has been greatly overstated. There is little evidence that pubs owned by PubCos have been closing permanently at a faster rate than those in the rest of the sector.
- The statutory code proposed by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will not stem the tide of pub closures because it aims impractical solutions at the wrong target.

Further details are available at

<http://www.iea.org.uk/publications/research/closing-time-whos-killing-the-british-pub>

Clearly this is another victim of the general demise of Public Houses. Although in the past this was one of many established Pubs it can no longer survive in the current trading climate.

However, the The Tom Treddlehoyle Inn is located immediately adjacent the site which offers comparable facilities to the local community.