



THE WHITE LION- YOUR VILLAGE PUB

Information from the White Lion Team.

As a new year begins we thought it was a good time to let you know of the progress we have made on the renovation work and something about our future plans.

WHERE WE STARTED FROM

The White Lion closed in January 2016 and in the following August a planning application was made to demolish the building and replace it with 6 houses. Following a campaign of local opposition Cheshire East Council refused the application but the owner was successful at appeal and in June 2017, permission was given to demolish the pub. However, the local action group continued its campaign and established The White Lion Community Pub (Hankelow) Limited with a view to raising sufficient funds to buy the site and save the pub. The purchase was completed in September 2018 for £380,000.



WHERE WE ARE NOW

The pub company has 30+ shareholders, drawn mainly from the village and local area, who between them own almost 400,000 £1 shares. In total, to date, in the order of £500,000 has been raised and this includes £150,000 from the sale of part of the site to Memory Lane Classics (MLC), who are a locally based company whose main business is the restoration of classic cars. MLC intend to build a small car showroom on the land next to the pub and they are also investors in the pub company. So this represents an exciting joint venture where both enterprises can work together for mutual benefit, by attracting interest and custom.



Since planning approval was obtained for the re-opening of the pub last Summer, renovation work has started. This is a complicated and expensive task, which reflects the fact that the building has been closed for 4 years and largely neglected for a decade before that. A new water treatment and drainage system has been installed on the site and major structural work to the building is underway. Our fundraising efforts are continuing as we aim to raise a further £150,000 to complete the refurbishment of the building.

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

The main aim has always been to re-open the pub at the earliest date and restore to Hankelow its "asset of community value" providing a community hub for the village with all the social benefits that this will bring (not to ignore the increase in house values that a village pub brings!)

To some degree we are following a template for community pubs that increasingly is being adopted in many parts of the country. According to CAMRA 120+ such pubs have opened in villages in the last 10 years and to date none have failed.

The renovated pub has been designed to enable community use of the building during the day outside normal pub hours. It will operate as a free house. The Company will set the overall operational guidelines for the landlord to follow, which will reflect local priorities and not those of a brewery chain.

If you are interested in our project then more information is available on our website (www.whitelionhankelow.com). Better still, if you feel you can make a positive contribution to our project then please get in touch via our website or by using the contact details attached. If you prefer to meet up with a small group of shareholders to talk through the project in more detail, then this can be arranged.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The White Lion Team. (01270 811574).



The White Lion
Hankelow
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Crewe



ESTD 2018
**MEMORY LANE
CLASSICS**
MOTOR CARS

