



F. McArdle
Chief Executive

Civic Offices, Civic Way,
Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 0AH

www.south-derbys.gov.uk

Please ask for: Democratic Services
Phone: (01283) 595722 / 595848
Minicom: (01283) 595849
DX 23912 Swadlincote
Email :
democraticservices@south-derbys.gov.uk

Date: 18 March 2015

Dear Councillor,

Standards Sub-Committee

A Meeting of the **Standards Sub-Committee** will be held in the **Council Chamber**, on **Thursday, 26 March 2015 at 10:00**. You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

Chief Executive

To:- **Conservative Group**
Councillor Harrison (Chairman) and Councillor Stanton.

Labour Group
Councillor Pearson.

Independent Persons
Mr. P. Purnell and Mr. P. Smith.



AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

- 1** Apologies
- 2** To note any declarations of interest arising from any items on the Agenda
- 3** To receive any questions by Members of the Council pursuant to Council procedure Rule No. 11.
- 4** REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER **3 - 325**

Exclusion of the Public and Press:

- 5** The Chairman may therefore move:-
That in accordance with Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in the header to each report on the Agenda.
- 6** To receive any Exempt questions by Members of the Council pursuant to Council procedure Rule No. 11.

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|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| REPORT TO: | STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE | AGENDA ITEM: 4 |
| DATE OF MEETING: | 26TH MARCH 2015 | CATEGORY: DELEGATED |
| REPORT FROM: | MONITORING OFFICER | OPEN |
| MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: | ARDIP KAUR EXTENSION 5715 ardip.kaur@south-derbys.gov.uk | DOC: |
| SUBJECT: | REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER | REF: |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | ALL | |

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Members consider the Independent Investigators report at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2 That Members consider the conclusion of the Independent Investigator at paragraph 183.1 of his report in relation to paragraphs 3(1), 3(2)(b), and 5 of the Council's Member Code of Conduct, and determine whether Councillor Ford has breached the Council's Member Code of Conduct.
- 1.3 If Members determine Councillor Ford has breached the Council's Member Code of Conduct what, if any sanction(s), should be imposed.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To consider the Independent Investigators report in relation to the allegations that Councillor Ford breached the Council's Member Code of Conduct. The report was commissioned by the Monitoring Officer on 1st October 2014 in accordance with the Council's procedure for considering Member Code of Conduct complaints (**Appendix 2**).

3.0 Legal Implications

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 sets out legal requirements in relation to the Members Code of Conduct and breaches of that Code. Section 28(6) provides that the Council must have in place arrangements under which allegations can be investigated and arrangements under which decisions on allegations which can be made. In accordance with section 28(7) the Council has appointed two Independent Persons who can attend hearings. They do not vote but their views must be sought and taken into account prior to any decision being made.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The financial implications associated with the complaint, including the appointment of the Independent Investigator, have been delivered within existing resources.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 If the Independent Investigator's report finds there has been a breach of the Members Code of Conduct, the Monitoring Officer must refer the matter to the Standards Sub-Committee.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The Council's Standards Committee plays a vital role in promoting and maintaining the highest standards of conduct by Councillors of South Derbyshire District Council.

7.0 Background Papers

7.1 None.

**REPORT TO SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT
COUNCIL – CONFIDENTIAL**

COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR MARTYN FORD

AUTHOR: OWEN WILLCOX – GELDARDS LLP

DATE: 5th March 2015

Geldards
law firm

THE ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST COUNCILLOR FORD

1. I have attached to this report as Schedule 1 a paginated bundle of documents and other evidence and the references in this report to page numbers are, unless otherwise indicated, references to the bundle pagination.
2. The details of the complaint against Councillor Ford are set out at Pages 1 to 10. In summary the complaint, made by Mr and Mrs Barke of Murrays Funeral Directors Limited which trades as Murrays Independent Funeral Directors ("Murrays") is as follows:
3. It is alleged:
That Councillor Ford has embarked on a crusade against Murrays, inciting local people to act against it with the sole aim of damaging the business and its reputation in the community.
That Councillor Ford has instigated, maintained and continued to pursue a wholly personal campaign against an established and respected local business (namely Murrays).
4. More specifically it is alleged:
That Councillor Ford has engaged in sustained activity against Murrays over a period of five months.
That Councillor Ford has knowingly given false information to his constituents in order to galvanize support for a campaign that was rooted in personal interest i.e. he was unable to prevent his local public house (The Wheel Inn, Findern), where he maintained he was a regular customer, from being closed by Punch Taverns and sold for another business purpose.
That Councillor Ford has repeated false information via social media causing severe distress to one of Murray's employees and her family.
5. Mr and Mrs Barke subsequently added some additional information to their complaint. This is to the effect that Councillor Ford's actions are in direct contravention of South Derbyshire District Council's ("the Council") Corporate Plan and the desired outcome of developing economic and employment opportunities within the district. It is alleged that Councillor Ford's behaviour does not in any way support Murrays business.
6. Mr and Mrs Barke further contend that Councillor Ford has breached the Council's Members Code of Conduct. Specifically that Councillor Ford has not complied with The General Principles of Public Life relating to Selflessness, Honesty and Integrity, Accountability, Openness and Leadership. Further, that Councillor Ford has breached the following:
 - Paragraph 3(1) which requires members to treat others with respect
 - Paragraph 3(2)(b) which prohibits members from bullying any person
 - Paragraph 5 which prohibits a member from conduct which could reasonably be regarded as bringing their office or authority into disrepute.
7. COUNCILLOR FORD was elected to the Council as a Councillor in May 2003. He was subsequently re-elected in May 2007 and May 2011. Councillor Ford was appointed Chairman of the Planning Committee (formerly known as Development Control Committee) on 21st May 2009.
8. **RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND RELATED MATERIAL** – Duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct.

9. Under Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 ("the Act") the Council must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members of the authority. In discharging this duty, the Council must, in particular, adopt a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members of the authority when they are acting in that capacity (Section 27 (2))
10. Under Section 28(1) of the Act, the Council must secure that its code is consistent with the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
11. The intention of the legislation is to ensure that the conduct of public life at the local government level does not fall below a minimum level which engenders public confidence in democracy as was recognised by Beatson J in R (Calver) v the Adjudication Panel for Wales [2012] EWHC 1172 (Admin) when he held that there was a clear public interest in maintaining confidence in local government whilst at the same time bearing in mind the importance of freedom of political expression or speech in the political sphere.
12. The Council's Members Code of Conduct (Pages 11 to 23) was adopted on 28th June 2012 and was effective from 1st July 2012.
13. Paragraph 1(1) of the Code provides that it "applies to **you** as a member of South Derbyshire District Council"
14. Paragraph 1(2) provides that the Code should be read "together with the general principles at page 2 (prescribed in Section 28 of the Localism Act)".
15. Paragraph 1(3) provides that "you must comply with the provisions of this code".
16. By paragraph 2(1) "You must comply with this Code whenever you act in your official capacity as a member of your authority. That is when you:-
 - a) Conduct the business of your authority (which in this Code includes the business of the office to which you are elected or appointed); or
 - b) Act, claim to act or give the impression you are acting as a representative of your authority".
17. By paragraph 3(1) "You must treat others with respect".
18. By paragraph 3(2)(b) "You must not bully any person".
19. By paragraph 5 "You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute".
20. Article 10 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms provides:

"1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers...

2. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of The protection of the reputation or rights of others”.

21. Convention rights including Article 10, are given direct effect in domestic law by the Human Rights Act 1998. Section 6 provides that it is unlawful for a public authority to act in a way which is incompatible with, amongst others, Article 10. Section 3 provides that domestic legislation, so far as possible, must be applied in a way which is compatible with Convention rights.

22. EVIDENCE GATHERED AND FINDINGS OF FACT

23. In the course of this investigation, I have interviewed the Complainants (Mr and Mrs Barke on behalf of Murrays Funeral Directors Limited – “Murrays”) and Councillor Martyn Ford. Their statements are included in the bundle in Schedule 1.
24. I have also reviewed a number of documents and other material which is contained in the bundle in Schedule 1.
25. I have also consulted with the Monitoring Officer who has provided me with documents and information relating to the Complaint.
26. The Complainants are the joint owners and directors of Murrays, which as its name suggests, is a funeral directors business based in Burton Upon Trent (Pages 43 to 48)

27. ITEM 1 IN THE COMPLAINT

28. The Complainants decided to expand the business into South Derbyshire and for this purpose to acquire additional premises.
29. In late September 2013 they became aware that The Wheel Inn, Findern had been closed and was on the market. An offer to purchase the building was made in December 2013 on behalf of Murrays. The offer to purchase the building was accepted in January 2014. Contracts were exchanged on the 2nd of April 2014 and the purchase completed on the 16th April 2014.
30. Murrays instructed Planning Consultants DPDS Consulting Group (“DPDS”) to advise in relation to the conversion of the building from a pub into a funeral directors. DPDS advised that it was permissible to make this conversion without an application to South Derbyshire District Council as planning authority. This was because both uses were covered by permitted development rights. The pub was an “A4” use and a funeral directors was an “A1” and it was permitted to change between them in the way envisaged without the requirement to apply for planning permission for such a change of use. However, Murrays were advised that in order to be sure, it should submit an application to the local planning authority for confirmation that the proposed change of use was lawfully permitted. This was an application for a Lawful Development Certificate and was made on 27th March 2014.
31. The application was submitted in the name of DPDS as agent.

32. By email of 31st March 2014 (Page 50) Councillor Ford objected to Murrays planning application. He did so both as a local resident and as a local Councillor on behalf of local residents. Councillor Ford also posted a message on his own Facebook Page (Page 176) inviting "all Findern folk" to oppose the application. He also urged his readers to "help save the Wheel".
33. The Area Planning Officer replied to Councillor Ford on 31st March (Pages 49 to 50) informing him that the planning application could not be resisted.
34. On 8th May at 14:52 (Page 218) Councillor Ford posted on the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Page a message saying that he needed to discuss with the planners "where we stand legally". Referring to the forthcoming meeting of the Planning Committee he says he hopes that the debate "will provide options".
35. On 13th May 2014 (the day of the Planning Committee meeting), Councillor Ford posted a message on the Save The Wheel Inn, Findern Facebook Page (Page 216) asking the objectors to attend early and to be in the Council Chamber by 6pm when the meeting was due to start.
36. The officer's report for the Planning Committee (Pages 65 to 70) explained that an application for planning permission was not required and recommended that a Certificate of Lawfulness be granted.
37. The minutes of the Planning Committee of 13th May 2014 in relation to this application (Pages 71 to 75) state as follows:

"Application for a lawful development certificate for a change of use from class A4 (Drinking Establishment) to class A1 (Funeral Directors) at The Wheel Inn, 25 Main Street, Findern 9/2014/0286/Z.

The Head of Planning Services explained to members the legal basis for this application. National planning law allowed for them to be converted from their current use as a public house to use as a funeral directors. This change did not require the agreement of the Planning Committee. The request before the Committee, therefore, was simply to confirm that this change was allowed under the law. As this was simply a statement of fact, the Committee would have no option but to agree to do this.

The consequences of not granting the certificate were discussed. Members were informed that such a decision would be subject to appeal (possibly though a judicial review) which the Council would be likely to lose on a matter of law and, potentially, could have costs awarded against it.

Resolved:-

That the application for a lawful development certificate for a change of use from Class A4 (drinking establishment) to Class A1 (funeral directors) be approved."

38. On 13th May 2014 Councillor Ford "liked" a comment on the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Page which was to the effect that the Council had no option but to agree to the change of use and that residents were invited to the Planning Committee to have a chance to speak and hear the explanation of why the Council could not refuse the application (Page 215).

39. According to the complainants, Councillor Ford was aware from the outset that there were no planning grounds for refusing the application for a Certificate of Lawfulness. He told the Derby Telegraph on 14th May 2014 "There was no way the committee would turn it down" (Page 245). Nevertheless it is alleged that he misled his constituents into believing that if they objected to the application and made representations to the Planning Committee the application could have been refused. It is alleged that this was done in order to advance his personal interest in retaining the pub, to cause maximum distress to Mr and Mrs Barke and for the purposes of self-promotion.
40. Councillor Ford maintains that local residents had asked him, as their representative, to oppose the application on their behalf. A funeral directors was considered totally inappropriate in a village setting in such a prominent position. This was considered to be a feature building at the gateway to the village.
41. Councillor Ford had been copied into an email from the Campaigns Officer at the Campaign for Real Ale dated 8th April 2014 (Pages 61 to 64) which advised that the Council had power to issue an "Article 4 Direction" in relation to the pub. CAMRA advised that this would remove the permitted development rights currently enjoyed by the building and that any proposed Change of Use would require full planning permission. The advice was that it would be possible to object to such an application on the grounds of the loss of community value.
42. Councillor Ford maintains that when he said that hopefully the debate at Planning Committee will provide options, he was not referring to the merits of the application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed Change of Use. Rather, he had in mind the possibility that the Committee might defer the application or that the Council might be prepared to pursue an Article 4 Direction. This statement (Councillor Ford maintains) was made in reply to an earlier one on the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Campaign Page at 14:49pm on 8th May 2014. The question posted on the Facebook Campaign Page was "is it too late for the Council to go down the Direction 4 route?" (Page 218).
43. Councillor Ford says that he was also aware that an application had been submitted to the Council on 7th April 2014 to list the Wheel Inn as an Asset of Community Value (Pages 51 to 59) If successful this would have enabled the Save The Wheel Inn Community Group to express an interest in purchasing the Wheel Inn and provide an opportunity for the Group to bid to purchase the pub. This application was eventually rejected by the Council but not until early June 2014.
44. In reply to this allegation Councillor Ford says that at no time did he advise his constituents that the application for a Lawful Development Certificate could be prevented. The Planning Services Manager decided to take the application to the Planning Committee given the level of public interest. CAMRA had advised the representative of the Savè The Wheel Inn Community Group on 8th April 2014 (Pages 61 to 64) that a Change of Use application was not, in fact, required for conversion to a funeral directors. CAMRA had also advised the Group to "rally the troops and make the Council (and Punch and the future developer) aware that the Community is not happy

about the decision". Councillor Ford says that not only did he not mislead his constituents but they had been advised by CAMRA of the planning position. In any event, CAMRA advised the group to lobby the Council. Given the advice from CAMRA he did not believe that the Campaign Group members who attended the Planning Committee meeting on 13th May 2014 would have been under any misapprehension as to the likely outcome of the Change of Use application. This, he maintains is further supported by, for example, the entry on the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Page on 12th April 2014 at 03:17 (Page 223). The person who posted this entry is aware that the Council has limited power to maintain the existing use of the building. Councillor Ford posted an entry on 14 April 2014 (Page 221) indicating that these could be the very last days of The Wheel. See also Louise Holmes post of 11th May 2014 at 12:36 (Page 217) where she says that it appears that the outcome of the planning application is just a formality.

45. On balance, I do not uphold Item 1 of the complaint.
46. I do not consider there is any issue in principle with Councillor Ford objecting either on his own account (as a resident of Findern) or on behalf of his constituents to the application for a Lawful Development Certificate.
47. Further, there is no evidence that Councillor Ford has led his constituents to believe that there was a real possibility of the application being refused. He talked about "options" but only in response to a question posted on the Facebook Campaign Page. In the event, the Council decided not to pursue the Article 4 Direction option but there is no evidence that Councillor Ford was aware that this option would definitely not be pursued by the Council prior to the meeting of the Planning Committee.
48. CAMRA had suggested the possibility of an Article 4 Direction and Councillor Ford had asked the Planning Officers to consider it (Page 61).
49. The CAMRA advice regarding options had been sent to Julie Cowburn who was the lead contact for the Save The Wheel Inn Community Group. CAMRA had advised the Group to lobby the Council whilst pointing out that a Change of Use application was not required.
50. The decision to take the application to the Planning Committee was made by the Planning Services Manager and not by Councillor Ford.
51. The Facebook entries cited by Councillor Ford show that the individuals in question are aware that the application for a Lawful Development Certificate is likely to be granted.
52. On the balance of probabilities, I prefer Councillor Ford's explanation as opposed to the grounds of Item 1 of the complaint.
- 53. ITEM 2 IN THE COMPLAINT.**
54. The Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Campaign Page dates from 4th April 2014. By the post on his own Facebook Page of 31st March 2014 (Page 176) Councillor Ford requested "all Findern folk" to "help save The Wheel".
55. Councillor Ford made a number of contributions to the Facebook Campaign Page in support of the campaign (Pages 181 to 224). For example:

56. On 5th April 2014 Councillor Ford "liked" a post requesting 21 people to support the establishment of a community group to apply to the Council to have The Wheel Inn listed as an Asset of Community Value (Page 224). Councillor Ford also became a member of the Save The Wheel Inn Community Group (Pages 58 and 60)
57. On 12th April at 15:31 (Page 222) he said that the pub "isn't going to die without a massive fight".
58. On 14th April (Page 221) he asks those reading the post to "keep spreading the message that we need to keep our village pub open".
59. On 13th May (Page 216) he posted a note reminding the campaign supporters to be in the Council Chamber for the Planning Committee meeting by 6pm.
60. On 13th May (Page 215) Councillor Ford "liked" a post saying that every option will be explored to persuade Murrays that Findern villagers "want casks not caskets".
61. On 14th May (Page 214) referring to the Asset of Community Value application he said "we fight on".
62. On 26th May at 14:03 (Page 208) Councillor Ford posted a message which confirmed that he was displaying a poster at his house supporting the campaign. Further, on 7th June at 05:29 (Page 205), referring to the removal of campaign posters, he advocates the displaying of replacement posters wherever they are removed.
63. On 21st June (Page 202) he is shown wearing a "Save The Wheel" T-shirt. This was the date of the Findern Fete where the Campaign Group had a stall. A post by Councillor Ford at 17:21 on 21st June (Page 201) confirms that he was present at the campaign stall on that day.
64. On 25th June at 14:33 (Page 199) Councillor Ford posted a message together with a campaign photograph (in which he appears). The message urged Murrays not to come to Findern.
65. On 1st August (Page 190) Councillor Ford posted the following message "I bet Murrays thought we had given in and weren't bothered anymore.....WRONG!! The fight goes on today, tomorrow, next week, next month and next year until Murrays decide that they are not wanted in Findern and move on before they damage our community even more than they have done already! #casksnotcaskets".
66. On the 20th August (Page 185) Councillor Ford "liked" the following post "As the activity increases at The Wheel it's a good chance for any supporters to call round and let their feelings be known – I'm sure there will be a warm welcome from caring Murrays – perhaps they will be able to tell us why they turned down a chance to move away from where they are not wanted whilst pocketing a quick profit".

67. Councillor Ford has confirmed that he did make a number of contributions to the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Page. However, he maintains that the campaign had a momentum of its own and did not rely solely on his contributions.
68. Whilst Councillor Ford admits he used his own Facebook Page to raise awareness in the community of the Change of Use Application, he denies initiating or driving the Save the Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Campaign. He does however accept that he supported the Campaign and does not dispute any of the social media entries attributed to him.
69. He maintains that the message he posted on 1st August 2014 was aimed primarily at the members of the Campaign Group and that the thrust of the Campaign was to persuade Murrays that they were not welcome in Findern and that they should move elsewhere. This message was simply reaffirming the key aim of the Campaign according to Councillor Ford.
70. As to the item on the Campaign Facebook Page that he "liked", Councillor Ford maintains this was merely a reference to what he considered to be a very fair offer made by Mark Gregory on 26th June 2014 (Page 271) to purchase the freehold of the former Wheel Inn from Murrays, which should have been given proper consideration by Murrays.
71. In my judgement, there is insufficient evidence to support the allegation that Councillor Ford initiated the Save The Wheel Inn Campaign or that his contributions to the Facebook Page alone maintained the Campaign. However, it does demonstrate that Councillor Ford played a major role in initiating and driving the campaign.
72. I do not accept Councillor Fords' assertion that his message of 1st August was for "internal" consumption only. He himself accepts that the message was aimed at persuading Murrays that it was not welcome in Findern. Further, the message was effectively in the public domain and was viewed by the Complainants. In my judgement, this was intended to intimidate the Complainants and I am satisfied that they did find it intimidating.
73. The entry of 20th August, which was endorsed by Councillor Ford, was quite reasonably perceived by the Complainants as an invitation to campaign supporters to go to The Wheel Inn to intimidate them. In my judgement this was the intention of this entry and I accept that the Complainants found it intimidating. There is a fundamental difference in the evidence given by the Complainants and Councillor Ford in relation to the suggestion in this entry that Murrays were given the opportunity to sell the site at a reasonable profit as a means of resolving the dispute between Murrays and the local residents.
74. In order to resolve this difference it would have been necessary for me to interview Mr Gregory and to review and scrutinise all of the financial information held by Murrays in relation to the acquisition of the Wheel Inn. I consider this action would have been disproportionate and in any event, unnecessary, to enable me to reach a decision in relation to the core elements of this complaint. I therefore, have put this issue on one side for the purposes of this report and make no finding on it. In my view, the key question in relation to this entry is whether or not it was intended and/or whether or not it did have the effect of intimidating the complainants and I have dealt with that issue above.

