



The Carpenters Arms Public House, Soham

Questionnaire

The Carpenters Arms is threatened with closure and conversion into housing.

Thrift Community Land Trust for Soham believes this would be a huge loss to Soham. It has been a popular traditional pub and we believe with the right help it can continue to provide an important venue for the community. We need to find out whether the community is prepared to support this.

A community owned pub for Soham

For most towns and villages a pub is a vital service; it is a meeting place, communication centre and an important lynchpin of community life. Much of the appeal of our town rests on its sense of community. It is the reason many people have moved here and remain here. Keeping this popular friendly pub open would, we feel, greatly enhance that community spirit.

This questionnaire is the first step. We need to know your views on what might be provided and what would receive your support. Please be as honest and realistic as possible in your answers! Your response will be treated in confidence. It is entirely anonymous, unless you wish to add your name at the end.

Please complete and return this questionnaire as soon as possible.

The results of this survey will be published and presented to a public meeting when the proposal can be discussed further.

We would also like to hear from you if you feel you could help in any way with the running of the pub. There will be a wide range of tasks to be done from the initial setting up of the project to managing the enterprise and being involved in the day to day practical operation.

This kind of venture has been successfully achieved in other communities all over the UK. There are currently 40 community pubs in the UK and most of these have been set up with the support from local charities and community enthusiasm. Thrift Community Land Trust for Soham wants to keep the Carpenters Arms on Brook Street open because we have already lost too many of our pubs and our community is growing.

We want this pub to provide more than just a warm cheerful place to have a drink with friends. It would remain as free house. We want it to provide a meeting place for local groups (even during the day), local pub games teams and for anyone else who needs a place to meet. Can our community get together to stop our community losing yet another of our traditional pubs? If you are interested and want to speak directly to someone about this project please contact one of the following:

Rosemary Aitchison 01353 720177

Charles Warner 01353 721324

About keeping this pub for our community

1. If our local pub was saved by Thrift CLT and run for the community in Soham would you or any member of your household use it?

- Daily
- 2-3 times a week
- Once a week
- Once a fortnight
- Occasionally
- Not at all

2. What additional services would you be most like to see the pub offer?

- Family friendly area
- Function room for group meetings, family get-togethers etc
- Games room
- Catering (dinners and lunches)
- Live music
- Big-screen sports
- Other (please list as many as you like below)

3. What kind of catering would you like to see from the pub?

- Serving food isn't important to me
- Just cold snacks
- Tea and coffee
- Bar meals
- Restaurant type food
- Other (please list as many as you like below)

4. If you want food provided please say whether you want it

- every day
- just on Saturday and/or Sunday

5. Are there any other services not listed above you would like to see on offer?

6. Are you or any member of your family and friends involved in any local group who might be interested in using the pub for meetings etc? Please give name of group.

7. On a scale of 1 – 5 (where 1 is not important and 5 is very important), how important do you think it is to have a keep this local pub open? Please circle your answer.

NOT IMPORTANT <<< 1 2 3 4 5 >>> VERY IMPORTANT

8. Please state how many people in each age range there are in your household:

- 0-16 number of people:
- 17 – 25 number of people:
- 26 – 45 number of people:
- 46 – 65 number of people:
- over 65 number of people:

9. Would you or anyone in your household be interested in helping a community pub project in any way by:

- Joining the steering group
- Helping with fundraising
- Providing professional advice/services and my profession/skills are:
- Be involved in running the pub by volunteering
- Making a donation
- Buying a share
- Making a loan
- Anything else

If you have ticked any of the above options in question 9, or you would like us to contact you, then please write your name, address and phone number here:

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Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Please put completed questionnaires in the box provided or if you prefer scan and send to info@thriftsoham.org.uk or by post to Thrift CLT, c/o 7 Qua Fen Common, Soham, Cambs CB7 5DQ

This questionnaire is also available online at thriftsoham.org.uk