

## **A COMMUNITY-OWNED PUB FOR MARSTON?**

The Thorold Arms closed in July this year and seems to have been repossessed by the bank. It is now up for sale on the open market (for £250,000). We want to re-open it, especially the pub, shop and restaurant and have it as a thriving business which underpins our lovely village.

We might only now be realising how much we miss having the pub and shop. We have the opportunity to get it back. Already over 60 households in the surrounding villages have emailed their support.

At the moment anyone or any company could buy it, including housing developers. Once it is in private ownership, our say in how it is used is dramatically reduced. We may be limited to objecting to a planning application for change of use from a business to a residential premises. Instead of a central, friendly, welcoming meeting place and service, it could be turned into housing. In order to guarantee that it is not used as anything other than a pub / restaurant / shop, we need to see if there is sufficient interest, motivation and (unfortunately) funding.

1. The meeting today was our first step together.
2. The questionnaire on the back of this page is the second 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. Please respond to as many of the questions as possible. Your response will be treated in strict confidence. No single questionnaire will be published but a summary of all responses will be circulated amongst those who have already shown interest.

If you wish, you may remain anonymous, but we would find it very helpful for people that are able to donate time, labour, expertise or funding to identify themselves to us by email or other method of contact.

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. We would love to hear from you if you feel you could help in any way with the running of the shop.

We would really like to hear from any architects who would be willing to offer their time and expertise as we understand the building in its existing internal layout is difficult to deal with. We would like to get a realistic idea of what needs and / or could be done and rough costings of the building work required.

3. The third step will be a second public meeting to present a summary of responses and where we go from there.

**If you wish to speak to or email with someone about this project please contact:**

Ian Tyler [idityler@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:idityler@yahoo.co.uk) (landline) +44(0)1400 250 171 (mobile) +44(0)7710 978 668

Steve Richards [steve@swrichards.com](mailto:steve@swrichards.com)

Tim Found [timfound@hotmail.com](mailto:timfound@hotmail.com)

Please complete one questionnaire per household and return by 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

**1. If the pub, restaurant, shop and a coffee shop opened again in Marston please tick below to indicate how often you think you would use each of them:**

	Daily	2 - 3 times a week	Weekly	Every 2 weeks	Every Month	Every 3 months	Every 6 months	Less often	Never
Pub									
Restaurant									
Shop									
Coffee Shop									

**2. Do you have any suggestions that you would find useful for the premises to provide? (other than a pub, restaurant, shop and coffee shop)**

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**3. Please tick (all that apply) if you or anyone in your household would be interested in helping the project:**

- Be a part of the steering group
- Help with administration
- Being a volunteer staff member
- Help with labour
- Provide advice or services (if so please specify skill / trade / profession)

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**4. Would you be interested in buying a share in the proposed community venture?**

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

**5. Please state how many people in each age range are in your household:**

0-17    18-25    26-35    36-45    46-65    66-85    86 and over

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If you don't mind giving your name and contact details (email / phone preferred) please write them here:

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Thanks very much for completing this questionnaire. Please return it by email (if possible) to Ian Tyler at [idityler@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:idityler@yahoo.co.uk) or by post to Orchard End, Main Street, Marston.