75. Councillor Ford also has a Twitter Account: [REDACTED]. On the front page he says "I... represent Willington and Findern on South Derbyshire District Council" (Page 77)
76. Councillor Ford has utilised his Twitter Account to support the Save The Wheel Inn Campaign and has posted a number of entries for that purpose (Pages 76 to 146).
77. According to the Complainants on the 8th July 2014, Councillor Ford retweeted a comment from a Twitter account called WheelEnders@WheelFindern (Page 98). This account was established "to fight against" the proposed change of use at The Wheel Inn (Pages 147 to 173).
78. Councillor Ford's tweet of 8th July refers to a photograph of the team at Murrays including Mr and Mrs Barke. The entry on the WheelEnders account refers to them as "money grabbing ghouls" and Councillor Ford refers to them as "smiling assassins! The face of the enemy".
79. Councillor Ford disputes that he commented to a campaign Twitter page (WheelEnders @WheelFindern) as alleged by Mr and Mrs Barke. He says he had posted this item on his own Twitter account and it was retweeted on the campaign Twitter page (See Page 98). He also maintains that the tweets and retweets on his own Twitter account [REDACTED] are sent out on his own personal account and not as a Councillor. He says this is also the case in relation to all other social media messages posted by him. However, he does accept that comments made by him to the Burton Mail and the Derby Telegraph were made in his capacity as local District Councillor acting on behalf of the community.
80. On examination of the tweet on Councillor Ford's account (Page 98) it can be established that the tweet "smiling assassins! The face of the enemy" does originate from Councillor Ford directly. The retweet on the campaign Twitter account does refer to Murrays as "money grabbing ghouls."
81. The complainants say that the combined effect of these tweets is both offensive and intimidating. Councillor Ford maintains that they were not intended to be so.
82. In my judgement, it is reasonable for the Complainants to view them in this way. In my judgement they were intended to be both offensive and intimidating. Whilst I accept Councillor Ford's point that his tweet had been retweeted, I consider his comment alone to be offensive and designed to intimidate the Complainants. Again, the comment made on his account is effectively in the public domain and was viewed by the complainants.
83. Councillor Ford also maintains that comments posted on his Twitter account are sent on his own personal account and not as a Councillor. However, on the front page of the account Councillor Ford explains that he represents Willington and Findern on South Derbyshire District Council. He does not include any statement that his tweets are to be read as made only on his personal account. I therefore do not accept that his tweets are made only on his own personal account.

84. In my view, they represent his tweets as a member of South Derbyshire District Council.
85. Councillor Ford also maintains that, apart from comments made to the Burton Mail and the Derby Telegraph, all other social media comments / entries made by him are also on his own personal account and not as a member of South Derbyshire District Council.
86. Again, I do not accept Councillor Ford's position on this point.
87. Councillor Ford himself has made it clear in his statement that:
 - a. in relation to the campaign against the Change of Use Application, he was conveying the views of the community to Murrays as a representative of the community. In other words as its elected representative of the Council.
 - b. He also confirmed that he was conveying the anger and resentment felt in the community in relation to Murrays, to the Complainants as, the elected representative of that community.
88. On 18th August 2014, Councillor Ford sent an email to the complainants in the following terms "Dear Mr & Mrs Barke, As you know all too well you and your business are not wanted in Findern. We all know that contractors are working on the building, we all know how much money you have paid for the building, please can I ask that you think seriously about spending any more money when you have a very attractive offer to buy the building back at a substantial profit. The group aren't going away, so please do the right thing and sell the pub and leave Findern alone with its local pub back again. Regards, M Ford. Sent from my iPhone" (Page 272).
89. The complainants maintain that this is designed to be intimidating and is an abuse of Councillor Ford's public office.
90. Councillor Ford maintains that his email of 18th August was intended to help Murrays and not to intimidate or bully the Complainants. He says that as the elected member for the community he was aware of the strong opposition to the establishment of an undertakers. He believed it was in Murrays commercial interests to relocate elsewhere. He goes on to say that he saw it as his responsibility as local Councillor to convey the communities feelings of anger and resentment to Murrays.
91. Councillor Ford further maintains that Murrays secretive approach had also given rise to a robust campaign against the proposed Change of Use. He says he was conveying the views of the community to Murrays as its elected representative. This email and the other communications were, he argues, not intended to be threatening or intimidating and were neither inappropriate nor an abuse of his public office.
92. I do not accept Councillor Ford's explanation in relation to this email of 18th August. If it was intended to help Murrays it was certainly not phrased in such a way. It begins by saying that Mr and Mrs Barke "are not wanted in Findern". It concludes by saying that "the group (i.e. the Campaign Group) aren't going away, so please do the right thing and.... Leave Findern alone". Further, the very strong inference is that the offensive and intimidating communications will continue whilst the business is located in Findern. This is consistent with

Councillor Ford's entry of 1st August on the Campaign Facebook Page when he says that "the fight goes on today, tomorrow, next week, next month, next year and until Murrays decide that they are not wanted in Findern and move on".

93. In my view these communications are threatening and are intended to be intimidating and as such are inappropriate communications from an elected member.
94. **ITEM 3 IN THE COMPLAINT**
95. The Complainants allege that Councillor Ford encouraged and supported a Boycott Murrays Funeral Directors Facebook Page which joined Facebook on 8th May 2014 (Pages 225 to 228). On that same day at 14:54 (Page 218) Councillor Ford posted on the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Page a message saying "we need to get as many as possible to state that they will boycott Murrays and use the Co-Op or anybody but Murrays when the times comes I would hate to think they had sorted me out!" He also retweeted an open letter on 11th July 2014 asking campaign supporters and sympathisers not to use Murrays (Pages 86 to 87).
96. The Boycott Page says it is about boycotting Murrays: "Make sure nobody ever gives this company any future business whatsoever." An entry on 9th May (with typo) also asks readers to spread the word for everyone to boycott Murrays (Page 227) "This WILL have a negative impact on their business... and ultimately force them to reconsider taking away out village pub."
97. Councillor Ford has responded that he neither joined nor supported a Boycott Murrays Funeral Directors Facebook Campaign. Extracts from this campaign are shown at (Pages 225 to 228). Councillor Ford says he was not aware of this Facebook Campaign prior to receipt of the Complaint which has been made against him.
98. Councillor Ford accepts that his reference to a boycott was posted to the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Page on 8th May at 14:54 (Page 218). However he maintains that this statement was not addressed to the world at large but to those readers of the Facebook Page who opposed the Change of Use Application. He says it was not intended to be a boycott campaign but was designed to affect Murrays prospective business in the immediate locality and persuade them to relocate elsewhere.
99. From an investigation of the Boycott Murrays Funeral Directors Facebook Page there is no evidence that Councillor Ford has posted any comments to, or "liked" any comments by any other contributors on this Facebook Account. Whether or not Councillor Ford was aware of the Boycott Campaign, there is evidence that he advocated a boycott of the business and he accepts that his actions were designed to affect Murrays prospective business in the locality and to persuade them to relocate elsewhere.
100. On 8th July at 11:41 (Page 195) Councillor Ford (in response to a question on the Save The Wheel Facebook Page asking who was removing campaign posters) commented "Murrays have probably offered them a deal on burial, more posters removed, more money off!"

101. Councillor Ford has responded that his comment should be read in the context of the other comments made on the Campaign Page on 8th July 2014 (Page 195). The initial comment refers to the need for the services of Inspector Morse to apprehend a phantom poster thief and his comment follows that. He maintains these are clearly facetious comments.
102. Whether or not this is a facetious comment, it is, in my judgement, disrespectful, as is Councillor Ford's comment on 11th June at 13:46 on the Save The Wheel Inn Facebook Page that "they put cash above community, pounds above people".
103. As to the text message sent by Councillor Ford to Jackie Alderson (of Optimum PR) (Page 270), I do not read this as an accusation that the Complainants are lying about the level of support they have received. Councillor Ford, in my judgement, is expressing scepticism about the actual level of support for the establishment of an undertakers business in the village.
104. On the balance of the evidence, I accept Councillor Ford's explanation of the comment he posted on the Campaign Facebook Page on 14th May at 08:00 (Page 213). In my judgement, on the evidence, this was a perception that it was open to Councillor Ford and those he represented to take. This should not be taken as implied criticism of how Murrays approached the acquisition of The Wheel Inn and the application for the Lawful Development Certificate. I am merely saying that whilst the language used was emotive I do not consider it unreasonable in light of the requirements of the Code of Conduct.

105. ITEM 4 IN THE COMPLAINT

106. The Complainants have alleged that Councillor Ford repeated false information via social media sites causing severe distress to an employee of Murrays and her family and that Councillor Ford subsequently wrote her a letter of apology (Page 273). Councillor Ford disputes this allegation.
107. When I interviewed Mr and Mrs Barke they informed me that I was not authorised to approach the employee in question because she did not wish to become involved with my investigation.
108. Mr and Mrs Barke informed me that the person in question had been Murrays office manager and had lived at the material time in Findern.
109. The complainants say in their statements that they had made their office manager aware of their plans in relation to The Wheel Inn and had requested her to treat the information as confidential.
110. The complainants also say that on 16th May they were approached by their office manager who informed them that she had seen various posts on Facebook which inferred that she was responsible for bringing Murrays to Findern. They also say they were informed by their employee that Councillor Ford had repeated this allegation on social media. They say she was distressed and concerned for her own safety and felt suicidal.
111. The complainants do not possess copies of any of these alleged social medial postings and I have not been able to trace any that appear to relate to the person in question. Councillor Ford informed me that he also not did not have

copies of any of the alleged postings but that in early / mid May 2014 he had seen some social media posts alleging that "that woman from Murrays" had brought Murrays to Findern and that she was removing campaign posters. Councillor Ford assumed this was a reference to Murray's office manager.

112. Councillor Ford says that he has no recollection of posting, "liking" or retweeting any false information about the office manager.
113. It is agreed by all parties that a meeting took place on 21st May 2014 between Councillor Ford, the employee, Mr and Mrs Barke and their PR representative Jackie Alderson.
114. Mr and Mrs Barke maintain that Councillor Ford apologised to their employee at the meeting, agreed to arrange for the offending postings to be removed and confirmed his apology in a letter. They maintain that Councillor Fords actions amount to an admission of the allegation against him.
115. Councillor Ford disputes the complainants interpretation of the events. He maintains that he attended the meeting to satisfy himself that the office manager was ok and to assure her that he was not behind the offending postings. He does accept that he apologised to her at the meeting.
116. Councillor Ford says that he requested his fellow campaign members to remove the postings associated with the office manager and handed her a letter later that day which is the letter at (Page 273). He also maintains that this was not a letter of apology on his own account and it does not amount to any admission of the allegation against him.
117. I have not interviewed the office manager nor have I seen any of the postings which are alleged to have caused her and her family such distress.
118. Councillor Ford did give the office manager a letter of apology but it makes no reference to any actions of Councillor Ford himself. However it does refer to the apparent need to restore friendship and trust between them.
119. It is not immediately apparent to me why Councillor Ford should offer an apology in relation to actions for which he maintains he had no responsibility. Further his denial of the allegations is couched in terms of having no recollection of the alleged actions.
120. However, on the balance of the evidence, I do not uphold this allegation against Councillor Ford. Some of the key information has (of necessity) been relayed to me second hand and none of the alleged offending postings appear to have survived.
121. Councillor Ford's letter does not contain an admission of personal responsibility and he has maintained that position when interviewed.
122. I accept that Mr and Mrs Barke have an entirely different perception and position on this point but, in the absence of any social media postings I do not uphold this allegation.
123. Mr and Mrs Barke have also alleged that Councillor Ford has retweeted false information about Murrays. On June 11th 2014 he retweeted the following:
**Spoiler Alert* Residents hear rumours of 'a builder' offering funeral folks 5x

what they paid... £1.3m... Bob must be feeling rich!" The Complainants maintain that given that Mr Gregory's highest offer was £340,000, this is a gross distortion of the true position.

124. As regards the "Spoiler Alert" retweet of 11th June 2014 (Page 119) Councillor Ford has responded that this was intended as a light hearted comment. The reference to "Bob" in the tweet, he says, is to the childrens television character Bob the Builder. This he maintains is clearly a facetious comment and not intended to be taken literally, or seriously.
125. Given that the information in the retweet does appear to be wildly inaccurate and somewhat fanciful, I accept Councillor Ford's explanation in relation to this item.
126. Mr and Mrs Barke allege that Councillor Ford "liked" or endorsed a baseless accusation that they were stealing campaign posters displayed in the village. On 12th August 2014 Councillor Ford "liked" the following Facebook accusation: "Do you suppose Murrays are using all those poster boards they have stolen to build a coffin for the heart of our community that they have so cruelly ripped out?".
127. Councillor Ford has responded that the comment he "liked" on 12th August 2014 (Page 187) in relation to poster boards, should not necessarily be seen as an endorsement or approval of that comment because he considered this an amusing comment which was not intended to be taken literally.
128. This amounts to an allegation that Murrays is responsible for stealing or the unauthorised removal of a number of campaign poster boards. Councillor Ford has endorsed this allegation. The allegation is in my view, disrespectful as is the endorsement by Councillor Ford.
129. **ADDITIONAL ITEM OF COMPLAINT**
130. The Complainants have also made reference to the Council's Corporate Plan.
131. Under "Sustainable Growth and Opportunity, Long Term Outcomes" they refer to "Go1. Developing economic and employment opportunities within the district." The Complainants maintain that they do not consider Councillor Ford's behaviour as an elected member to be in any way supportive of their business. Further, that Councillor Ford's actions are directly opposed to the following statement from the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Wheeler): "It's vitally important to recognise the pivotal role that local companies play. We're proud to offer a vibrant, sustainable environment in which firms can flourish and thrive. Through innovation and expertise, South Derbyshire is bucking the trend and prides itself on being 'open for business.'"
132. In response, Councillor Ford says that he endorses the comments made in the Corporate Plan but feels that the loss of a well used community facility to be replaced by a funeral directors is a very poor use of this building, doing nothing for local employment or community cohesion and causing much anxiety around the village and is totally at odds with the intent of the Plan.
133. It may be that the Complainants are referring to an earlier version of the Corporate Plan which has subsequently been updated, but the exact words quoted by the Complainants do not appear in the current version of the

Corporate Plan 2009-2014 which has been provided to me by the Council (Pages 278 to 293)

134. Nevertheless, the Plan does contain a section entitled "Sustainable Growth and Opportunity" underpinned by Priorities and Outcomes.
135. One key Priority is "to attract further investment and maximise the survival and growth prospects of local businesses".
136. The Outcomes to be delivered include the growth of businesses, the attraction of investment and the creation of employment for the local community.
137. Whilst I am inclined to agree with the Complainants that the actions of Councillor Ford, as identified in this report, do not appear to support the delivery of sustainable economic outcomes, ultimately there is room for more than one interpretation of how best to maximise the sustainability of economic growth and the communities that depend on such growth.
138. Whilst, on balance, I prefer the complainants views on this point to Councillor Fords, I do not consider this point, on its own, to be one that amounts to a possible breach of the Council's Code.
- 139. CONSIDERATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THERE HAS BEEN A FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT**
- 140. Did the Code apply to the actions of Councillor Ford, which are the subject of this complaint?**
141. Paragraph 1(1) of the Code applies to members of the Council.
142. Paragraph 1(3) provides that such members must comply with the provisions of the Code.
143. Paragraph 2(1) requires members to comply with the Code whenever acting in their official capacity as members. This means:
 - (a) Conducting the business of the Council (including the business of the members office); or
 - (b) Acting, claiming to act or giving the impression of acting as a representative of the Council.
144. According to Collins J in *Livingstone v The Adjudication Panel for England* [2006] EWHC 2533 (Admin). "official capacity will include anything done in dealing with staff, when representing the Council, in dealing with constituents problems and so on".
145. According to Charles J in *R (Mullaney) v Adjudication Panel for England* [2009] EWHC 72 (Admin) the use of a personal email address is not determinative in terms of establishing whether a member is acting in their official capacity.
146. Charles J also held that these and the other words and phrases in the code (which are to be applied in this report) are ordinary descriptive English words

and their meaning and application will depend upon the context and the relevant facts.

147. Councillor Ford has said that he was acting both as a representative of his constituents and as a local resident on his own behalf. He has also sought to distinguish his public comments and postings between those made to the Press and the others that appear in his name on social media. He says that the former were made in his official capacity but the latter were not.
148. In my view, Councillor Ford was at all material times, acting in his official capacity.
149. By his own admission he was acting as the representative of his constituents in the Campaign to Save The Wheel Inn. He also said that he had a personal interest in the outcome of this campaign but he did not seek to distinguish between the two roles at any time. In any event, in my view, the two roles are indistinguishable on the facts and cannot be separated. Councillor Ford was, in my view, both conducting the business of his office as member of the Council and acting, claiming to act and giving the impression he was acting as a representative of the Council.
150. I believe Councillor Ford also recognised this position in terms of how he dealt with his position of Chairman of the Planning Committee at its meeting on 13th May 2014.
151. However, I would point out that having submitted an objection against the application for a Lawful Development Certificate, he attended the Committee meeting as its Chairman and, as Chairman, explained his strong opposition to the application. Having done so, he vacated the Chair and left the chamber when the item was then discussed (Page 71).
152. I make no criticism of Councillor Ford for his actions at the Planning Committee. However, it does demonstrate the intermingling of his roles in this matter and confirms my view that for the purposes of this investigation, they are virtually indistinguishable.
153. There are also more clear cut examples of Councillor Ford acting in his official capacity. Councillor Ford's Twitter Account "[REDACTED]" describes him as, amongst others, the representative of Wellington and Findern on the Council (Page 77).
154. The Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Page was established to oppose the proposed change of use of the pub to that of a funeral directors. Councillor Ford has confirmed that he acted as a representative of his constituents in this campaign and his contributions to this Facebook Page should, in my view, be read as being made in that capacity.
- 155. DID COUNCILLOR FORD FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE?**
156. The Complainants have alleged that Councillor Ford failed to comply with the Council's Code and some of The General Principles of Public Life. As I read the Code, the substantive obligations in the Code are contained in the particular paragraphs I refer to below. I have, therefore, based my finding's on those paragraphs and not The General Principles.

157. By paragraph 3(1) members are required to treat others with respect. The *Sanders v Kingston* [2005] EWHC 1145 (Admin) Wilkie J held that respect "is a concept particularly where it describes the conduct of an official to others which is perfectly capable of being applied by a reasonable person considering a course of conduct so as to enable that person to know whether what they are doing, or are about to do, would, or would not comply with the code in that way".
158. On 8th July Councillor Ford tweeted on his own Twitter Account the words "smiling assassins! The face of the enemy" accompanied by a photograph of the team at Murrays including Mr and Mrs Barke.
159. In my judgement, this is an offensive and disrespectful comment and a breach of paragraph 3(1) of the Code.
160. On 8th July at 11:41 Councillor Ford commented that Murrays had probably offered those removing Campaign posters "a deal on burial, more posters removed, more money off". This and his comment on 11th June at 13:46 on the Save The Wheel Facebook Page that "they put cash above community, pounds above people" are both, in my judgement disrespectful, particularly given the nature of Murrays business and are a breach of Paragraph 3(1) of the Code.
161. On 12th August Councillor Ford "liked" (or endorsed) a Facebook accusation that Murrays were responsible for stealing or the unauthorised removal of a number of campaign poster boards. Both the allegation and its endorsement by Councillor Ford, are, in my judgement, disrespectful and a breach of paragraph 3(1) of the Code.
162. By paragraph 3(2)(b) of the Code members must not bully any person.
163. For the reasons set out in para 72 of this report, Councillor Fords posting of 1st August to the Campaign Facebook Page was intended to intimidate the complainants and as such, in my judgement, amounts to bullying and a breach of paragraph 3(2)(b) of the Code.
164. For the reasons set out in para 73 of this report I also find that the post of 20th August endorsed by Councillor Ford amounts to a breach of paragraph 3(2)(b). The residents campaign against Murrays was designed, at least in part, to intimidate them and to coerce them to relocate elsewhere. The entry of 20th August was, an example of such intimidation and was endorsed by Councillor Ford.
165. For the reasons stated in para 82 of this report I find that Councillor Fords tweet of 8th July on his own Twitter Account is in breach of paragraph 3(2)(b) of the Code.
166. For the reasons stated in paras 92 and 93 of this report I also find that Councillor Ford's email of 18th August amounts to bullying in breach of paragraph 3(2)(b) of the Code.
167. Councillor Ford also advocated a boycott of Murrays (Page 218). On 8th May he posted a message on the Facebook Campaign Page to that effect which he confirms in his own statement (paragraph 28) was designed to persuade

them to relocate elsewhere. Again, in my judgement this amounts to bullying in breach of paragraph 3(2)(b) of the Code.

168. Alternatively, if a cumulative view is taken of the postings and their endorsement of a wider campaign of intimidation, they amount to a breach of paragraph 3(2)(b) of the Code.
169. By paragraph 5 of the Code, members must not conduct themselves in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing their office or authority into disrepute.
170. In *Livingstone v The Adjudication Panel for England* [2006] EWHC 2533 (Admin), Collins J held that misuse of office "can obviously bring disrepute on the office".
171. In *Sanders v Kingston*, Wilkie J held that paragraph 5 (or its equivalent in the predecessor Model Code of Conduct) "adopts a concept which is well known in a number of different contexts as a method of identifying a level of conduct which is expected of persons holding certain positions, or being members of certain bodies. Once again it describes clearly the consequence of conduct which is prohibited in such a way as to enable a reasonable person to predict whether or not his actions or proposed action would or would not be in breach of the provision".
172. In my judgement, Councillor Ford is also in breach of paragraph 5 of the Code.
173. Given the nature and circumstances of the breaches of paragraphs 3(1) and 3(2)(b) Councillor Ford has in my judgement, conducted himself in a manner which could be reasonably be regarded as bringing his office of member and his authority (namely the Council) into disrepute.

174. EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

175. Can Councillor Ford rely on the Human Rights Act and Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights as a defence to the above findings? In other words, does Councillor Ford's right to freedom of expression override my findings that he has breached the Council's Code?

176. In *Livingstone v The Adjudication Panel for England*, Collins J said:
177. "There can be no doubt that restraints imposed by a code of conduct designed to uphold proper standards in public life are in principle likely to be within Article 10(2). But it is important that the restraints should not extend beyond what is necessary to maintain those standards."
178. Further, in my judgement, the provisions of the Code are prescribed by law. The Localism Act requires the Council to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its members by adopting a Code of Conduct for the members.
179. In *Sanders v Kingston*, Wilkie J set out the three questions to be answered by a court in determining whether a finding that a member has breached a code of conduct had contravened Article 10. I paraphrase these as follows:

1. Was the Case Tribunal (or Hearing Sub Committee in this case) entitled as a matter of fact to conclude (if indeed it does) that Councillor Ford's conduct in this case was in breach of the Code of Conduct?
 2. If so, was the finding in itself prima facie a breach of Article 10?
 3. If so, was the restriction involved one which was justified by reason of the requirements of Article 10(2)?
180. These questions must also be addressed in this report in my role as appointed investigator, but it is for the Hearing Sub Committee to decide whether or not it upholds the complaint.
181. When considering justification under Article 10(2), it is plain from Sanders that "political expression" or "the expression of a political view" attract a higher degree of protection whilst expressions in personal or abusive terms do not attract the same higher level of protection. It is well-established that the limits of what is acceptable is wider where the subjects of the speech are politicians acting in their public capacity since politicians "lay themselves open to close scrutiny of their words and deeds and are expected to possess a thicker skin and greater tolerance than ordinary members of the public".

182. CONCLUSIONS

183. Applying those questions outlined above to the facts of this case I conclude that:
1. As a matter of fact, based on my findings in this report, Councillor Ford has breached paragraphs 3(1), 3(2)(b) and 5 of the Council's Code for the reasons previously stated.
 2. On the face of it, my findings do potentially constitute a breach of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights in relation to Councillor Ford.
 3. My findings however are justified under Article 10(2) and represent a proportionate interference with Councillor Ford's right to freedom of expression. Councillor Ford's comments and actions were not the expression of a political view, but an unjustified attack on Murrays and Mr and Mrs Barke. The subjects of these comments and actions were not politicians but ordinary members of the public (and their company Murrays) and, as such, the comments and actions did not attract the higher level of protection applicable to political expressions and the comments and actions would have undermined confidence in local government, the preservation of which (along with the imposition of minimum standards of behaviour) is a recognised aim of the Code.
 4. Councillor Ford has breached those Code provisions I have identified above for the reasons I have given. My finding that Councillor Ford has breached the Code does not infringe his right to freedom of expression under Article 10.

184. COUNCILLOR FORD'S RESPONSE TO MY DRAFT REPORT

185. I sent my report in draft form to Councillor Ford for comment. In response he sent me the email dated 26 February 2015 (Page 296) in which he offers his apologies.

**Owen Willcox
Geldards LLP**

REPORT TO SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR MARTYN FORD

SCHEDULE 1

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27th October 2014.

Dear Councillor Ford,

In advance of our meeting on 29th October I set out below the details of the complaint against you.

It is alleged as follows:

That you have embarked on a crusade against Murrays Funeral Directors, inciting local people to act against it with the sole aim of damaging the business and its reputation in the community.

That you have instigated, maintained and continued to pursue a wholly personal campaign against an established and respected local business (namely Murrays Funeral Directors).

More specifically it is alleged:

That you have engaged in sustained activity against Murray's Independent Funeral Directors over a period of five months.

You have knowingly given false information to your constituents in order to galvanize support for a campaign that was rooted in personal interest i.e. you were unable to prevent your local public house, where you maintain you were a regular customer, from being closed by Punch Taverns and sold for another business purpose.

Item 1.

That you exchanged emails with a South Derbyshire District Council planning officer regarding a Lawful Change of Use Certificate for the Wheel Inn, Findern. The officer advised you that the application could not be resisted and that in the alternative it may be possible to seek a community asset order. However, the officer advised you that it was probably too late in the process to be successful.

It is alleged that you then proceeded to mislead your constituents into believing that the Lawful Change of Use Order could be prevented. You then wrote on the Save The Wheel Inn Facebook campaign page:

"I need to discuss with the planners where we stand legally. Hopefully the debate on Tuesday will provide options."

Copies of the email and Facebook entry are attached.

Item 2.

That you have on many occasions contributed to the Campaign Facebook Page, Save The Wheel Inn, Findern, in such a way as to keep the campaign active. On 1st August you wrote:

"I bet Murrays thought we had given in and weren't bothered anymore..... WRONG!! The fight goes on today, tomorrow, next week, next month, next year and until Murrays decide that they are not wanted in Findern and move on before they damage our community even more than they have done already! #casksnotcaskets"

That you contributed to a campaign twitter page (Wheelenders@wheelfindern) by retweeting on July 8th.

"@WheelFindern smiling assassins! The face of the enemy #casksnotcaskets #heinekennotheareses #bassnotbodies"

That on August 18th 2014 you sent the following email:

"Dear Mr & Mrs Barke,

As you know all too well you and your business are not wanted in Findern. We all know that contractors are working on the building, we all know how much money you have paid for the building, please can I ask that you think seriously about spending any more money when you have a very attractive offer to buy the building back at a substantial profit. The group aren't going away, so please do the right thing and sell the pub and leave Findern alone with it's local pub back again.

Regards,

M Ford."

It is contended this type of contact as well as the content is entirely inappropriate, unwelcome and designed to be intimidating, and is an abuse of your public office.

On the 20th August 2014 you 'liked' a post on the campaign's Facebook page:

*"Save the Wheel Inn Findern
4 Hours ago*

*As the activity increases at the Wheel it's a good chance for any supporters to call round and let their feelings be known – I'm sure there will be a warm welcome from caring Murrays – perhaps they will be able to tell us why they turned down the chance to move away from where they are not wanted whilst pocketing a quick profit
Liked by M Ford"*

Copies of the above communications are attached.

Item 3.

That you have repeatedly made personal comments about the directors of Murrays and about their business. It is alleged that you joined and supported a Boycott Murray's Facebook campaign, which was intended to persuade people not to use the business and cause the company financial difficulty. For example you wrote:

"We need to get as many as possible to state that they will boycott Murrays and use the Co Op or anybody but Murrays when the time comes, I would hate to think they sorted me out!"

You contributed as follows to the Campaign Facebook page in relation to the alleged removal of campaign posters on behalf of Murrays:

"Murrays have probably offered them a deal on burial, more posters removed, more money off."

It is contended that this type of campaigning is not only irresponsible for an elected member but, could amount to harassment.

That when you were approached by the complainants representative and asked what options there were in terms of engaging with the local community, you replied in the form of a text *“Murrays selling up and moving on. They aren’t wanted in Findern, despite David Barke and his letters of support, love to see how many of those there are.”*

You also added a comment on the Facebook page:

“I’ve yet to meet anybody who shows anything but contempt for horrific proposal. Of course Mr Barke can say they have received support from some people, possibly not villagers and possibly not much, we’ll never know will we. For a company that prides itself on being caring and compassionate, what have they shown the village of Findern.....nothing!”

Copies of these communications are attached, except for the text message, a copy of which I have requested.

Item 4.

It is alleged that you have repeated false information via social media sites causing severe distress to one of Murray’s employees and her family. You subsequently wrote her a letter of apology.

That you have re-tweeted false information about Murray’s as set out below:

*“*Spoiler Alert* Residents hear rumours of ‘a builder’ offering funeral folks 5x what they paid... £1.3m... Bob must be feeling rich!”*

That you have ‘liked’ comments that have wrongly accused the complainants of stealing protest posters.

“Do you suppose Murrays are using all those poster boards they have stolen to build a coffin for the heart of our community that they have so cruelly ripped out?”
‘Liked by Martyn Ford’

Again, copies of the communications are attached

In summary, it is contended that you are in breach of South Derbyshire District Council’s Members’ Code of Conduct, including all of the following;

Item 1. You should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person

Item 2. You should not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

Item 4. You should be accountable to the public for your actions and the manner in which you carry out your responsibilities, and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to your particular office.

Item 5. You should be as open as possible about your actions and those of your authority, and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

Item 6. You should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

3.— (1) You must treat others with respect.

(2) You must not –

(b) Bully any person;

5. You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.

I propose that the above form the basis of our discussion on 29th October.

Regards,

Owen Willcox

OWEN WILLCOX

PARTNER

For and in behalf of Geldards LLP

DC: +44 (0)20 7921 3826 | Internal: 450 | Mobile: +44 (0)7824 512 205

Email: owen.willcox@geldards.com | [LinkedIn profile](#)

12. May. 2014 12:41

No. 1640 P. 1

Ford, Martyn

From: Nash Chris <Chris.Nash@south-derbys.gov.uk>
Sent: 31 March 2014 14:20
To: Ford, Martyn
Cc: Sylvester Tony
Subject: RE: PA 9/2014/0286

Hi Martyn

Such a covenant would not affect a planning decision unfortunately. I also believe it is still owned by Punch at the current time and this application is to secure a formal decision that an express planning application is not required.

Regards

Chris Nash
Area Planning Officer
Community and Planning Services
South Derbyshire District Council

e: chris.nash@south-derbys.gov.uk
t: (01283) 595926
f: (01283) 595850
w: www.south-derbys.gov.uk/planning

Any advice is given at officer level only and does not prejudice any formal decision the Council makes in the future.

From: Ford, Martyn
Sent: 31 March 2014 14:18
To: Nash Chris
Cc: Sylvester Tony
Subject: RE: PA 9/2014/0286

Hi Chris,

Thanks for getting back to me. We were all under the impression that Punch had a condition of sale that the building had to be kept as a pub, can this be investigated during your review.

Cheers for now(!)

Martyn.

From: Nash Chris (mailto:Chris.Nash@south-derbys.gov.uk)
Sent: 31 March 2014 14:01
To: Ford, Martyn
Cc: Sylvester Tony
Subject: RE: PA 9/2014/0286

Afternoon Martyn

I note your concerns and totally understand your viewpoint. However having had a brief look at this, due to it being a lawful development certificate application for a proposed use, I don't see how we can legitimately resist this when permitted development rights allow it to move from pub (use class A4) to funeral directors (use class A1). Indeed there is a whole multitude of other uses it could shift to without the need for permission.

1

-10

I feel the only way in which the pub could be saved would be to look at the 'Community Right to Bid' through the Localism Act 2011. In brief:

"The Community Right to Bid gives communities the power to nominate assets (buildings or land). If the local authority agrees that the asset is of community value they will put it on a published list. If any of these assets are put up for sale, a six week window of opportunity is triggered, during which any local community group may express an interest to purchase the asset. If they do express an interest, a further four and a half months window of opportunity is given so that the group may have time to find funding and put together a bid to purchase the asset on the open market".

More advice at <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/community-right-to-bid/> and http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/LOCALITY-BID_UNDERSTANDING.pdf

Whether there is sufficient time or triggers to pursue this now, I do not know unfortunately.

Regards

Chris Nash
Area Planning Officer
Community and Planning Services
South Derbyshire District Council

e: chris.nash@south-derbys.gov.uk
t: (01283) 595926
f: (01283) 595850
w: www.south-derbys.gov.uk/planning

Any advice is given at officer level only and does not prejudice any formal decision the Council makes in the future.

From: Ford, Martyn [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 March 2014 13:00
To: Nash Chris; Sylvester Tony
Subject: PA 9/2014/0286

Dear Chris & Tony,

I wish to register my very strong objection to PA 9/2014/0286, which is for a change of use from The Wheel Inn, Main Street, Findern to a Funeral Directors. The Wheel is the only Public House in the village and as such should be given protection as a community asset. I realise the pub has had a "Chequered" past, but now appears to be rising steadily again, albeit Punch own the building and can dispose of it how they wish, but a Funeral Directors is totally inappropriate in a village setting in such a prominent position. I had to look at the calendar to see it wasn't April 1st today!

Martyn Ford,
Technical Data Engineer,
AR&O,
Sinfon D Site,
01332 (2)43231
Martyn.Ford@rolls-royce.com

Please consider the effect on the environment before printing this email.

Content: The views expressed in this email are personal and may not necessarily reflect those of South Derbyshire District Council, unless explicitly stated otherwise.



Martyn Ford

I need to discuss with the planners where we stand legally. Hopefully the debate on Tuesday will provide options.

Yesterday at 22:52 Like



Martyn Ford I bet Murrays thought we had given in and weren't bothered anymoreWRONG!! The fight goes on today, tomorrow, next week, next month, next year and until Murrays decide that they are not wanted in Findern and move on before they damage our community even more than they have done already!
#casknotcaskets



Martyn Ford [redacted] · Jul 8
@WheelFindern smiling assassins! The face of the enemy #casknotcaskets
#hainekannotheasses#bassnotbodies

Save The Wheel Inn Findern

4 hours ago

As the activity increases at The Wheel it's a good chance for any supporters to call round and let their feelings be known - I'm sure there will be a warm welcome from caring Murrays - perhaps they will be able to tell us why they turned down the chance to move away from where they are not wanted whilst pocketing a quick profit

Liked by M Ford



Martyn Ford

We need to get as many as possible to state that they will boycott Murrays and use the Co Op or anybody but Murrays when the time comes, I would hate to think they had sorted me out!

Yesterday at 22:54 · Like



Save The Wheel Inn Findern

8 July

The phantom Murray loving poster thief strikes again! Who are you?! Morse we need you again!

Like Comment

12 2



Martyn Ford Murrays have probably offered them a deal on a burial, more posters removed, more money off.

3 · 6 July at 11:41



Martyn Ford I've yet to meet anybody who shows anything but contempt for horrific proposal. Of course Mr Burke can say they have received support from some people, possibly not villagers and possibly not much, we'll never know will we. For a company that prides itself on being caring and compassionate, what have they shown the village of Findern.....nothing!

10 · 14 May at 06:00

Retweeted by Martyn Ford

WheelEnders @WheelFindem · 3h

Spoiler Alert Residents hear rumours of 'a bullder' offering funeral folks 5 x what they paid... £1.3m.... Bob must be feeling rich!

Save The Wheel Inn Findem

12 August

Do you suppose Murrays are using all those poster boards they have stolen to build a coffin for the heart of our community that they have so cruelly ripped out?

'Liked' by Martyn Ford.

Date 2014-08-18 22:11

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Martyn Ford <[REDACTED]>
Date: 18 August 2014 19:53:04 BST
To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>
Subject: The Wheel

Dear Mr & Mrs Barke,

As you know all too well you and your business are not wanted in Findern. We all know that contractors are working on the building, we all know how much money you have paid for the building, please can I ask that you think seriously about spending any more money when you have a very attractive offer to buy the building back at a substantial profit. The group aren't going away, so please do the right thing and sell the pub and leave Findern alone with It's local pub back again.

Regards,
M Ford.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]
finden,
C. [REDACTED]
1065 6A
17 May

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you to reiterate the most sincere apology I made to you earlier today. I was saddened to hear that comments made on Social Media had caused you so much distress, that was never meant to be the case.

My family have known you for several years, your help and kindness shown to us when we needed it most was exceptional and the work and effort you have put into the community of finden can only be applauded.

I can only hope this letter from me to you can restore some of that kindness and restore some trust that we can take forward together.

Yours Sincerely

Philip

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Adopted on 28th June 2012
Effective from 1st July 2012

The General Principles of Public Life

You should behave in a way consistent with the following principles—

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| • Selflessness | You should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person. |
| • Honesty and Integrity | You should not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour. |
| • Objectivity | You should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits. |
| • Accountability | You should be accountable to the public for your actions and the manner in which you carry out your responsibilities, and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to your particular office. |
| • Openness | You should be as open as possible about your actions and those of your authority, and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions. |
| • Leadership | You should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence. |

MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

**Adopted on 28th June 2012
Effective from 1st July 2012**

Under the Localism Act 2011 the Council must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its members and adopt a Code of Conduct.

Part 1 General provisions

Introduction and Interpretation

1.—(1) This Code applies to **you** as a member of South Derbyshire District Council.

(2) You should read this Code together with the general principles at page 2 (prescribed in Section 28 of the Localism Act).

(3) You must comply with the provisions of this Code.

(4) In this Code—

“interest” means a pecuniary or other interest required to be notified under this Code.

“meeting” means any meeting of—

- (a) the authority;
- (b) any of the authority's committees, sub-committees, joint committees, joint sub-committees, or area committees.

“member” includes a co-opted member and an appointed member.

“partner” means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

“Register of Interests” means the Council's register of members' interests maintained under section 29(1) of the Localism Act 2011.

“sensitive interest” means an interest whose disclosure to the public could lead to you, or a person connected with you, being subjected to violence or intimidation.

Scope

2.—(1) You must comply with this Code whenever you act in your official capacity as a member of your authority. That is when you—

- (a) conduct the business of your authority (which, in this Code, includes the business of the office to which you are elected or appointed); or
- (b) act, claim to act or give the impression you are acting as a representative of your authority.

(2) Where you act as a representative of your authority—

- (a) on another relevant authority, you must, when acting for that other authority, comply with that other authority's code of conduct; or
- (b) on any other body, you must, when acting for that other body, comply with your authority's code of conduct, except and insofar as it conflicts with any other lawful obligations to which that other body may be subject.

General obligations

3.—(1) You must treat others with respect.

(2) You must not—

- (a) do anything which may cause your authority to breach any equality laws;
- (b) bully any person;
- (c) intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be—
 - (i) a complainant,
 - (ii) a witness, or
 - (iii) involved in the administration of any investigation or proceedings,in relation to an allegation that a member (including yourself) has failed to comply with his or her authority's code of conduct; or
- (d) do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, your authority.

4. You must not—

- (a) disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where—
 - (i) you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;
 - (ii) you are required by law to do so;

- (iii) the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
- (iv) the disclosure is—
 - (aa) reasonable and in the public interest; and
 - (bb) made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the authority; or
- (b) prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.

5. You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.

6. You—

- (a) must not use or attempt to use your position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage; and
- (b) must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your authority—
 - (i) act in accordance with your authority's reasonable requirements;
 - (ii) ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes); and
 - (iii) have regard to any applicable Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.

7.—(1) When reaching decisions on any matter you must have regard to any relevant advice provided to you by—

- (a) your authority's Chief Finance Officer; or
- (b) your authority's Monitoring Officer,

where that officer is acting pursuant to his or her statutory duties.

(2) You must give reasons for all decisions in accordance with any statutory requirements and any reasonable additional requirements imposed by your authority.

Part 2

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

8. Notification of disclosable pecuniary interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or co-opted member, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of any disclosable pecuniary interests. A disclosable pecuniary interest is an interest of yourself or your partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners) within the descriptions in the schedule attached to this Code.

9. Non-participation where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest

(1) If you are present at a meeting and have a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter to be considered or being considered at the meeting—

- (a) You must not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting.
- (b) You must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting.
- (c) If the interest is not registered, you must disclose the interest to the meeting.
- (d) If the interest is not registered and is not the subject of a pending notification, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days.

10. Dispensations

The Council may grant you a dispensation, but only in specified circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

11. Offences

(1) It is a criminal offence to—

- (a) Fail to notify the Monitoring Officer of any disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election.
- (b) Fail to disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest at a meeting if it is not on the register.
- (c) Fail to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of a disclosable pecuniary interest that is not on the register that you have disclosed to a meeting.
- (d) Participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.
- (e) As an executive member discharging a function acting alone, and having a disclosable pecuniary interest in such a matter, fail to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the interest.

- (f) Knowingly or recklessly provide information that is false or misleading in notifying the Monitoring Officer of a disclosable pecuniary interest or in disclosing such interest to a meeting.

(2) The criminal penalties available to a court are to impose a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale¹ and disqualification from being a councillor for up to 5 years.

Part 3 Other Interests

12. Notification of interests

(1) Subject to paragraph 17 (sensitive interests) you must, within 28 days of—

- (a) this Code being adopted by or applied to your authority; or
- (b) your election or appointment to office (where that is later), notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of the details of your other personal interests, where they fall within the following categories, for inclusion in the register of interests.

(2) You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where either it relates to or is likely to affect—

- (a) any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by your authority;
- (b) any body—
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature;
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes; or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union), of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management;
- (c) any easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income;

(3) Subject to paragraph 17 (sensitive interests) you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest or change to any interest registered under paragraph (1), notify the Monitoring Officer of the details of that new interest or change.

¹ Currently £5000.

13. Disclosure of interests

(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (5), where you have a personal interest described in paragraph 12 above or in paragraph (2) below in any business of your authority, and where you are aware or ought reasonably to be aware of the existence of the personal interest, and you attend a meeting of your authority at which the business is considered, you must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

(2) (a) You have a personal interest in any business of your authority—

- (i) where a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a *relevant person* to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral division or ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision; or
- (ii) it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests you have registered as a disclosable pecuniary interest.

