

Notice of Motion - The Community Value of Pubs

This Council notes:

- That for many people community public houses are important local community amenities that support positive interactions between people from different backgrounds and enhance community cohesion
- That the new National Planning Policy Framework makes specific reference to the need to safeguard public houses

This Council further notes:

- That high residential property values in Worthing are endangering the future of valued public house and that effective local planning policy is a key tool in safeguarding valued and profitable public houses
- That weak national planning rules allow public houses to be demolished or converted into betting shops, pay day loan stores, supermarket metro stores and other uses without planning permission
- That the Assets of Community Value scheme introduced in the Localism Act 2011 allows local communities to secure a degree of additional protection for local community assets
- That, in some cases, excessively high rents and tied product prices contribute to the failure of otherwise profitable pubs

This Council resolves:

- To develop planning policies to better protect local public houses based on the principles of the pub protection policies developed by Lewisham Council and Cambridge City Council
- That the Council, under the Sustainable Communities Act, seeks to submit a proposal to Government to “protect community pubs in England by ensuring that planning permission and community consultation are required before community pubs are allowed to be converted to betting shops, supermarkets and pay-day loan stores or other uses, or are allowed to be demolished.”
- To help facilitate community groups to nominate pubs as Assets of Community Value
- That the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State at the Department of Business Innovation of Skills supporting plans to introduce a Statutory Code to ensure tied publicans are treated fairly.

Proposed by: Cllr Alan Rice
Seconded by: Cllr Paul High

Local Government Act 1972
Background papers:

Email from Councillor A Rice 25 March 2014