(b) In sub-paragraph (2)(a)(i), a *relevant person* is—

- (i) a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association; or
- (ii) any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;
- (iii) any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
- (iv) any body of a type described in paragraph 12(2)(a) or (b).

(3) Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority which relates to or is likely to affect a person described in paragraph 12(2)(a) or 12(2)(b)(i), you need only disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of that interest when you address the meeting on that business.

(4) Where you have a personal interest but, by virtue of paragraph 17, sensitive information relating to it is not registered in your authority's register of members' interests, you must indicate to the meeting that you have a personal interest, but need not disclose the sensitive information to the meeting.

(5) Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you have made an executive decision in relation to that business, you must ensure that any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of that interest.

14. Non-participation where you have a pecuniary interest

(1) Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority, you also have a pecuniary interest in that business where the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest and where that business—

- (a) affects your financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in paragraphs 12(2) or 13(2); or
- (b) relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or any person or body described in paragraphs 12(2) or 13(2).

(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), if you are present at a meeting and have a pecuniary interest in any matter to be considered or being considered at the meeting—

- (a) You must not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting.
- (b) You must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting.
- (c) If the interest is not registered, you must disclose the interest to the meeting.
- (d) If the interest is not registered and is not the subject of a pending notification, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days.

(3) Where you have a pecuniary interest in any business of your authority, you may attend a meeting but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise and you leave the room where the meeting is held immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence.

(4) Subject to you disclosing the interest at the meeting, you may attend a meeting and vote on a matter where you have a pecuniary interest that relates to the functions of your authority in respect of—

- (i) housing, where you are a tenant of your authority provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;
- (ii) school meals or school transport and travelling expenses, where you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;
- (iii) statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of, such pay;
- (iv) an allowance, payment or indemnity given to members;

- (v) any ceremonial honour given to members; and
- (vi) setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

(5) Where, as an executive member, you may discharge a function alone, and you become aware of a pecuniary interest in a matter being dealt with, or to be dealt with by you, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter, or seek improperly to influence a decision about the matter.

15. Interests arising in relation to overview and scrutiny committees

(1) In any business before an overview and scrutiny committee of your authority (or of a sub-committee of such a committee) where—

- (a) that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by the executive or another of your authority's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees; and
- (b) at the time the decision was made or action was taken, you were a member of the executive, committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee mentioned in paragraph (a) and you were present when that decision was made or action was taken,

you may only attend a meeting of the overview and scrutiny committee for the purpose of answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, and you must leave the room where the meeting is held immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence.

Part 4 Registration of Members' Interests

16. Registering your interests

(1) You must notify the Monitoring Officer of any interest you have within 28 days of—

- (a) becoming a member.
- (b) disclosing an interest in any matter being considered at a meeting (if that interest is not already on the Register of Interests).
- (c) if you are an executive member, becoming aware of an interest in any matter to be dealt with, or being dealt with.

(2) Any interests notified to the Monitoring Officer will be included in the register of interests.

(3) A copy of the register will be available for public inspection and will be published on the authority's website.

(4) Subject to paragraph 17, you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest or change to any interest registered under paragraph (1), register details of that new interest or change by providing written notification to the Monitoring Officer.

17. Sensitive interests

(1) Where you consider that you have a sensitive interest, and the Monitoring Officer agrees—

- (a) if the interest is entered on the Register of Interests, any copy of the Register of Interests made available for inspection and any published version of the register will exclude details of the interest, but may state that you have an interest, the details of which are withheld.
- (b) if the interest is not entered on the Register of Interests, at any relevant meeting you must disclose the fact that you have a disclosable interest, but not the nature of the interest.

(2) You should, within 28 days of becoming aware of any change of circumstances which means that your Interest is no longer sensitive, notify the Monitoring Officer.

18. Gifts and Hospitality

(1) You must, within 28 days of receipt, notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any gift, benefit or hospitality with a value in excess of £100 which you have accepted as a member from any person or body other than the authority.

(2) The Monitoring Officer will place your notification on a public register of gifts and hospitality.

(3) The duty to notify the Monitoring Officer does not apply where the gift, benefit or hospitality comes within any description approved by the authority for this purpose.

Schedule

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The duties to register, disclose and not to participate in respect of any matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests are defined in The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 as follows:—

| <i>Subject</i> | <i>Prescribed description</i> |
|---|--|
| Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation | Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. |
| Sponsorship | <p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by M in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of M.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992).</p> |
| Contracts | <p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority—</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p> |
| Land | Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority. |
| Licences | Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer. |
| Corporate tenancies | <p>Any tenancy where (to M's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p> |

Securities

Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—

(a) that body (to M's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and

(b) either—

(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

For this purpose –

"the Act" means the Localism Act 2011;

"body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest" means a firm in which the relevant person is a partner or a body corporate of which the relevant person is a director, or in the securities of which the relevant person has a beneficial interest;

"director" includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society;

"land" excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for the relevant person (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income;

"M" means a member of a relevant authority;

"member" includes a co-opted member;

"relevant authority" means the authority of which M is a member;

"relevant period" means the period of 12 months ending with the day on which M gives a notification for the purposes of section 30(1) or 31(7), as the case may be, of the Act;

"relevant person" means M or any other person referred to in section 30(3)(b) of the Act;

"securities" means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

DATED

2015

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR MARTYN FORD

Witness Statement of David Anthony Barke

Geldards
law firm

I, David Anthony Barke, of 23 York Street, Burton upon Trent DE14 2LX, state as follows:

1. I will refer in this statement to Schedule 1 which is a paginated bundle of relevant documentation and the references in this statement to page numbers are, unless otherwise indicated, references to the bundle pagination.
2. Both myself and my wife Susan Barke, are the joint owners and directors of Murrays Funeral Directors Limited which trades as Murrays Independent Funeral Directors ("Murrays").
3. The business is based in Burton upon Trent. It is a small enterprise currently employing eight members of staff.
4. Mrs Barke and I had decided a number of years ago that we would seek to expand our business into South Derbyshire and for this purpose would acquire additional premises. We had viewed a number of buildings over that period but their location had not fitted our purposes.
5. In late September 2013 we became aware that The Wheel Inn Findern had been closed and was on the market. It was our understanding that as a pub it had struggled for support and custom for many years and had been for sale since June 2013.
6. An offer to purchase the building was made in December 2013 on behalf of Murrays. The owners Punch Taverns were advised that the building would be used for a funeral directors and not a public house.
7. The pub did reopen temporarily in December 2013. I visited the pub on three occasions in this period with Mrs Barke and found that we were the only customers.
8. The offer to purchase the building was accepted in January 2014. Contracts were exchanged on 2nd April 2014 and the purchase completed on 16th April 2014.
9. The business provides an invaluable service to people at a particularly vulnerable moment in their lives. The new site at Findern will enable Murrays to offer local people an alternative to having to travel to Burton, Derby or Swadlincote to look after their loved ones and have the added reassurance that their relatives are close by.
10. Murrays instructed Planning Consultants DPDS Consulting Group ("DPDS") to advise in relation to the conversion of the building from a pub into a funeral directors. DPDS advised that it was permissible to make this conversion without an application to South Derbyshire District Council as planning authority. This was because both uses fell within the same permitted category of uses. The pub was an "A4" use and a funeral directors was an "A1" and it was permitted to change between them in the way envisaged without the requirement to apply for planning permission for such a change of use. However, we were advised that in order to be sure we should submit an application to the local planning authority for confirmation that the proposed change of use was lawfully permitted. This was an application for a Lawful Development Certificate and was made on 27th March 2014.

11. We decided that in the interests of commercial confidentiality, the planning application would be submitted in the name of DPDS as agent. The local market for funeral directors services is highly competitive and we did not wish to make known our plans until it was absolutely necessary.
12. By email of 31st March 2014 (**Page 50**) Councillor Ford objected to Murrays planning application. Councillor Ford also posted a message on his own Facebook Page (**Page 176**) inviting "all Findern folk" to oppose the application. He also urges his readers to "help save the Wheel".
13. The Area Planning Officer replied to Councillor Ford on 31st March (**Pages 49 to 50**) informing him that the planning application could not be resisted.
14. On 8th May at 14:52 (**Page 218**) Councillor Ford posted on the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Page a message saying that he needed to discuss with the planners "where we stand legally". Referring to the forthcoming meeting of the Planning Committee he says he hopes that the debate "will provide options".
15. On 13th May 2014 (the day of the Planning Committee meeting), Councillor Ford posted a message on the Save The Wheel Inn Facebook Page (**Page 216**) asking the objectors to attend early and to be in the Council Chamber by 6pm when the meeting was due to start.
16. The officer's report for the Planning Committee (**Pages 65 to 70**) explained that an application for planning permission was not required and recommended that a Certificate of Lawfulness be granted.
17. The minutes of the Planning Committee of 13th May 2014 in relation to this application (**Pages 71 to 75**) state as follows:

"Application for a lawful development certificate for a change of use from class A4 (Drinking Establishment) to class A1 (Funeral Directors) at The Wheel Inn, 25 Main Street, Findern 9/2014/0286/Z.

The Head of Planning Services explained to members the legal basis for this application. National planning law allowed for them to be converted from their current use as a public house to use as a funeral directors. This change did not require the agreement of the Planning Committee. The request before the Committee, therefore, was simply to confirm that this change was allowed under the law. As this was simply a statement of fact, the Committee would have no option but agree to do this.

The consequences of not granting the certificate were discussed. Members were informed that such a decision would be subject to appeal (possibly through a judicial review) which the Council would be likely to lose on a matter of law and, potentially, could have costs awarded against it.

Resolved:-

That the application for a lawful development certificate for a change of use from Class A4 (drinking establishment) to Class A1 (funeral directors) be approved."

18. On 13th May 2014 Councillor Ford "liked" a comment on the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Page which was to the effect that the Council had no option but to agree to the change of use and that residents were invited to the Planning Committee to have a chance to speak and hear the explanation of why the Council could not refuse the application (**Page 215**).
19. Councillor Ford was aware from the outset that there were no planning grounds for refusing the application for a Certificate of Lawfulness. He told the Derby Telegraph on 14th May 2014 "There was no way the committee would turn it down" (**Page 245**). Nevertheless he misled his constituents into believing that if they objected to the application and made representations to the Planning Committee the application could have been refused. This was done in order to advance his personal interest in retaining the pub, to cause maximum distress to myself and Mrs Barke and for the purposes of self-promotion.
20. The Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Campaign Page dates from 4th April 2014. By the post on his own Facebook Page of 31st March 2014 (**Page 176**) Councillor Ford effectively initiated this campaign by asking "all Findern folk" to "help save The Wheel".
21. Councillor Ford's post of 31st March (above) also gave rise to some further posts including that by an [REDACTED], also on 31st March 2014 at 15:22 (**Page 177**) when he said "I'll burn the funeral directors down". This was a comment that my wife and I found very distressing because it appeared to suggest that we were personally in danger as a result of the campaign.
22. I believe that [REDACTED] is an alias used by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is, I believe to be married to Councillor Ford's [REDACTED]. I also believe that the Campaign Facebook Page is administered by [REDACTED] who is [REDACTED]. This is based on the post shown on 6th May at 02:30 shown at (**Page 219**) which appears to show that [REDACTED] is the point of contact for items to be posted on the Campaign Page. This places Councillor Ford at the heart of the opposition and the campaign against Murrays.
23. Apart from initiating the campaign against Murrays, Councillor Ford has also made numerous contributions to the Facebook Campaign Page (**Pages 181 to 224**) and has helped to sustain the campaign and keep it active. Some examples are set out below.
24. On 5th April 2014 Councillor Ford "liked" a post requesting 21 people to support the establishment of a community group to apply to the Council to have The Wheel Inn listed as an asset of Community Value (**Page 224**).
25. On 12th April at 15:31 (**Page 222**) he said that the pub "isn't going to die without a massive fight".
26. On 14th April (**Page 221**) he asks those reading the post to "keep spreading the message that we need to keep our village pub open".
27. On 13th May (**Page 216**) he posted a note reminding the campaign supporters to be in the Council Chamber for the Planning Committee meeting by 6pm. This is clear evidence that he is coordinating the opposition to the planning application.

28. Also on 13th May (**Page 215**) Councillor Ford "liked" a post saying that every option will be explored to persuade Murrays that Findern villagers "want casks not caskets", a comment that my wife and I found offensive.
29. On 14th May (**Page 214**) referring to the Asset of Community Value application he said "we fight on".
30. On 26th May at 14:03 (**Page 208**) Councillor Ford posted a message which confirmed that he was displaying a poster at his house supporting the campaign. Further on 7th June at 05:29 (**Page 205**), referring to the removal of campaign posters, he advocates the displaying of replacement posters wherever they are removed.
31. On 21st June (**Page 202**) he is shown wearing a "Save The Wheel" Tshirt. This was the date of the Findern Fete where the Campaign Group had a stall. A post by Councillor Ford at 17:21 on 21st June (**Page 201**) confirms that he was present at the campaign stall on that day.
32. On 25th June at 14:33 (**Page 199**) Councillor Ford posted a message together with a campaign photograph (in which he appears). The message urged us not to come to Findern.
33. On 1st August (**Page 190**) Councillor Ford posted the following message: "I bet Murrays thought we had given in and weren't bothered anymoreWRONG!! The fight goes on today, tomorrow, next week, next month, next year and until Murrays decide that they are not wanted in Findern and move on before they damage our community even more than they have done already! #casksnotcaskets".
34. On the 20th August (**Page 185**) Councillor Ford "liked" the following post "As the activity increases at The Wheel it's a good chance for any supporters to call round and let their feelings be known – I'm sure there will be a warm welcome from caring Murrays – perhaps they will be able to tell us why they turned down the chance to move away from where they are not wanted whilst pocketing a quick profit".
35. At this point I should explain the allegation in the above post that Murrays "turned down the chance to move away whilst pocketing a quick profit". Shortly before the purchase of the pub was completed, DPDS informed us that Councillor Ford had put forward a local resident and builder (Mark Gregory) who was interested in buying The Wheel Inn. On 28th April 2014 Mr Gregory made an offer to buy The Wheel Inn through our PR representatives Optimum PR. The offer was less than Murrays total outlay for the building and was rejected. In any event, we had purchased the property for the purposes of expanding the business and not as an investment. Mr Gregory made a further increased offer on 28th May 2014 which was also rejected. On 17th June 2014, Mr Gregory told the Derby Telegraph (**Pages 243 to 244**) "I will do anything legal I can to stop it from going ahead including trying to stop the people working on the site. I want to use disruptive tactics to make life difficult for them". On 26th June 2014 Mr Gregory made a further offer by letter (**Page 271**) which was also rejected.
36. The above post, of 20th August, which Councillor Ford endorsed, misrepresented the position of Murrays in two ways. Firstly, that we may be

prepared to sell the property for investment purposes. Secondly, that the offers we had received represented a significant profit in relation to our outlay, which was not the case. This post also encouraged the campaign supporters to "call round and let their feelings be known", in other words to intimidate us. Intimidation was a key objective of the campaign as evidenced by Mr Gregory's threat, on behalf of the campaign, to use disruptive tactics.

37. Councillor Ford also has a Twitter Account [REDACTED]. On the front page he says "I... represent Willington and Findern on South Derbyshire District Council" (Page 77).
38. Councillor Ford has also utilised his Twitter Account to support the Save The Wheel Inn Campaign and has posted a number of entries for that purpose (Pages 76 to 146).
39. On 8th July 2014 he retweeted a comment from a Twitter account called WheelEnders @WheelFindern (Page 98). This account was established "to fight against" the proposed change of use at The Wheel Inn (Pages 147 to 173).
40. Councillor Ford's Tweet of 8th July refers to a photograph of the team at Murrays including myself and Mrs Barke. The Entry on the WheelEnders account refers to us as "money grabbing ghouls" and Councillor Ford refers to us as "smiling assassins! The face of the enemy". I consider this to be offensive and intimidating.
41. On 18th August 2014 Councillor Ford sent an email to us in the following terms "Dear Mr & Mrs Barke, As you know all too well you and your business are not wanted in Findern. We all know that contractors are working on the building, we all know how much money you have paid for the building, please can I ask that you think seriously about spending any more money when you have a very attractive offer to buy the building back at a substantial profit. The group aren't going away, so please do the right thing and sell the pub and leave Findern alone with its local pub back again. Regards, M Ford. Sent from my iPhone" (Page 272)
42. I consider that this type of contact as well as the content is entirely inappropriate for a Councillor. It is designed to be intimidating and is an abuse of Councillor Ford's public office.
43. Councillor Ford encouraged and supported a Boycott Murrays Funeral Directors Facebook Page which joined Facebook on 8th May 2014 (Pages 225 to 228). On that same day at 14:54 (Page 218) he posted on the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Page a message saying "we need to get as many as possible to state that they will boycott Murrays and use the Co-Op or anybody but Murrays when the times comes I would hate to think they had sorted me out!" He also retweeted an open letter on 11th July 2014 asking campaign supporters and sympathisers not to use Murrays (Pages 86 to 87).
44. The Boycott Page says it is about boycotting Murrays "Make sure nobody ever gives this company any future business whatsoever." "I wouldn't be seen dead at Murrays." An entry on 9th May (with typo) also asks readers to spread the word for everyone to boycott Murrays (Page 227) "This WILL have a negative impact on their business... and ultimately force them to reconsider taking away out village pub."

45. The Boycott Campaign was intended to cause Murrays financial loss and detriment and was fully supported by Councillor Ford.
46. Councillor Ford also made unwarranted and insulting remarks about myself and Mrs Barke and our business. On 8th July at 11:41 (**Page 195**) Councillor Ford (in response to a question on the Save The Wheel Facebook Page asking who was removing campaign posters) commented "Murrays have probably offered them a deal on burial, more posters removed, more money off!".
47. On 14th May at 08:00 he made the following comment on the Save The Wheel Inn Facebook Page: "I've yet to meet anybody who shows anything but contempt for horrific proposal. Of course Mr Barke can say they have received support from some people, possibly not villagers and possibly not much, we'll never know will we. For a company that prides itself on being caring and compassionate, what have they shown the village of Findern.....nothing!" (**Page 213**). And on 11th June at 13:46 (with typo) "Murrays really need to understand how much the pub meant to us, it's a real shame they didn't come into our community and see how much The Wheel meant to so many of us, really shows how they feel about us, for them it's how much they put cash above community, pounds above people, profit above pride, do do what they are doing to us they cannot be proud..... but then again!" (**Page 204**).
48. We contacted Councillor Ford on 17th April 2014 via our PR representative to seek his help in opening dialogue with the local community. A meeting was arranged for 23rd April 2014. However, the meeting ultimately did not take place. We offered to meet him with the community and reassure them about how our business would operate and answer any questions or concerns they may have. We were informed that Councillor Ford and his constituents were only prepared to meet us to discuss other options including us disposing of The Wheel Inn and relocating our business away from Findern.
49. On 29th May 2014 Councillor Ford was again approached by our PR representative who asked about options for engaging with the community. Councillor Ford replied by text saying: "Murrays selling and moving on. They aren't wanted in Findern despite David Barke and his letters of support, love to see how many of those they are." (**Page 270**).
50. The reference to letters of support was to a comment I had made to the Derby Telegraph on 14th May 2014 (**Page 246**), when I referred to "many messages of support sent to us privately from Findern residents". We had received a number of such messages but Councillor Ford was effectively accusing me of lying about the support we had received.
51. Councillor Ford has also caused severe distress to one of our employees.
52. Our office manager lives in the village of Findern. I had made her aware of our plans in relation to The Wheel Inn prior to 10th May 2014. I had requested her to keep this information confidential on grounds of commercial confidentiality. She told me that she had been asked by local residents if she knew which undertakers were planning to acquire the pub but she had replied that she did not.

53. On 16th May 2014 my office manager informed me that she had seen various posts on Facebook which inferred she was responsible for bringing Murrays to Findern. She also informed me that Councillor Ford had repeated this allegation on social media. She was distressed and had become concerned for her own safety.
54. On 16th May 2014 my office manager informed me that further social media comments had been directed at her and that she felt like a prisoner in her own home.
55. My office manager became very agitated and had been in tears at work. She said that she and her husband felt suicidal. Mrs Barke and I decided we must help her and requested a meeting with Councillor Ford. The meeting took place on 21st May 2014. Councillor Ford apologised to my office manager and agreed to arrange for the offending social media postings to be removed which I understand he duly did. He also gave my colleague a letter of apology (**Page 273**). As a result of the harassment and intimidation suffered by my colleague she has made arrangements to sell her home and move away from the area. She has also resigned from her position with Murrays which represents a significant operational loss to the business.
56. Councillor Ford has also retweeted false information about Murrays. On June 11th 2014 he retweeted the following: “*Spoiler Alert* Residents hear rumours of ‘a builder’ offering funeral folks 5x what they paid... £1.3m ... Bob must be feeling rich!” (**Page 119**). Given that Mr Gregory’s highest offer was £340,000, this is a gross distortion of the true position.
57. Councillor Ford also “liked” or endorsed a baseless accusation that Mrs Barke and I were stealing campaign posters displayed in the village. On 12th August 2014 he “liked” the following Facebook accusation: “Do you suppose Murrays are using all those poster boards they have stolen to build a coffin for the heart of our community that they have so cruelly ripped out?” (**Page 187**). I emphatically deny that we have taken any posters at all nor have we requested anyone else to do so.
58. In conclusion, I contend for the reasons stated above that we have not been treated with respect by Councillor Ford. Further he has sought to bully, intimidate and harass us. As a result of his actions he has brought his office and his authority into disrepute.
59. In considering all aspects of our complaint, we have also examined the South Derbyshire District Council Corporate Plan. Under “Sustainable Growth and Opportunity, Long term outcomes, we note Go1. Developing economic and employment opportunities within the district”. We do not consider Councillor Ford’s behaviour as an elected member to be in any way supportive of our business. Indeed, it is worth noting that Councillor Ford’s actions are directly opposed to the following statement from the leader of South Derbyshire District Council (Councillor Bob Wheeler): “It’s vitally important to recognise the pivotal role that local companies play. We’re proud to offer a vibrant, sustainable environment in which firms can flourish and thrive. Through innovation and expertise, South Derbyshire is bucking the trend and prides itself on being ‘open for business.’”

I make this Statement to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

SIGNED.....
Mr David Anthony Barke

DATED.....

DATED

2015

**SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR MARTYN FORD**

Witness Statement of Susanna Maria Barke

Geldards
law firm

I, Susanna Maria Barke, of 23 York Street, Burton upon Trent DE14 2LX, state as follows:

I have read the Statement of David Anthony Barke made in connection with this matter. I agree and confirm the contents of the Statement of David Anthony Barke as if they were included in this Statement with the necessary changes having been made.

I make this Statement to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

SIGNED.....
Mrs Susanna Maria Barke

DATED.....

DATED

2015

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR MARTYN FORD

WITNESS STATEMENT OF COUNCILLOR MARTYN FORD

Geldards
law firm

I, Martyn Ford, of 18 Mill Close, Findern, Derby, DE65 6AP, state as follows:

1. I refer in this statement to Schedule 1 which is a paginated bundle of relevant documentation and the references in this statement to page numbers are unless otherwise indicated, references to the bundle pagination.
2. I make this statement in response to the complaint made by David and Susan Barke as Directors of and on behalf of Murrays Funeral Directors Limited which trades as Murrays Independent Funeral Directors ("Murrays") (**Pages 1 –to 10**). In this statement I will address each of the allegations set out in the complaint in turn.
3. By way of background I confirm that I have lived in the village of Findern for 56 years and have been visiting the Wheel Inn public house since the early 1970's. I was elected to South Derbyshire District Council as Ward Councillor for Willington and Findern in 2003 and have held the position of Chairman of the Planning Committee since the 2008/2009 Municipal Year.
4. I will now deal with the details of the complaint against me point by point as set out in the complaint.
5. I deny that I have embarked on a crusade against Murrays Funeral Directors, nor have I incited local people to act against it with the sole aim of damaging the business and its reputation.
6. I deny that I have instigated, maintained and continued to pursue a personal campaign against Murrays Funeral Directors.
7. More specifically I deny:
 - (i) That I have engaged in sustained activity against Murrays Funeral Directors over a period of five months
 - (ii) That I have knowingly given false information to my constituents in order to galvanize support for a campaign based on personal interest, i.e. to prevent the closure of the Wheel Inn.
8. **Item 1 in the Complaint**

When I exchanged emails with the Area Planning Officer on 31st March 2014 I was advised that it would not be possible to resist the application to convert the Wheel Inn public house to a funeral directors (**Pages 49 to 50**).
9. This advice followed me registering my very strong objection to the application. Whilst I and some of my constituents were aware that the pub was being marketed for sale, we were under the impression that the owner (Punch Taverns) had imposed a condition of sale that the building had to remain as a pub.
10. I am very passionate about my local community, both as the local councillor and as a longstanding local resident. I was objecting to the planning application both as a local resident and as local councillor on behalf of local residents. I had attended a meeting in the pub shortly after the planning application had come to my attention and at least 100 objectors had attended.

They had asked me, as their representative, to oppose the application on their behalf.

11. Both myself and my constituents were shocked by this application and its potential consequences for the village of Findern. A funeral directors was considered totally inappropriate in a village setting in such a prominent position. This is a feature building at the gateway to the village.
12. I had been copied into an email from the Campaigns Officer at The Campaign for Real Ale dated 8th April 2014 (**Pages 61 to 64**) which advised that the Council had power to issue an "Article 4 Direction" in relation to the pub. CAMRA advised that this would remove the permitted development rights currently enjoyed by the building and that any proposed Change of Use would require full planning permission. The advice was that it would be possible to object to such an application on the grounds of the loss of community value.
13. When I said that, hopefully the debate at Planning Committee will provide options, I was not referring to the merits of the application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed Change of Use. I had in mind the possibility that the Committee might defer the application or that the Council might be prepared to pursue an Article 4 Direction. This statement by me was made in reply to an earlier one on the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Campaign Page at 14:52 pm on 8th May 2014. The question posted on the Facebook Campaign Page was "is it too late for the Council to go down the direction 4 route?" (**Page 218**).
14. I was also aware that an application had been submitted to the Council on 7th April 2014 to list the Wheel Inn as an Asset of Community Value (**Pages 51 to 59**). If successful this would have enabled the Save the Wheel Inn Community Group to express an interest in purchasing the Wheel Inn and provide an opportunity for the Group to bid to purchase the pub. This application was eventually rejected by the Council but not until early June 2014.
15. At no time did I advise my constituents that the Change of Use application could be prevented. The Planning Services Manager decided to take the application to the Planning Committee given the level of public interest. CAMRA had advised the representative of the Save The Wheel Inn Community Group on 8th April 2014 (**Pages 61 to 64**) that a Change of Use application was not, in fact, required for conversion to a funeral directors. CAMRA had also advised the Group to "rally the troops and make the Council (and Punch and the future developer) aware that the community is not happy about the decision". Not only did I not mislead my constituents but they had been advised by CAMRA of the planning position. In any event CAMRA had advised the group to lobby the Council. Given the advice from CAMRA I do not believe that the Campaign Group members who attended the Planning Committee meeting on 13th May 2014 would have been under any misapprehension as to the likely outcome of the Change of Use Application. This is further supported by, for example, the entry on the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Page on 12th April 2014 at 03:17 (**Page 223**). The person who posted this entry is aware that the Council has limited power to maintain the existing use of the building. I posted an entry on 14 April 2014 (**Page 221**) indicating that these could be the very last days of The Wheel. See also Louise Holmes post of 11th May 2014 at 12:36 (**Page 217**) where

she says that it appears that the outcome of the planning application is just a formality.

16. Item 2 in the Complaint

I did make a number of contributions to the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Page. However the campaign had a momentum of its own and did not rely solely on my contributions. There are a significant number of other contributors (See Pages 181 to 224)

17. Whilst I used my own Facebook Page (Martyn Ford) (Pages 174 to 180) to raise awareness in the community of the Change of Use Application, I did not initiate nor drive the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook campaign. I supported the campaign both as a local resident and local councillor representing my constituents with the goal of keeping a public house in Findern.
18. I actually advised restraint in the use of the Campaign Facebook Page. See, for example, my post of 14th May 2014 at 13:44 advising against posts that show the group in a bad light (Page 212).
19. The message that I posted on 1st August 2014 was aimed primarily at the members of the Campaign Group. The thrust of the Campaign was to persuade Murrays that they were not welcome in Findern and that they should move elsewhere. This message was simply reaffirming the key aim of the Campaign.
20. It is not the case that I commented to a campaign Twitter page (WheelEnders @ Wheel Findern) as alleged by Mr and Mrs Barke. I had posted this item on my own Twitter account and it was retweeted on the campaign Twitter page (See Page 98). This is not something I can control nor am I responsible for it. In any event, the tweets and retweets on my own Twitter account [REDACTED] are sent on my own personal account and not as a Councillor. Extracts from my own Twitter Account are at Pages 76 to 146. This is also the case in relation to all other social media messages posted by me. However, I do accept that comments made by me to the Burton Mail (Pages 251 to 269) and the Derby Telegraph (Pages 229 to 250) were made in my capacity as local District Councillor acting on behalf of the community.
21. My email of 18th August 2014 was intended to help Murrays and not to intimidate or bully them. As the elected member for the community I was fully aware of the strong opposition to the establishment of an undertakers business. I believed it was in their commercial interests to locate elsewhere because they would always face resentment from the local community.
22. Murrays had elected at the outset not to engage with the local community but to work anonymously through planning agent DPDS Consulting Group. Given that they were proposing to convert a feature building at the gateway to the village, it would have been reasonable to expect that they would at least consult Findern Parish Council in order to ascertain local opinion. Nor did they contact the local district councillors. Mr and Mrs Barke did not reveal their identity until 8th May 2014 via the Burton Mail (See Pages 262 to 263).
23. Coupled with the shock on discovering that the pub was to be converted to a funeral directors, this apparently secretive approach gave the impression that

Murrays were not concerned about the wellbeing of the village community at Findern. This had given rise to anger and resentment within the community and I saw it as my responsibility as local Councillor to convey those feelings to Murrays.

24. Apart from the email of 18th August 2014 the other communications referred to in this section of the complaint were not sent directly to Murrays. In order to read these communications it would be necessary for Mr and Mrs Barke to seek them out.
25. Murrays secretive approach had given rise to anger and resentment in the community and a robust campaign against the proposed Change of Use. I was conveying the views of the community to Murrays as a representative of that community. These communications were not intended to be threatening or intimidating. In that sense they were neither inappropriate nor an abuse of my public office.
26. As to the item on the Campaign Facebook Page that I "liked", this was merely a reference to what I considered to be a very fair offer made by Mark Gregory on 26th June 2014 (**Page 271**) to purchase the freehold of the former Wheel Inn from Murrays which should have been given proper consideration by Murrays. By way of clarification, I would wish to point out that I was not a proposed investor in The Wheel.

27. Item 3 in the Complaint

I neither joined nor supported a Boycott Murrays Funeral Directors Facebook Campaign. Extracts from this campaign are shown at (**Pages 225 to 228**). I was not aware of this Facebook Campaign prior to receipt of the complaint which has been made against me.

28. My reference to a boycott was posted to the Save The Wheel Inn Findern Facebook Page on 8th May at 14:54 (**Page 218**). This statement was not addressed to the world at large but to those readers of the Facebook Page who opposed the Change of Use Application. It reiterated the views of the local residents. It was not intended to be a boycott campaign but was designed to affect Murrays prospective business in the immediate locality and persuade them to relocate elsewhere.
29. As regards the removal of Campaign posters the comment by me on the Campaign Facebook Page was made "tongue in cheek". A number of posters supporting the campaign had been displayed around the village. Some of the posters had been removed by unidentified people and some of those had been taken down within a very short period of time of being displayed. My comment should be read in the context of the other comments made on the Campaign Page on 8th July 2014 (**Page 195**). The initial comment refers to the need for the services of Inspector Morse to apprehend a phantom poster thief and my comment follows that. These are clearly facetious comments. I make a similar comment on 12th August 2014 at 00:49 (**Page 188**).
30. I do not accept that these comments are irresponsible or amount to harassment.
31. As regards the text message referred to in the complaint, the full text is as follows: "Murrays selling and moving on. They aren't wanted in Findern,

despite David Barke and his letters of support, love to see how many of those they are. Anyway, let's see what happens and if the group are happy to be lecture to." There is a typo here because I meant to say "lectured". (Page 270)

32. As regards this text message, I had met with Jackie Alderson, (of Optimum PR) a PR representative retained by Murrays to deal with the publicity generated by their application to convert the Wheel Inn into a funeral directors. Ms Alderson had suggested a meeting between Mr and Mrs Barke and the Campaign / Community Group on 23rd April 2014. However, this meeting did not take place. The purpose of the meeting from the perspective of Mr and Mrs Barke was to explain to the Group how the business would operate in Findern. The Group was only prepared to meet if Mr and Mrs Barke were prepared to discuss the possibility of their business being relocated elsewhere and the site being sold by Murrays. My text reconfirmed the position taken by the Group in relation to the establishment of a funeral directors business in Findern. When I consulted the Group I was informed that it was not prepared to meet on the basis suggested by Mr and Mrs Barke. The reference to letters of support in the text is to a comment from Mr Barke in the Derby Telegraph of 14th May 2014 when he referred to "many messages of support sent to us privately from Findern residents". (Page 246).
33. The comment I posted on the Campaign Facebook Page on 14th May at 08:00 (Page 213) was not a general comment about the Murrays undertaking business nor was it intended to be a slur on the business itself. I was merely making the point that they had shown no care or compassion in relation to Findern and its residents. The decision to acquire the Wheel Inn and apply for a Change of Use had been made without reference to or consultation with the local community and its elected representatives. This apparently secretive approach appeared designed to present the village residents with a set of circumstances over which they would have little or no control. In that sense, their actions appeared to be without care or compassion.
- 34. Item 4 in the Complaint**
- I dispute the allegation that I have repeated false information via social media and thereby caused distress to one of Murrays employees and her family.
35. I had first met the employee [REDACTED] in question in 2014 following the death of my father. I employed the Coop Funeral Directors to deal with his funeral and at that time [REDACTED] was an employee with the Coop Funeral Directors. [REDACTED] was living in Repton at this time. I know this because she approached me as a Councillor for assistance in relation to a matter which affected her property. At some time afterwards she moved to Findern and became an employee of Murrays Funeral Directors.
36. I believe it was reasonably well known in the village of Findern that [REDACTED] was employed by Murrays. On 8th May 2014 the Burton Mail published an article in which Mrs Barke confirmed that Murrays had purchased the Wheel Inn and were intending to convert it into a funeral directors. Until this point the identity of the purchaser had not been made public.
37. I believe that some of the village residents came to the conclusion that [REDACTED] had been responsible in some way for bringing Murrays into Findern. When I asked [REDACTED] what she knew about Murrays intentions, she told me that she

knew nothing of Murrays intentions until the day they completed the purchase of the Wheel Inn. It was at this point Mr and Mrs Barke informed her of their intentions, she said the company had not forewarned her and she had played no part in the decision to extend the business into Findern.

38. At about this time I saw some social medial posts referring to "that woman from Murrays" and alleging that she (presumably [REDACTED]) had brought Murrays to the village and that she was removing the campaign posters, I was aware that she had been challenged in the street that she would be running the "Wheel office" of Murrays.
39. I was approached on 21st May 2014 via a telephone call from [REDACTED] on behalf of Murrays and asked to attend a meeting with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The meeting took place on that day with Mr and Mrs Barke also present.
40. I had the impression that [REDACTED] was suicidal and felt let down by Murrays and by the local community that had turned against her.
41. As to the complaint against me, I do not recall posting, "liking" or retweeting any false information about [REDACTED].
42. I understand that [REDACTED] has sold her house in Findern and will be moving away from the village.
43. I felt sad that [REDACTED] had been put in such a position and wanted to confirm to her that I was not behind what was being said about her. I went to the meeting to make sure [REDACTED] was ok and not suicidal. I could see at the meeting that she was obviously distressed and was still distressed when I took the letter referred to in the complaint to her that day.
44. I asked my fellow members of the Campaign / Community Group to remove any postings associated to [REDACTED] I also asked [REDACTED] to contact me if she subsequently saw anything that offended her. She has not contacted me about this since and I assume the offending material was removed and nothing further of that nature was posted.
45. This was not a letter of apology on my own account. As I have pointed out I did not knowingly post, "like" or retweet anything that I believe would have been offensive to [REDACTED].
46. As regards the "Spoiler Alert" retweet of 11th June 2014 (**Page 119**), this was intended as a light hearted comment. The reference to "Bob" in the tweet is to the childrens television character Bob the Builder. This is clearly a facetious comment and not intended to be taken literally, or seriously.
47. As to the comment I "liked" on 12th August 2014 (**Page 187**) in relation to poster boards, this should not necessarily be seen as an endorsement or approval of that comment. Again, I considered this an amusing comment which was not intended to be taken literally.
48. I have also been asked to comment upon the following additional allegation made by Mr and Mrs Barke

"In considering all aspects of our complaint, we have also examined the South Derbyshire District Council Corporate Plan. Under "Sustainable Growth and Opportunity, Long term outcomes", we note Go1. "Developing economic and employment opportunities within the district". We do not consider Councillor Ford's behaviour as an elected member to be in any way supportive of our business. Indeed, it is worth nothing that Councillor Ford's actions are directly opposed to the following statement from the leader of South Derbyshire District Council (Councillor Bob Wheeler): "It's vitally important to recognise the pivotal role that local companies play. We're proud to offer a vibrant, sustainable environment in which firms can flourish and thrive. Through innovation and expertise, South Derbyshire is bucking the trend and prides itself on being "open for business.""

Regarding the Barkses additional comments; I absolutely endorse the comments made in the Corporate Plan, but I also feel that the loss of a well used community facility to be replaced by a funeral directors is a very poor use of this building, doing nothing for local employment or community cohesion and causing much anxiety around the village, totally at odds with the intent of the Plan.

49. For the reasons set out above in this statement I contend that I am not in breach of the Councils Members Code of Conduct. My overriding aim was to represent and protect the interests of the village of Findern and its community in relation to a proposal which I believe will damage the village.

50. I have subsequently reviewed a draft investigation report prepared by Owen Willcox on behalf of the Council. In response I sent Owen Willcox an email dated 26 February 2015 (**Page 296**) in which I offered my apologies.

I make this statement to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

SIGNED

Councillor Martyn Ford

DATED



**Current Appointments Report for:
MURRAYS FUNERAL DIRECTORS LIMITED
05369650**

Created: 21/11/2014 16:16:12

Companies House is a registry of corporate information. We carry out basic checks to make sure that documents have been fully completed and signed, but we do not have the statutory power or capability to verify the accuracy of the information that corporate entities send to us. We accept all information that such entities deliver to us in good faith and place it on the public record. The fact that the information has been placed on the public record should not be taken to indicate that Companies House has verified or validated it in any way.

1

C:4188793v1

Company Register Information

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Company Number: | 05369650 | Date of Incorporation: 18/02/2005 |
| Company Name: | MURRAYS FUNERAL DIRECTORS LIMITED | |
| Registered Office: | 23 YORK STREET BURTON-ON-TRENT STAFFORDSHIRE DE14 2LX | |
| Company Type: | Private Limited Company | |
| Country of Origin: | United Kingdom | |
| Status: | Active | |
| Nature Of Business (SIC): | 96030 - Funeral and related activities | |
| Number of Charges: | (0 outstanding / 0 part satisfied / 0 satisfied) | |

Previous Names

No previous name information has been recorded over the last 20 years.

Key Filing Dates

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Accounting Reference Date: | 31/03 |
| Last Accounts Made Up To: | 31/03/2013 (TOTAL EXEMPTION SMALL) |
| Next Accounts Due: | 31/12/2014 |
| Last Return Made Up To: | 18/02/2014 |
| Next Return Due: | 18/03/2015 |

2

C:4188793v1

Last members list: 18/02/2014
Last Bulk Shareholders List: Not available

Current Appointments

Number of current appointments: 3

SECRETARY: BARKE, SUSANNA MARIA

Appointed: 18/02/2005

Nationality: BRITISH

No. of Appointments: 2

Address: 23 YORK STREET
BURTON-ON-TRENT
STAFFORDSHIRE
DE14 2LX

Country/State of Residence: ENGLAND

DIRECTOR: BARKE, DAVID ANTHONY

Appointed: 18/02/2005

Nationality: BRITISH

No. of Appointments: 2

Address: 23 YORK STREET
BURTON-ON-TRENT
STAFFORDSHIRE
DE14 2LX

Country/State of Residence: ENGLAND

4

C:4188793v1

DIRECTOR: BARKE, SUSANNA MARIA
Appointed: 16/02/2005
Nationality: BRITISH
No. of Appointments: 2
Address: 23 YORK STREET
BURTON-ON-TRENT
STAFFORDSHIRE
DE14 2LX
Country/State of Residence: ENGLAND



This Report excludes resignations

Recent Filing History

Documents filed since 27/12/2012

| DATE | FORM | DESCRIPTION |
|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| 03/03/2014 | AR01 | 18/02/14 FULL LIST |
| <i>03/03/2014</i> | <i>LATEST SOC</i> | <i>03/03/14 STATEMENT OF CAPITAL;GBP 10</i> |
| 30/12/2013 | AA | 31/03/13 TOTAL EXEMPTION SMALL |
| 26/02/2013 | AR01 | 18/02/13 FULL LIST |
| 27/12/2012 | AA | 31/03/12 TOTAL EXEMPTION SMALL |

This Report excludes 88(2) Share Allotment documents

6

C:4188793v1

12. May. 2014 12:41

No. 1640 P. 1

Ford, Martyn

From: Nash Chris <Chris.Nash@south-derbys.gov.uk>
Sent: 31 March 2014 14:20
To: Ford, Martyn
Cc: Sylvester Tony
Subject: RE: PA 9/2014/0286

Hi Martyn

Such a covenant would not affect a planning decision unfortunately. I also believe it is still owned by Punch at the current time and this application is to secure a formal decision that an express planning application is not required.

Regards

Chris Nash
Area Planning Officer
Community and Planning Services
South Derbyshire District Council

e: chris.nash@south-derbys.gov.uk
t: (01283) 595928
f: (01283) 595850
w: www.south-derbys.gov.uk/planning

Any advice is given at officer level only and does not prejudice any formal decision the Council makes in the future.

From: Ford, Martyn
Sent: 31 March 2014 14:18
To: Nash Chris
Cc: Sylvester Tony
Subject: RE: PA 9/2014/0286

Hi Chris,

Thanks for getting back to me. We were all under the impression that Punch had a condition of sale that the building had to be kept as a pub, can this be investigated during your review.

Cheers for now(!)

Martyn.

From: Nash Chris [mailto:Chris.Nash@south-derbys.gov.uk]
Sent: 31 March 2014 14:01
To: Ford, Martyn
Cc: Sylvester Tony
Subject: RE: PA 9/2014/0286

Afternoon Martyn

I note your concerns and totally understand your viewpoint. However having had a brief look at this, due to it being a lawful development certificate application for a proposed use, I don't see how we can legitimately resist this when permitted development rights allow it to move from pub (use class A4) to funeral directors (use class A1). Indeed there is a whole multitude of other uses it could shift to without the need for permission.

1

I feel the only way in which the pub could be saved would be to look at the 'Community Right to Bid' through the Localism Act 2011. In brief:

"The Community Right to Bid gives communities the power to nominate assets (buildings or land). If the local authority agrees that the asset is of community value they will put it on a published list. If any of these assets are put up for sale, a six week window of opportunity is triggered, during which any local community group may express an interest to purchase the asset. If they do express an interest, a further four and a half months window of opportunity is given so that the group may have time to find funding and put together a bid to purchase the asset on the open market".

More advice at <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/community-right-to-bid/> and http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/LOCALITY-BID_UNDERSTANDING.pdf

Whether there is sufficient time or triggers to pursue this now, I do not know unfortunately.

Regards

Chris Nash
Area Planning Officer
Community and Planning Services
South Derbyshire District Council

e: chris.nash@south-derbys.gov.uk
t: (01283) 595926
f: (01283) 595850
w: www.south-derbys.gov.uk/planning

Any advice is given at officer level only and does not prejudice any formal decision the Council makes in the future.

From: Ford, Martyn [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 March 2014 13:00
To: Nash Chris; Sylvester Tony
Subject: PA 9/2014/0286

Dear Chris & Tony,

I wish to register my very strong objection to PA 9/2014/0286, which is for a change of use from The Wheel inn, Main Street, Findern to a Funeral Directors. The Wheel is the only Public House in the village and as such should be given protection as a community asset. I realise the pub has had a "Chequered" past, but now appears to be rising steadily again, albeit Punch own the building and can dispose of it how they wish, but a Funeral Directors is totally inappropriate in a village setting in such a prominent position. I had to look at the calendar to see it wasn't April 1st today!

Martyn Ford,
Technical Data Engineer,
AR&O,
Sinfon D Site,
01332 (2)43231
Martyn.Ford@rolls-royce.com

Please consider the effect on the environment before printing this email.

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LOCALISM ACT 2011 and
The Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012

NOMINATION TO LIST AN ASSET AS AN ASSET OF
COMMUNITY VALUE

1. Name and address of nominating organisation:

(We will publish this information on our web-site and may share it with the owner or tenant of the asset you are nominating)

Save The Wheel Inn Community Group
C/o 37 Longlands Lane, Findern Derby DE65 6AH

2. Name and address of organisation contact:

██████████

██

Daytime telephone number: 07908251937 or 01283 701076

E-mail address: sj1966@talktalk.net

3. Details of organisation: *(If you are a Parish Council nominating land in your own area you need not give details. For all other nominations, please see paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Regulations set out at the end of this form and state which **type** of voluntary or community body you are within paragraph 5(1) and why you have a **local connection** under paragraph 4)*

We are an unincorporated community group with over 21 of the members being registered to vote in South Derbyshire. To date we have over 170 members willing to act as a community and save, or help maintain, our local village pub.

4. Address or description of the nominated land or building including the proposed boundaries. Please attach a plan showing the extent of the nominated land:

The Wheel Inn, Main Street, Findern, Derby

The Wheel Inn is the only public house in our village of approx 1700 people. We have few community resources in the village – one local shop/P.O, 2 hairdressers and a village hall and parish rooms.

There is an Indian restaurant within the village boundaries but three quarters of a mile from the village centre. This is not a public house but does have a bar. It is out of walking distance for many of our community and the owners do not have much community involvement.

5. Please give all the information you have regarding the occupiers and owners of the nominated land

Name(s) of current occupants:

Punch Taverns

Jubilee House
Second Avenue
Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire
DE14 2WF

Name(s) and current or last-known addresses of all those holding a freehold or leasehold interest in the land:

Punch Taverns
Jubilee House
Second Avenue
Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire
DE14 2WF

6. Please explain why you think that the Council should conclude that the nominated land is of community value:
(The information in this section may be supplied to the owner of the asset you are nominating.)

Please refer to s88 of the Act which is set out at the end of this form. For example, if you are relying on s.88(1) please outline the current use of the land and explain how that use furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community, then give your views as to its future use. Note the definition of "social interests" in s.88(6).

Note also that the 2012 Regulations state that "a residence together with land connected with that residence" cannot be listed. If you wish to read the full text of this exemption, we can supply a copy.)

The Ministerial Foreword in the Government's own guidance for local authorities on assets of community value begins: "from local pubs and shops to village halls and community centres, the past decade has seen many communities lose local amenities and buildings that are of great importance to them."

Community pubs represent the very essence of a community asset, providing a meeting place where social networks are strengthened and extended and where people can mix with others from different backgrounds to their own. Pubs host a wide variety of community-oriented events and activities that add considerably to local civic life.

As well as injecting an average of £80,000 into their local economy each year, pubs play a key role in raising money for local charities – it is estimated that the average pub raises around £3000 a year for charity.

The Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) has used 'Social Return on Investment' methodology to quantify the wider social value which pubs generate for their communities, which cannot be captured in financial terms. These wider community benefits range from the amount of money the pub raises for charity to the reduced risk of social isolation through opportunities for pub-goers to make new friends and strengthen community ties. The

IPPR's research found that each pub generates between £20,000 and £120,000 of wider social value to their communities¹.

- The Wheel Inn has been a well used public house for decades and is part of the heritage of our village.
- We are a medium sized village with few community facilities. The Wheel Inn is our only public house and is a valuable community meeting place. The pub is a good size with adequate parking and facilities and has plenty of scope to extend the services currently offered.
- The resource has been allowed to fall into disrepair by the current owners and is due to close its doors on 14 April 2014 despite the fact that sales have recently increased. Although there are new kitchen facilities these are not being utilised and a valuable income stream is being missed.
- This business used to be a thriving public house serving meals and engaging in community activities e.g. hosting charity events and joining in on community events such as fete day.
- The Wheel Inn is generally the venue for resident's milestone celebrations – such as birthdays, weddings, christenings and wakes and is of great sentiment to village residents as a venue. Without The Wheel the only alternative for family and community events would be the village hall which is expensive and impersonal – There is a great deal of the sentiment and history linked with generations of Findern residents and The Wheel Inn.
- The pub has hosted a weekly quiz for many years which has always been well attended and is a great social event. Historically there have been sporting groups linked with the pub. Social events and outings and many live acts. The loss of such an opportunity to socialise will be of great detriment.
- With little investment and good management the business could be used to engage greater community participation such as serving tea/coffees during daytime hours to engage the large proportion of retired/elderly residents in our village, many of whom are restricted in their activities by the poor transport links to our village.
- There is no other community venue within our village which allows the residents to socialise or eat out. At times that the pub offered food it has always proved very popular.
- The pub has great recreational value within the community:
Local sports teams meet in this pub
The pub has a beer garden which is used by local people
The pub provides a children's play area for local families
The pub has televisions screening sporting events enjoyed by patrons
The pub hosts pub quizzes which brings the community together
The pub offers a free wireless computer network
The pub has entertainment machines/pool table/board games

¹ <http://www.ippr.org/publications/55/8519/pubs-and-places-the-social-value-of-community-pubs>

The pub hosts live entertainment

If the pub closes all of these facilities will be lost to the village – there is no nearby alternative venue for residents.

- Findern and the surrounding area now attracts a number of visitors, tourists and walkers and the loss of the village pub means that our village will not benefit financially from the attracting visitors to stay and spend money in our village.
- Over 200 local people have expressed their support to keep the pub open via a Facebook campaign and we have had a similar amount of local people who have taken the time to attend the pub and sign up to support our submission to have The Wheel Inn listed as a valuable community asset.

7. Signed: Julie Cowburn

8. Date: 7th April 2014

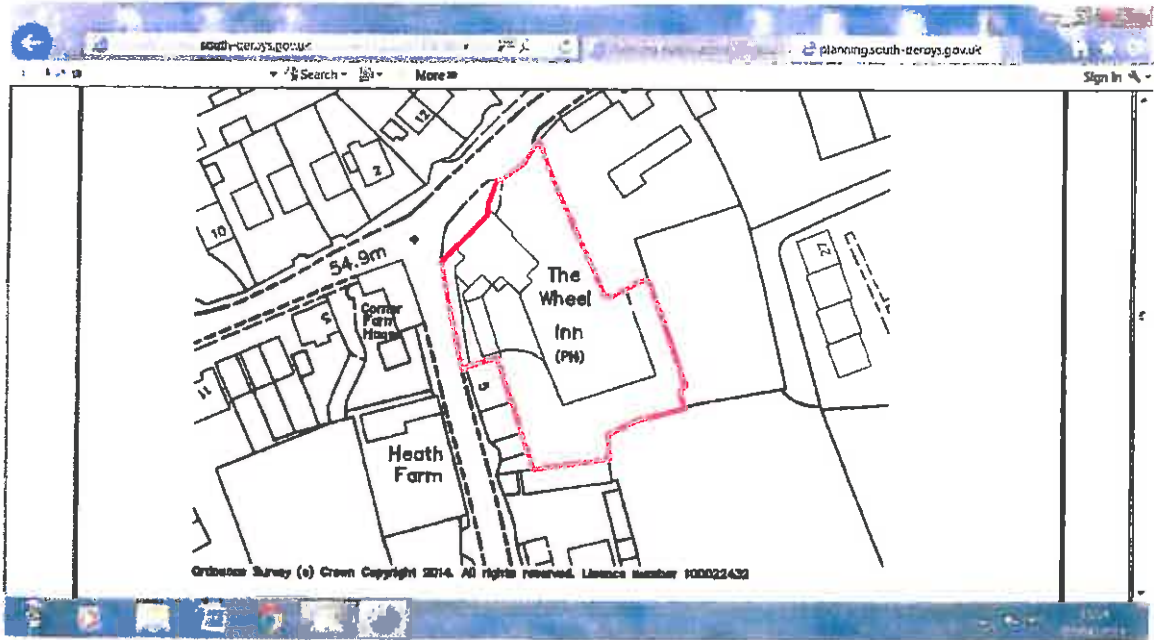
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If you have any queries about this form please telephone Steve Baker on 01283 595965 or e-mail steve.baker@south-derbys.gov.uk

Please return the completed form to Steve Baker, Corporate Asset Manager, South Derbyshire District Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote, DE11 0AH

or

Complete the form, sign it and e-mail to steve.baker@south-derbys.gov.uk



Save The Wheel Inn, Findern

We need 21 names of South Derbyshire residents in order to form an unincorporated community group and quickly put in a nomination to have The Wheel Inn listed as a valuable community asset – this is just the first step in a process which would ultimately mean that the community would have to be informed if the building was put up for sale and given 6 months in which to come up with a bid for the asset.

Please add your name and contact details if you are interested in forming a community group to help save The Wheel.

(This information will not be shared and will only be used in order to contact the group regarding further meetings or action.)

| Name | Contact Details | Registered to vote within the South Derbyshire district or a neighbouring district? |
|------------|-----------------|---|
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |

| Name | Contact Details | Registered to vote within the South Derbyshire district or a neighbouring district? |
|------------|-----------------|---|
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | X.ATI ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
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| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | ✓ |

Green Judith

From: Steve&Julie Cowburn <sj1966@talktalk.net>
Sent: 08 April 2014 16:59
To: Green Judith
Cc: Kate Horton; Ford Martyn
Subject: Re: THE WHEEL INN FINDERN - NOMINATION AS ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Hello Judith I have added in the answers to your queries below in blue – I have added quite a few extra names as some have moved recently and may not have yet changed address on the electoral roll. All people signing our form, and contacting our Facebook page, expressed a wish to support our aims and offered to take active roles in helping to save The Wheel – the people listed are most likely to lead on any further group activities.
Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Best wishes

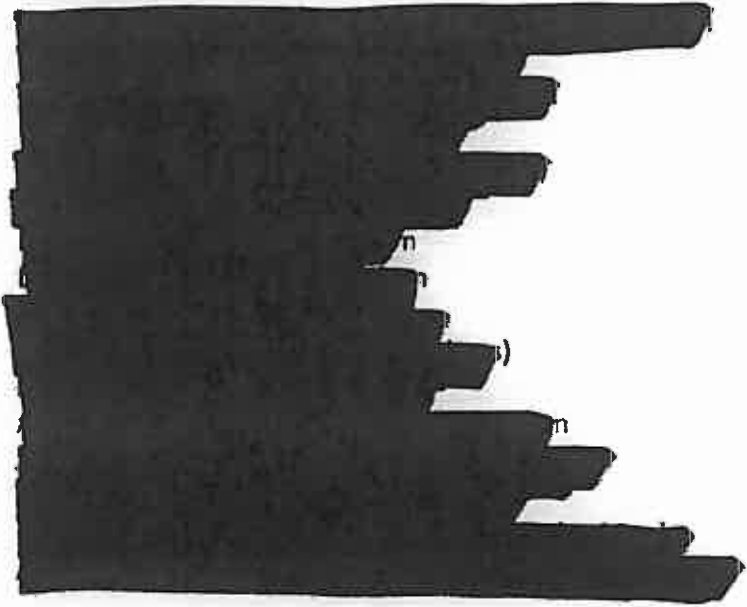
Julie

From: Green Judith
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 1:29 PM
To: mailto:sj1966@talktalk.net
Cc: Ford Martyn
Subject: THE WHEEL INN FINDERN - NOMINATION AS ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Dear Julie

I will be dealing with your nomination of the above property. Cllr. Ford has delivered to me the list of names supporting the nomination and I have now had chance to study this, and check the legal requirements for eligibility to nominate. I have to be satisfied that the Group has the required 'local connection' so I need a little more information from you :

1. The group has to have at least 21 members who are on the electoral register. When I glanced at the list with Cllr. Ford I wasn't clear whether the names on the list were supporters or actual members (due to the heading), so he quickly marked up some of the persons who were definitely members, but I haven't got 21 yet. The list is attached. So far I have :



Owen Willcox

From: Cllr Martyn Ford <martyn.ford@derbyshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 April 2014 18:40
To: Nash Chris; Sylvester Tony
Subject: FW: CAMRA

Hi Both,
What about an Article 4 Directive in this instance? I'm sure you had looked at this, but every little helps.
Cheers,
Martyn.

From: Steve&Julie Cowburn
Sent: 08 April 2014 02:04 PM
To: Claire Cain
Cc: martyn.ford@south-derbys.gov.uk; Kate Horton
Subject: Re: CAMRA

Hi Claire

thank you so much for your reply – it is very helpful. The pub is the Wheel Inn Findern Derbyshire – yesterday we put in an application to have it listed as an Asset of Community Value in the hope that this might buy us some time.
We will certainly look at the other information you have sent; it's very interesting and we need all the help and ideas we can get.

Many thanks and best wishes

Julie

From: [Claire Cain](#)
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 1:01 PM
To: sj1966@talktalk.net
Subject: CAMRA

Hi Julie,

Thank you for your email and campaign to save your local pub.

Current planning law means that you do not need to put in a Change of Use application when converting a pub to an A1,2&3 Use Class, this covers supermarkets, restaurants, betting shops and as you know undertakers/funeral directors.

This means you can't object to this application on the grounds of loss of community value. It is a key campaign at CAMRA to change this legislation.

It is likely that there will need to be a planning application for the addition of external features (sign, atm machine) or an extension for a car park or access road for deliveries at a supermarket etc. You can object

to these planning applications but it needs to be on technical grounds i.e an increase of traffic, air pollution etc. This is fairly easy to do with a new supermarket but I imagine harder with a funeral home.

The council does have the power to issue an Article 4 Direction on the pub. This removes the permitted development rights and means that any Change of Use will require full planning permission and you can object to this on its community value grounds. Many Councils do not know this can be applied to a single building such as a pub and may be hesitant to use it because of compensation claims. Please see below the list of Councils who have used A4Ds to save a pub, you will need these case studies to convince your Council to do the same. Also the DCLG Minister Brandon Lewis has stated that a compensation claim is yet to be made regarding A4Ds.

| PUB NAME | COUNCIL | DETAIL | LINKS |
|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| The Castle Inn | Camden Council | Locally listed heritage pub threatened with closure, council issued A4D | |
| The Catford Bridge Tavern | Lewisham Borough Council | Threatened to be turned into retail unit - council issue A4D | http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s21896/Catford%20Bridge%20Tavern |
| Baring Hall Hotel | Lewisham Borough Council | A4D for the Baring Hall Hotel confirmed. | http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ielssueDetails.aspx?Id=5063&Opt=3 |
| Highbury Barn | Babergh District Council | Owned by Punch Taverns. A4D issued to remove PD rights for demolition because considered a Heritage asset (even though not locally listed) | http://bdcdocuments.onesuffolk.net/assets/Uploads/Committees/Committee-Reports/2012-13/M170.pdf |
| 20 pubs in Cambridge including the Robin Hood and the Carlton Arms | Cambridge City Council | Area-wide A4D to ensure pubs cannot be demolished without planning permission | http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/News/Cheers-More-protection-for-pubs-in-Cambridge-agreed-20140120060100.htm |
| Old White Bear | Camden Council | Application on pub to convert to 6 bedroom house. Campaign fighting this - pub listed as ACV. | https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/118148610/Article%204%20Direction%20-%20The%20Old%20White%20Bear%20PH%20%281%29.pdf |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | Council issued immediate A4D also so that the pub cannot be converted into a supermarket etc | |
|--|--|--|

You haven't mentioned the name of the pub, but you refer to it as a community asset - does this mean you have listed it as an Asset of Community Value? If not then you may want to consider doing so to show the council support for the pub. Also once listed and the pub goes back on the market the community has to be told (no sale can take place behind closed doors) and then the group can trigger a moratorium period of 6 months. During this time the pub can only be sold to the community or a private buy who intends to keep the pub as a pub. Unless you know of a buyer or the community group is interested then ACV listing alone is not going to save the pub but it is another tool which can help. More information:

www.camra.org.uk/listyourlocal

Finally despite there currently being no need for a change of use planning application you should still rally the troops and make the council (and Punch and the future developer) aware that the community is not happy about the decision - get a story in the papers, petition, stage a rally, try and get your MP involved and as many Councillors as possible. I can help advertise any campaigning you are doing on social media and to local members - so please just send me anything over.

Your email has come through to Head Office in St Albans. For your local branch contacts please go to: <http://www.camra.org.uk/branches> Also for technical planning support and to get ideas and case studies for objecting to this type of application as it currently stands please email CAMRA's Volunteer Planning Advisor on paul.ainsworth@camra.org.uk

Please don't hesitate to email or call me with anything further.

Cheers, Claire

--

Claire Cain

Campaigns Officer
 The Campaign for Real Ale
 e: claire.cain@camra.org.uk
 t: 01727 798452
 m: 07790 351 159
 w: www.camra.org.uk



.....

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Derbyshire County Council reserves the right to monitor both sent and received emails.

13/05/2014

Item 1.5

Reg. No. 9/2014/0286/Z

Applicant:
MR CHRISTOPHER LINDLEY
C/O AGENT

Agent:
MR CHRISTOPHER LINDLEY
DPDS CONSULTING GROUP
GLENEAGLES HOUSE
3 VERNON GATE
DERBY
DE1 1UP

Proposal: APPLICATION FOR A LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE FOR A CHANGE OF USE FROM CLASS A4 (DRINKING ESTABLISHMENT) TO CLASS A1 (FUNERAL DIRECTORS) AT THE WHEEL INN 25 MAIN STREET FINDERN DERBY

Ward: WILLINGTON & FINDERN

Valid Date: 27/03/2014

Reason for committee determination

The item is presented to committee at the discretion of the Planning Services Manager, given the level of public interest.

Site Description

The site lies to the southern end of Findern village, on Main Street as it turns into the village from the south and towards The Green. The public house is a two-storey rendered building of traditional appearance which frames the highway edge, with the vehicular access lying to the east serving a considerable car park with beer garden to the south. The site is generally surrounded by residential properties of varying ages and status (19 Main Street to the eastern boundary is Grade II listed).

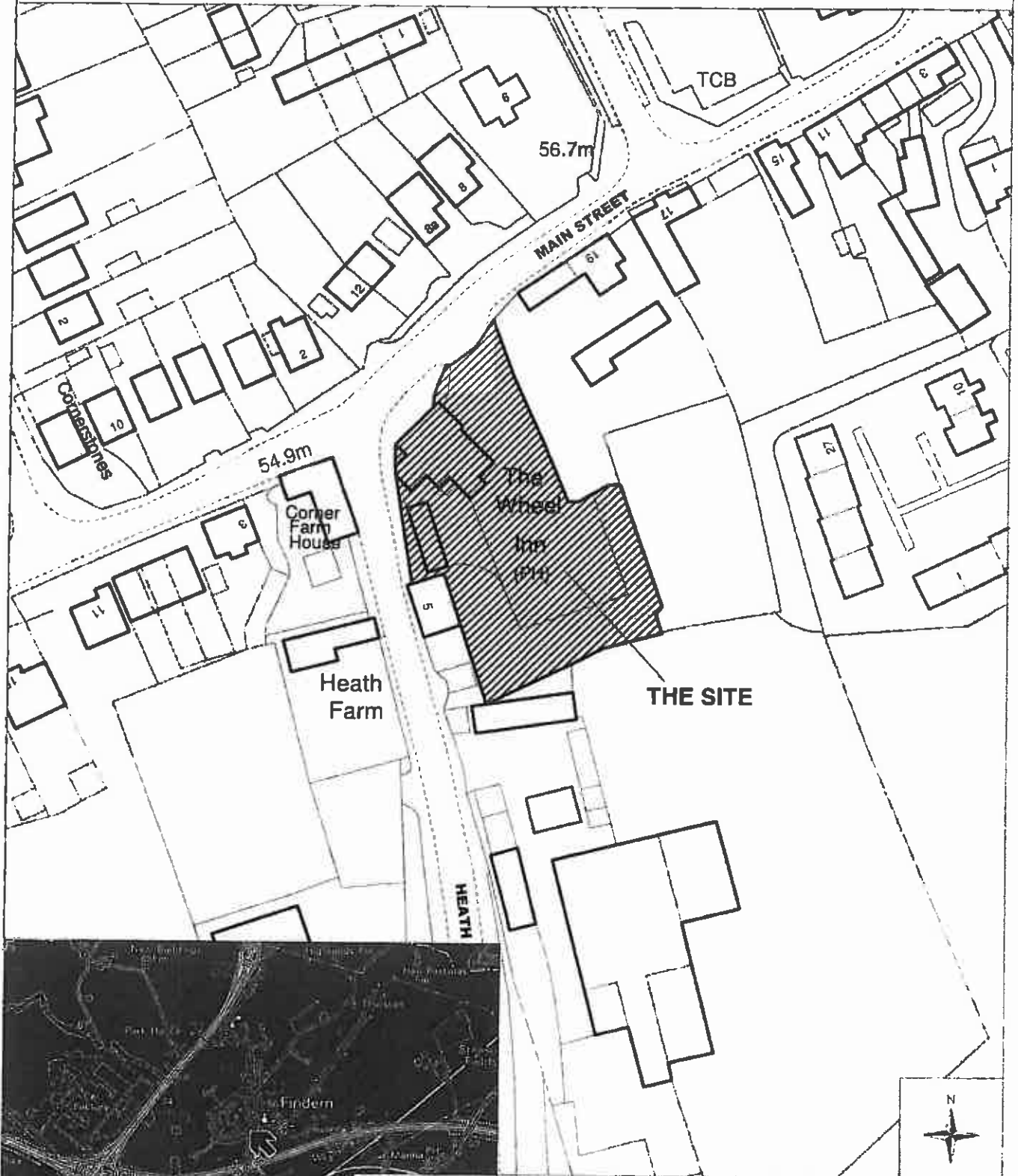
Proposal

It is proposed to change the use from a public house to a funeral directors. No operational development is proposed.

Applicants' supporting information

A covering letter is provided. This outlines the nature of the application and its differing nature to a conventional planning application. It asserts the current lawful use. It also outlines a rapid and continual turnover of tenants in the last 5 years, and that since it

9/2014/0286 - The Wheel Inn, 25 Main Street, Flindern, Derby DE65 6AG



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was first marketed in July 2013 there have been 167 requests for sales particulars, 7 viewings and 3 offers. It is considered the only offer that has met the vendor's requirements is that from a prospective user as a funeral directors.

Planning History

9/2013/0592: Display of illuminated and non-illuminated signage and lighting –
Approved September 2013

9/2007/0881: Gazebo, replacement canopy and insertion of doors and a window –
Approved September 2007.

Responses to Publicity

No consultation is required on applications for a Certificate of Lawfulness (also known as a Lawful Development Certificate ("LDC")). However it is understood Findern residents have undertaken a leaflet drop creating 199 representations of which only 2 are in support. The objections raise the following concerns:

- (a) it is the only pub in the village, and allowing the change would leave residents having to travel elsewhere;
- (b) the pub forms a meeting place for the community and a focus of the village;
- (c) the pub has room to expand and could diversify as a hub for other community events in addition;
- (d) that without a pub the village will suffer socially and economically;
- (e) a funeral directors is inappropriate for this location and not required in the village;
- (f) young children will be passing this proposal every day;
- (g) the pub has not been run/managed in ways which optimise its potential, nor has there been the promised investment which would have encouraged tenants or potential purchasers;
- (h) there has been no selling board erected;
- (i) the change of use would contravene the Council's own stated policies on retention of vital community facilities and be contrary to national guidelines;
- (j) an extended period of active marketing as a public house should be pursued before consideration for change of use;
- (k) the access to the car park has restricted visibility in both directions and slow moving large cars would compound this issue;
- (l) additional and slow moving cars would cause further congestion and disrupt the local bus service;
- (m) the proposed business would be in a residential area;
- (n) potential noise from constant use of refrigeration units and coming and going of vehicles in night hours;
- (o) potential aromas from any cool storage facilities;
- (p) its location in a small village will demonstrably change the character of the village for the worse;
- (q) the siting of alternative recycling facilities when moved from the car park;
- (r) the impact on the value of dwellings within the village;
- (s) the land has a covenant requiring a pub to remain;
- (t) an application has been made to register the pub as an Asset of Community Value and any change of use should not be permitted until that application has been considered; and

- (u) that this is just a step towards changing the status of the site before progressing towards development of housing.

Findern Parish Council objects on the following grounds:

- i) road safety and highway issues of large slow moving vehicles entering/exiting the highway on a busy blind bend;
- ii) danger for the school children walking past the entrance/exit going to and from school;
- iii) The Wheel is the only pub within the centre of the village which is easily accessible to all including disabled people; and
- iv) it is a good community asset.

Councillor Ford registers very strong objection to the application, noting The Wheel is the only public house in the village and as such should be given protection as a community asset. Whilst the pub has had a chequered past, it now appears to be rising steadily again, and a funeral directors is totally inappropriate in a village setting in such a prominent position.

Councillor Hood and her Consort strongly object to the application, commented that Punch Taverns have neglected Findern over the last few years.

Relevant legislation

- Section 192 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) ("the 1990 Act");
- The Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Order 1995 (as amended) ("the GDPO"); and
- The Town and Country Planning Use Classes Order 1987 (as amended) ("the UCO").

Procedure and relevance of Planning Policy

Section 192(2) of the 1990 Act provides that if the Council are supplied with information satisfying them that the use would be lawful, if instituted or begun at the time of the application, they shall issue a certificate to that effect; and, in any other case, they shall refuse the application. In making a decision it is therefore appropriate to ask *"if this proposed change of use had occurred on the application date, would it have been lawful in planning terms?"* In doing so consideration is given to whether the proposal is "development" for the purposes of the 1990 Act, but also whether it would fall outside the provisions of the GPDO and UCO or involve a breach of any existing planning condition or limitation which constrains what can be done on the land.

Consequently an application for an LDC is not an application for planning permission. The issue of an LDC depends entirely on factual evidence about the history and planning status of the building or other land and the interpretation of any relevant planning law or judicial authority. Planning policy and the planning merits of the use, operation or activity in the application, as well as covenants, are therefore not relevant.

Planning Considerations

The main issues central to the determination of this application are:

- Whether the existing use falls within Use Class A4 of the UCO;
- Whether the proposed use falls within Use Class A1 of the UCO; and
- Whether permitted development rights are intact and allow for the change of use under the GPDO.

Planning Assessment

This application seeks a formal confirmation that the intended development already benefits from planning permission for a change of use, granted by way of the GPDO. If so, an application seeking planning permission for the development in question is not required and the development may proceed without further reference to the Local Planning Authority.

Existing use

The Wheel is long established as a public house and previous planning applications and local representations and knowledge substantiate this. Whilst regard has been given to the periods of closure in the last few years, these are not sufficient to constitute "abandonment" of the use resulting in a "nil use" at the present time. Hence when having regard to the UCO, the use falls firmly under Use Class A4.

Proposed use

The UCO specifically lists "*the direction of funerals*" as falling under Use Class A1. Notwithstanding this regard has been given to appeals which have established that a chapel of rest or embalming premises on its own would be a sui-generis use or B1 industrial use respectively. The applicant has provided clarification that the proposal is to use the premises for the administration and direction of funerals, and any chapel or embalming would be ancillary to that primary function. Consequently the use class falls under Use Class A1.

The change of use

Part 3 to Schedule 2 of the GPDO allows "*development consisting of a change of use of a building to a use falling within Class A1... from a use falling within Class A4...*". Prima facie the proposed development is allowed for by the GPDO. As there is no Direction or condition on a previously implemented planning permission which restricts such a change of use, the proposal would be lawful if commenced on the date of application. The LDC should therefore be granted.

It should also be noted that conditions cannot be attached to LDCs, although the content of the Certificate should be precise. The site shall be specified by way of the site plan submitted whilst the particular use within the Use Class concerned (i.e. a funeral directors within Use Class A1) shall also be stated. This would ensure that only a use of this character would be allowed under the certificate.

Conclusion

The applicant has demonstrated, on the balance of probability, that the proposed change of use of the building and associated land from a public house (use class A4) to a funeral directors (use class A1 where embalming of bodies and a chapel of rest are

ancillary to the overall primary use of the premises for the undertaking of funerals) would be permitted by Class A Part 3 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended) if commenced on the date of the application.

Recommendation

GRANT of a Certificate of Lawfulness for the reason set out in the conclusion above.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

13th May 2014

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillors Ford (Chairman), Mr Brown (Vice Chairman) and Councillors Bale, Mrs Hall, Stanton, Watson.

Labour Group

Councillors Bell, Dunn, Pearson, Richards, Shepherd, Southerd.

In attendance

Councillors Frost, Tilley, Mulgrew, Mrs Heath, Atkin and Mrs Hood.

PL/106 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Richards explained to the Committee that although he did not intend to declare an interest, he did live in close proximity to the proposed development at Midway (item 1.2 on the agenda). The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Ford, explained that he was strongly opposed to the change of use of the Wheel Inn public House in Findern. Having set out the reasons for his opposition, he made it clear that he would vacate the chair and leave the chamber when this item was discussed.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

PL/107 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES

The Director of Community and Planning Services then submitted reports for consideration and determination by the Committee. The Head of Planning Services suggested that the Committee consider first the change of use of the Wheel Inn public house in Findern. Members agreed to this suggestion. At this point the Chairman vacated the chair, which was then taken by the Vice Chairman, Councillor Mrs Brown.

PL/108 APPLICATION FOR A LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE FOR A CHANGE OF USE FROM CLASS A4 (DRINKING ESTABLISHMENT) TO CLASS A1 (FUNERAL DIRECTORS) AT THE WHEEL INN, 25 MAIN STREET, FINDERN 9/2014/0286/Z.

The Head of Planning Services explained to members the legal basis for this application. National planning law allowed for them to be converted from their current use as a public house to use as a funeral directors. This change did not require the agreement of the Planning Committee. The request before the Committee, therefore, was simply to confirm that this change was allowed

under the law. As this was simply a statement of fact, the Committee would have no option but agree to do this.

The consequences of not granting the certificate were discussed. Members were informed that such a decision would be subject to appeal (possibly through a judicial review) which the Council would be likely to lose on a matter of law and, potentially, could have costs awarded against it.

RESOLVED:-

That the application for a lawful development certificate for a change of use from Class A4 (drinking establishment) to Class A1 (funeral directors) be approved.

PL/109 **THE ERECTION OF AN EXTENSION AND ALTERATION AT NO. 5 MERE BECK, AMBASTON 9/2014/0150/FH**

The Committee was informed that following discussions, the applicant had agreed to change the proposals and to accept certain conditions on the scheme.

RESOLVED:-

That planning permission be granted, subject to the conditions set out in the report of the Director of Community and Planning Services.

PL/110 **THE ERECTION OF 66 DWELLINGS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, DEVELOPMENT OF NEW COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SPORTS HALL AND CAR PARK WITH DEMOLITION OF EXISTING PAVILLION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW PLAY AREA AND TWO NEW FOOTBALL PITCHES ON LAND OFF CHESTNUT AVENUE, MIDWAY 9/2014/0158/RSD.**

The Committee was reminded by the Head of Planning Services that some members had visited the site of this proposed development earlier in the day. It was explained that the scheme had been developed by the Council, in conjunction with Strata Homes, and was supported by local members.

Members discussed the proposed development. There was general agreement that this was a high quality scheme, which would be of real benefit to the local community.

RESOLVED:-

That planning permission be granted, subject to the conditions set out in the report of the Director of Community and Planning Services.

PL/111 **THE CONVERSION OF A BARN TO DOMESTIC ANEXEE WITH THE ERECTION OF A CONSERATORY AT NO.80 WEST STREET, WESTON ON TRENT. 9/2014/0261/FM**

The Committee was informed that changes had been made to the proposed development. As a consequence of these, the Committee was now recommended to approve the application.

RESOLVED:-

That planning permission be granted subject to the conditions set out in the report of the Director of Community and Planning Services.

PL/112 **THE ERECTION OF ONE, TWO AND THREE BEDROOM BUNGALOWS AND HOUSES WITH ASSOCIATED PARKING, GARDENS AND ACCESS ON LAND AT PENNINE WAY, SWADLINCOTE. 9/2014/0278/RSD.**

It was reported that members of the Committee had visited the site prior to the Meeting. The Head of Planning explained that the proposal involved the creation of housing on land at the end of Pennine way.

Members of the Committee welcomed the proposed development. The Committee was informed that as a condition for the development, works vehicles would not be allowed to approach the site at the beginning or end of the school day in order to help prevent any traffic problems from being caused for local residents.

RESOLVED:-

That planning permission be granted, subject to the conditions set out in the report of the Director of Community and Planning Services.

PL/113 **THE CONVERSION OF A FORMER PUBLIC HOUSE AND RESTAURANT TO A SINGLE DWELLING AND THE ERECTION OF FOUR DWELLINGS ON LAND AT NO. 92 ASHBY ROAD, MELBOURNE. 9/2014/006/FX**

Members received a report on the development. As part of this, the various conditions that had been placed on the development were explained.

RESOLVED:-

That planning permission be granted, subject to the conditions set out in the report of the Director of Community and Planning Services.

PL/114 **THE ERECTION OF AN EXTENSION AT HILL TOP BARN, MAIN STREET, INGLEBY. 9/3013/1013/FH.**

It was reported that members of the Committee had visited the site prior to the Meeting. The Head of Planning Services explained that concerns about the proposed development had been raised by the Council's conservation officer;

both in terms of impact on the 'roofline' of the barn conversions as a whole and on the nearby listed farmhouse.

The Committee heard from the representative of the applicant, who spoke in favour of the development. In particular, that the proposal would not have a serious impact either on the barn conversions as a whole or on the listed farmhouse.

RESOLVED:-

That planning permission for the erection of an extension at Hill Top Barn, Main Street Derby be granted. That the Head of Planning Services be authorised to agree the necessary conditions on the development.

PL/115 **THE ERECTION OF DWELLING AND GARAGE ON LAND SOUTH OF WOODBINE COTTAGE, ASHBY ROAD, TICKNALL, DERBY 19/2014/0245/FM**

Members were reminded that previous applications for developments on this site had not been approved. They were also informed that the County Highway Authority objected to the proposed development because of the restricted access to it. The Committee was advised that there were valid reasons for rejecting the proposed development as unsuitable for the site.

RESOLVED:-

That planning permission be refused for the reasons set out in the report by the Director of Community & Planning Services.

PL/116 **APPEAL DECISIONS**

The Committee noted the results of various appeal decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate:

- Appeal 'A' – land lying to the west of Main Street, Repton
- Appeal 'B' – 136 Main Street, Repton

PL/117 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

PL/118 Enforcement Action - Willington

Members received a report on this issue.

Resolved:

That the recommendations be approved.

M. FORD

CHAIRMAN

EXTRACTS FROM MARTYN FORD TWITTER FEED



Martyn Ford

I am the Derbyshire County Councillor for the Etwell & Repton Division. I also represent Willington & Findern on South Derbyshire District Council. Conservative

Joined August 2012

Tweet to Martyn Ford

2 Photos and videos



TWEETS 961 FOLLOWING 205 FOLLOWERS 128 FAVORITES 16

Tweets Tweets & replies Photos & videos

Martyn Ford retweeted [redacted] 3h [redacted]

Martyn Ford retweeted Countryside Alliance @CAupdates Oct '13 Rural pubs worth up to £120k to community morningadvertiser.co.uk/General-News/R via @momingad View summary

Martyn Ford [redacted] Oct 12 [redacted]

Martyn Ford retweeted [redacted] Mar 12 [redacted]

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Ford
 Tweets: **985** | **FOLLOWING** **224** | **FOLLOWERS** **147** | **FAVOURITES** **16**

[REDACTED]

View more photos and videos

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Great stuff on Radio Derby this morning WheelEnders! to me, kwXtalsR

[REDACTED]



View more photos and videos

03/11/2017 10:55 AM [REDACTED] 03/11/2017 10:55 AM

03/11/2017 10:55 AM [REDACTED] 03/11/2017 10:55 AM

Marilyn Ford retweeted
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
1.3K 532 ...

Marilyn Ford retweeted
WheelEnders @WheelFindern Sep 2
Finderners march on! Sat 6th Sept 3pm Murray's may have our pub but
they won't break our community! #casksnotcaskets #saynotomurrays
5 4 ...

Marilyn Ford retweeted
[redacted]
[redacted]



View more photos and videos

Martyn Ford retweeted

[Redacted] Sep 1

[Redacted]

1

Martyn Ford [Redacted] Aug 31

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

#greatleaseratesnow

1

Martyn Ford [Redacted] Aug 28

For #greatleaserates on cars, vans & 4x4's contact
Martyn pjmercia@yahoo.com for details, you won't be disappointed!



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#DeVinci Join the network's promote your business for free! Tuesday 9-9pm. Enough to you by building business. Online ID: #B91Z7



During

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Related informal informative network group. 200+ membership with 140+ monthly meetings. Tweets by @ayvex @themleasscater

WheelEnders

3M Tue 11:47am · Aug 11

Even our American pals think selling the Wheel to Murray's was a hideous crime. #saynotomurrays #wheelgoreglobal



View multiple photos and videos

WheelEnders

3M Tue 11:47am · Aug 11

Even our American pals think selling the Wheel to Murray's was a hideous crime. #saynotomurrays #wheelgoreglobal

[View more photos and videos](#)

 Mandy (photo removed)

[Redacted text]

 Mica (photo removed)

Aug 11

WheelF is the heart of a community is its local hostelry, the heart of any hostelry is its local community!

 Mandy (photo removed)

Aug 11

[Redacted text]



██████████ · Aug 1 Search Twitter
██████████ we need to sort a procession out xx
Reply Retweet Favorite More

██████████ Follow

@██████████ totally agree - next phase of protest needs rolling out #casksnotcaskets

Reply Retweet Favorite More

RETWEET
1

4:00 AM - 1 Aug 2014

Reply to ██████████

Trends

Out Of The Woods London War Pigs Taylor Swift #RuinADessert #HappyHumes
#WhereWasKimJongUn #AdaLovelaceDay Sadiq Khan #sydneystorm

Derby Telegraph (verified)

████████████████████ (verified) Jun 17

— untpd it/s/c 102765580

[View summary](#)

Martyn Ford ██████████ Jun 17

██████████ not in The Wheel they haven't, our pub has been stolen from us by Murrays Funeral Directors#casksnocasks

[View conversation](#)

Derby Telegraph (verified)

██████████ Jun 17

Beer sales in pubs rise at fastest rate in 21st Century - Telegraph
ow lyzBQ0s

[View summary](#)

Derby Telegraph (verified)

Derby Telegraph (verified) Jun 17

Find out which Derbyshire pub our beerhunter @Crawford1 says is a "revived hostility" ow lyzCL3g

@CityBizNotis

#CityBiz is a growing community of brilliant .ndependently owned businesses You can register your business for Free to appear on our.

@NetworkingDerby

Hello! We are a friendly networking group that meet every other Tuesday at the Derby Conference Centre at 7.45am Head over to our website for further.

Martyn Ford retweeted
[redacted] Jul 11

An open letter to our supporters and sympathisers

A pub isn't just a place to go for a beer Many people go
fb.me/6UIUKXUdD

← ↻ 3 ★ 1 ...

(see attached for letter).

Martyn Ford retweeted
[redacted] Jul 11

[redacted] help us get our pub back from Murray's funeral directors #casksnolcaskets #savethewheelinnfindem we want a pub

← ↻ 2 ★ 2 ...

Martyn Ford retweeted
[redacted] Jul 11

[redacted] don't forget #doombarnoldeath and #marstonsnolmortuary





Save The Wheel Inn Findern

11:11 AM

An open letter to our supporters and sympathisers:

A pub isn't just a place to go for a beer. Many people go for a tea or a coffee, something to eat and somewhere to take the kids on a warm weekday evening or a sunny weekend but they mainly go to meet friends and family to chat, socialise and enjoy others company. So just imagine that one day you head off to the pub only to find it closed, shut, no longer trading. So you ask why and are told that for no apparent reason the owners have sold it off because they no longer want it. And you ask who has bought it and are told it has been bought by an agent for someone, but no-one will tell you who. Then horror of horrors you find that the pub, your meeting ground and place of happy memories has been bought by a Funeral Director. You thought it had to remain a pub because these businesses were protected when there was only one in the area, but no - apparently a pub and an undertaker are classed in the same category so one can become the other with no planning application at all. So you ask why the Funeral Director has bought your pub but they decline to comment. You ask if they would be willing to sell the pub to someone who wants to keep it trading as a pub and they say no, even when making a profit for their troubles. They say they are a warm friendly caring business that wants to integrate and become a valuable member of your community. But you wonder how this can ever happen. After all, they didn't consider the effect they would have on the community when buying the only pub in the village and closing it down. They didn't consider the community when they declined the chance to sell the building back to an interested party for a profit. And they must have had an idea of the feelings that this purchase would generate otherwise they wouldn't have needed to buy the pub using an agent and a cloak of secrecy. And how will they ever become a valued member of the community when they know they have upset so many people. Your pub, a place of pleasure, friendships, meetings and happiness has suddenly become a place of death, sadness and misery. How can these people EVER think that they would be welcome? And how will they become a valuable member of the community when all they have to offer is the thought that they took our only place of social gatherings and turned it into a place of death, the complete opposite of anything happy. Once we saw the drays bringing in the beer. Now we see the black ambulance bringing in the dead, and the hearses with the caskets taking out the dead. Oh joy... So please please please when the time comes as it will for us all, to move from this place to the next DON'T use Murray's of Burton. They might profess to be a caring family business but in reality they only care about themselves and their wants. If they don't care about a whole community why would you expect them to care about your loved one.

11:11 AM

11:11 AM

Like Comment

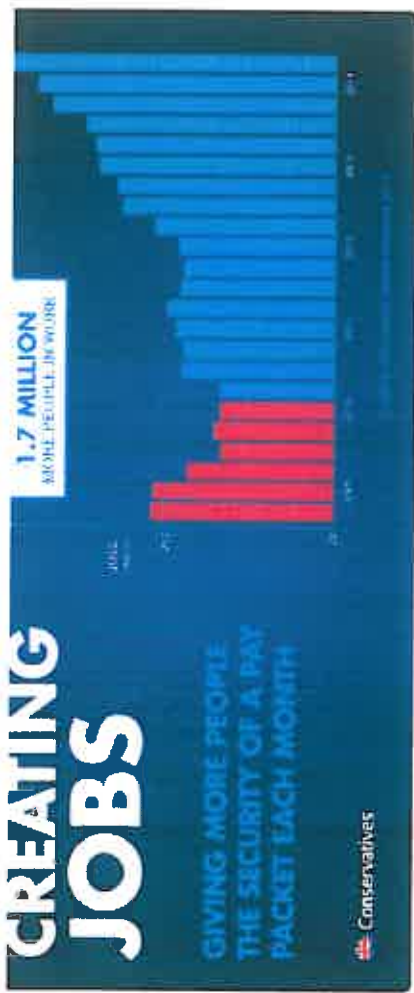


others like this.

Top Comments



only we should have used Murray's to buy this for their health



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Martyn Ford [redacted] Jul 11

@WheelFindern [redacted] we just want our pub back for all generations. Murrays are wiping out 150 years of history with their plans!

[View conversation](#)

WheelEnders [redacted]

@wheelendern [redacted] Jul 11

#casknotcaskets #savethewheel #lastpubfindern #saynotomurrays





WheelEnders | WheelFindern Jul 11

Another sunny weekend ahead with no pub in Findern...a community ripped apart... do the right thing Murray's Independent Funeral Directors

2 1



[Redacted] Jul 11

@WheelFindern I really miss going there ...its so sad ...

1



WheelEnders | WheelFindern Jul 11

[Redacted] It's tragic to see it rotting away. Years of happy memories for us. Future generations will miss out on so much :-)



Martyn Ford

[Redacted]



[Follow](#)

@WheelFindern [Redacted] we just want our pub back for all generations. Murrays are wiping out 150 years of history with their plans!

2

2



2 Jul 11 - 11:02 AM



[Redacted] @WheelFindern [Redacted]



[Redacted] Jul 11

MISSING - THE WHEEL INN

Last seen in Findern, please return to village if found

WheelEnders
 #casksnotcaskets #savethewheel #asipubfindern #saynotomunays

facebook.com/wheelenders

Whee Enders @wheeenders
#askandaskets #savehewheel #lastpublifindem #saynotomurray



view more photos and videos

Martyn Ford
excellent breakfast meeting @JChflowersystems with @SouthLibby Hill

CCHQ Press Office
live presenter Nicola from Labour was able to talk to us about the

Martyn Ford



TWEETS 999 FOLLOWING 225 FOLLOWERS 143 FAVORITES 16



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Martyn Ford

Murrays are robbing Findern of our history and stealing our future #casksnotcaskets#bassnotbodies #heinekenmotheases



The crew



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Martyn Ford

985

FOLLOWING 224

FOLLOWERS 147

FAVOURITE 16



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WheelEnders @wheelenders · 10th Jul 19
 @LennyBeard1111 Save the Wheel! #wheelendings



View more photos and videos

@user · 10th Jul 19



[Redacted text]
 [Redacted text]
 [Redacted text]

for details- eepurl.com/YgH-L #shoutout #biztalk #Pis KI

[View summary](#)



Martyn Ford @martynford5 Jul 9

Look East Midlands @lookeastmidland Jul 9
If you need design, printing, promotion give @graphic_results a shout who set up & support #eastmidlandshour & @lookeastmidland .Pis RT

7



Martyn Ford @martynford5 Jul 9

#eastmidlandshour now is a great time to chose your new van, car or 4x4 contact Martyn pjmercio@yahoo.com for our super lease rates RT

5



WheelEnders @wheelenders Jul 9

Good luck guys! The WheelEnders fans will be watching and rooting for you!

2

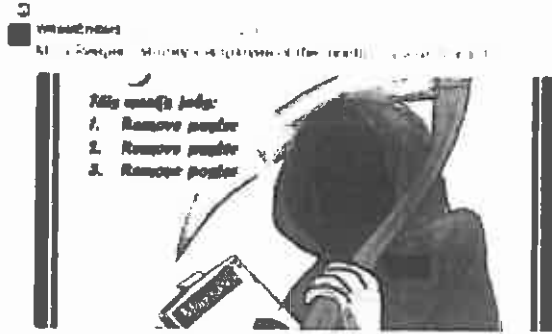
[View conversation](#)



Martyn Ford @martynford5 Jul 9

[Redacted text]

Caption: [illegible] (The text is too faint and blurry to transcribe accurately.)



Caption: [illegible] (The text is too faint and blurry to transcribe accurately.)



Martyn Ford retweeted

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 9

Hmmmm... no housing plans say Murray's... So are you hoping all the Save the Wheel campaigners drop dead so you can make your fortune?

3 1


Martyn Ford retweeted


WheelEnders @WheelFindern
Funeral firm boss vows: No housing on former Derbyshire pub site | Derby Telegraph po.st/6Z1Nkf via @po_st
1 retweet
Reply to @WheelFindern @Po_st

WheelEnders @WheelFindern
@WheelFindern ...im a great believer in comeuppance ...they won't be brave for much longer ..
0 retweets
0 replies






Martyn Ford  **985** **234** **147** **16**

 **[redacted]** **[redacted]** **[redacted]**





 **@whistlers** **[redacted]**
@JudyBrewer: Great comments again in today's Telegraph! Thank you for your continued support. Some out of the box & new age answers asked.

 **@Rods-RoyceMotorCars** **[redacted]**
The wish is a bit expensive at best, but I'm sure you'll be able to find a way to make it happen.






Home Public @ # Direct Messages Search Filter

Martyn Ford     

985 224 147 16






Localgov.co.uk    

Councils urged to ramp up pub protection role localgov.co.uk/councils


Martyn Ford     

WheelEnders in smiling assassin! The face of the shirmy <https://twitter.com/WheelEnders/status/1481014914144896000> #thiskennotheais#bassnobodies






[View conversation](#)

WheelEnders     

Murray's 'caring & personable' - or money grabbing phony - stealing the heart from a community




[View more photos and videos](#)

LGU     

How can play a key role in protecting community pubs argue <https://www.localgov.co.uk/news/2022/04/20/how-can-play-a-key-role-in-protecting-community-pubs-argue/>

[Local Growth Fund](#) [heatherwheeler.org.uk/blog/3934](#) #funding #SouthDerbyshire

 **Germany dump Brazil out tonight** Thiago Silva and The Show Pony are out. Their huge loss highlights how poor this Brazilian generation is.

 **WheelEnders** Well done Murray's - this is how you make a community feel. You must be so proud of your efforts.



[View more photos and videos](#)

 **Thiago Silva** The Starry Arms ...



Martyn Ford

TWEETS

985

FOLLOWING

224

FOLLOWERS

147

FAVOURITES

16



fox

[Redacted tweet text]



[Redacted tweet text]

[Redacted tweet text]

[View statistics](#)



Martyn Ford

Nothing nicer than fresh strawberries and cream, other than fresh sparkling Bass in the local, but thanks to Murrays we haven't got a local!



WheelEnders

at MartynFord5 [Redacted] cating & compassionate? My proverbial arse ars they!!! Go back to Burton Murray's [Redacted] baskets

[View conversation](#)



[Redacted tweet text]



WheelEnders · WheelFindern · Jul 5

Sunny Saturday afternoon... cheeky beers in the local undertakers anyone?
Thanks Murray's for closing the local & leaving it to rot...

2 1



Martyn Ford [redacted] · Jul 5

We could be in there now, it was all set up to carry on as a
pub, Murrays said no! They don't care about our community.....

2 1



WheelEnders

· WheelFindern



Follow

[@MartynFord5](#) [@ \[redacted\]](#) caring &
compassionate? My proverbial arse are
they!!! Go back to Burton Murray's!
[#casksnotcaskets](#)

2



Martyn Ford

TWEETS
985

FOLLOWING
224

FOLLOWERS
147

FAVOURITES
16


 **Martyn Ford** [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

 **Martyn Ford** [redacted]
[redacted]

[View conversation](#)

 **WheelEzcers** [redacted]
[redacted] We could save closed pubs from becoming a funeral parlour says leading brewer | Derby Telegraph [http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk](#)

 **Martyn Ford** [redacted]
[redacted] **What a game this is 2 good goals Robben different gear#WorldCup2014**

 **Martyn Ford** [redacted]
[redacted] **Hello Chatsworth House! What a great Sunday evening flight through the Lakes and Peaks Ladybower included - amazing!**

Martyn Ford 


985 **224** **147** **16**






View more photos and videos




 I remember when we were still good enough to go out on penshiss

Martyn Ford 
 Amazing feature in todays Derby Evening Telegraph about the fight to save The Wheel inn Findam from @thequintetables



 [Redacted text]

Martyn Ford 
 [Redacted text] a great band from Montreal, one of the best city's on the planet! 6 of the best months of my life spent there


Home Notifications Messages # Discover Search


Martyn Ford 


TWEETS 985 FOLLOWERS 224 FOLLOWING 147 FAVORITES 16


[Conservatives](#)


View more photos and videos


Martyn Ford  **An important Food Liaison meeting at South Derbyshire District Council this morning, all partners attending**

Martyn Ford  **Pub to be funeral parlour? Over our dead bodies, say Derbyshire villagers | Derby Telegraph [http://bit.ly/1pduvja](#)**

Martyn Ford  **Supporting Help for Heroes Ball at cricket pavilion in Derby organised by Maxine Harlow on 12 July tickets still available tweet or email me**

Martyn Ford  **Wheeliepinet Murrys are flippin deluded. Saving our community they must be joking surely [http://bit.ly/1dks5nd](#) [http://bit.ly/1dks5nd](#) [http://bit.ly/1dks5nd](#)**

Martyn Ford  **Today we launched our new Small Cottage Shop online [derbyshire-beautifullmillsderwentmillscottages.co.uk](#) [http://bit.ly/1dks5nd](#)**

 **Martyn Ford**  Jun 24
#heinekennohearses #bassnotbodies #casksnotcaskets

Martyn Ford 985 224 147 16 Follow

more info

WheelEnders at Archway Motors. HUGE THANK YOU for supporting SAVE THE WHEEL! Look out for this Save the Wheel banner at Archway Motors Enderm

Mercia Marina Bring the family and join us for a fun filled day at our Classic Car Show on Sunday July 13th. [WheelEnders](#) to meet!

WheelEnders [WheelEnders](#) the ghasly ghesul

WheelEnders [WheelEnders](#) who knows?!

WheelEnders The poster thief has struck again! Trespass off & leave our posters alone! [Lackofcustody](#)

[View conversation](#)

[View conversation](#)



WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 24

The poster thief has struck again! Trespass off & leave our posters alone!
#casksnocaskels #saynotomurrays

2 1



[Redacted] Jun 24

@WheelFindern why the hell do they want a funeral directors in the village ...defo must have very sad lonely lives...

1



WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 24

@charfordie30 who knows?! #grimreaper

3



[Redacted]



Follow

@WheelFindern the ghastly ghou. ...

Summary of

2



View all 2 items



Martyn Ford

TWEETS 985 **FOLLOWING** 224 **FOLLOWERS** 147 **FAVOURITES** 16
[#asknotaskets](#) [#symptomtrays](#)

WheelEnders [@wheelenders](#)
 WheelEnders show their support & solidarity yet again! Amazing turn out tonight! [#asknotaskets](#) [#symptomtrays](#)

[@redacted](#)
 When Friday I love the little village where I grew up. This community are showing so much strength, determination and soul. No surrender. [#asknotaskets](#)

Martyn Ford [@martynford](#)
 Hi [@EnterpriseHour](#), contact me at Martyn.Pillmer@yahoocan.com for fantastic lease rates on all cars, vans & 4x4's Please RT

Enterprise Hour [@EnterpriseHour](#)

 **Martyn Ford**


TWEETS **985** FOLLOWING **224** FOLLOWERS **147** FAVORITES **16**



 **Martyn Ford** 10h
 Derby Telegraph: If local residents need to get on to their councillor, who is

[View conversation](#)

 **Martyn Ford** 10h
 Check out the Derby college stand at the Derbyshire County Show, say hello to @481/oxford, Mathew to you and me!

 **Martyn Ford** 10h
 Good morning WheelEnders! Poll results 212 signatures with zero support for Murrays We had one negative [fb.me/vA1KjnmVW](#)



View more photos and videos



15  Jun 22

Fantastic day at Findern Fete yesterday. There was immense support. No surrender. #casksknotcaskets The Wheel forever



1  Jun 22

View more photos and videos



1  Jun 22

Martyn Ford
 TWEETS 985 FOLLOWING 224 FOLLOWERS 147 FAVORITES 16

[Redacted]
 Somewhere a Carlsberg ad executive is on the phone "What what do you mean already??"

Martyn Ford
 Really need [Redacted] to mention @Wheelers during his commentary ::heinekennotheases ::asknotaskets

[Redacted]
 "Wheelers" ::asknotaskets "Jensen you beauty" ❤️❤️



View more photos and videos

[Redacted]
 Congratulations @BombardierUK securing a £103m extension to their West Coast mainline contract @RailBusiness @RailIndustry

Martyn Ford

995 224 145 16

In 1975 a 17 year old boy was killed while riding his moped. He was killed exactly a year after his 17

[View more photos and videos](#)

They don't show this footage of the Spain fans smashing down a wall to get out

WheelEnders
Episode 145 WheelEnders goes national! Roll on episode 145
-caskin00-bskels -saytotomurray

Martyn Ford
Hi [readsmidlandshour](#) contact Martyn pimercia@yahoo.com for fantastic lease rates on all makes of car Van 2 4x4 Please RT

WheelEnders
Episode 145 WheelEnders goes national! Roll on episode 145
-caskin00-bskels -saytotomurray

WheelEnders
Episode 145 WheelEnders goes national! Roll on episode 145
-caskin00-bskels -saytotomurray

Martyn Ford

995 224 145 16

lease rates on all makes of car, van & 4x4 Please RT

[Redacted]

at Wtself findem please please please nope you see sense we will give you a good send off

View conversation

[Redacted] oh

CLAIMANT COUNT

Those seeking work and claiming benefits principally because they are not in work

1.09m

27k

455k

Lowest number since October 2008



WheelEnders · Wheel Findern · Jun 18

Episode 139 ... Murray's where's your business sense? Sell up & glide quietly in your hearse out of Findern #casksnotcaskets

2 1



[Redacted name]



Follow

@WheelFindern please please please ...hope you see sense ...we will give you a good send off

2 1



1 1



charfordie30 @WheelFindern



Follow



Mediations



Martyn Ford

995

224

145

16

Those seeking work and claiming benefits principally because they are not in work

1.09m

people aged 18 and over were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

27k

on the month on the year

405k

Lowest number since October 2008

NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE

View more photos and videos



WheelEnders

Episode 138 Are Murray's in denial or are they just deaf?

#notinthe labour force



WheelEnders

Episode 139 Murray's caring and personable approach clearly doesn't

involve basic manners [@havelthecourtesy@transport](#)



WheelEnders

Episode 138 Murray's where's your business sense? Sell up 2, guide

quietly in your hears: out of Enderm [@asknotasklets](#)

Martyn Ford

Tweets 995 Retweets 224 Likes 145

16

Constituents and New Media Minister at the UK's second largest Chamber of Commerce and Industry @CNCIukBiz may News is the

This is not for your criticism

Whistleblower today I've been busy. #asksnotasks #indern #savethewheel #indern #beersnob #leaves at omnium




View more photos and videos

Labour have spent 3 days arguing about their Leader holding the UK's top-selling newspaper. What hope have they of running the country?

Martyn Ford  

TWEETS 995 FOLLOWERS 224 FAVORITES 16


 Excited that today is the start of the World Cup - or as it is known in Scotland Thursday

 **WheelEnders**  Wheelie puns wheelie puns are waiting for you Brian the window cleaner doesn't miss a trick -)

 A huge thank you to everyone who sent messages of support on my election as Chairman of [redacted]

 Looking forward to the World Cup! The best place to watch the excitement is with your friends in your local pub!

 **Martyn Ford**  #beersnotbodies #casksnotcaskets

 [redacted]


Martyn Ford [View Profile](#) [Add to contacts](#)

995 **224** **145** **16**


@waleshour [View Profile](#)

Daily legal - Welsh hour every Tuesday between 9am - 10am Get involved in a hour of asking your area what you think about the RTI Bill's


@walesenders [View Profile](#)


Keep calm and get over it? Loving Murray's Financial Director's new marketing language! [@walesenders](#) [@walesenders](#) [@walesenders](#)


@martynford [View Profile](#)

[Redacted text] [@martynford](#) [@martynford](#)


Martyn Ford [View Profile](#)

[Redacted text] [@martynford](#) [@martynford](#)


@mariaharrell [View Profile](#)

A lovely article on part of our Africa Modern [@mariaharrell](#)

Martyn Ford

TWEETS 995 FOLLOWING 224 FOLLOWERS 145 FAVORITES 16



 [Redacted]



 [Redacted]


 WheelEnders

 "Spoiler Alert" Residents hear rumours of a builder offering funeral folks 5

 x.what they paid .£1.3m . Bob must be feeling rich!



 [Redacted]

 #pmds


 Martyn Ford followed [Redacted]

Martyn Ford

995

224

145

16



Follow

Follow

Conservative in the European Parliament. European Conservative and reformist.

Conservative MP for London. Passionate about community and non-state solutions to big events.

Martyn Ford
Chairman of the Conservative Party



Hiring confidence is at highest since recession for London

View summary



Great deals of the month for cars, vans & 4x4's contact

View summary


Martyn Ford

995 **224** **145** **16**

Martyn Ford
 Great deals of the month for Cars, Vans & 4x4's contact
Martyn.plimencia@yanoo.com for super lease rates Please RT


WheelEnders
 Beautiful June evening. Pint in the Wheel Inn garden anyone?
<https://www.facebook.com/WheelEnders>



View more photos and videos

Martyn Ford

TWEETS 995 FOLLOWERS 224 FOLLOWING 145

...
...
express.co.uk/finance/city/4

View summary

WheelEnders

Bruce Willis 1999 thriller Rumour of a remake in Findem #thesixthsense #casksnot#askels #saynottomurays



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...
...
...

Martyn Ford

TWEETS **995**
 FOLLOWING **224**
 FOLLOWERS **145**
 FAVORITES **16**

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[View summary](#)

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Martyn Ford

Martyn Ford

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Martyn Ford with South Derbyshire awards tonight all the best to entrants from SD

Martyn Ford A lovely afternoon to go to the local and have a drink with friends after work not if you live in Farnham No pub thanks to Murrays ((

Martyn Ford We honour today those few, whose bravery gave us the peace & freedom that we have enjoyed for the last 70 years

Martyn Ford Its official there are now more practising Jedi in the world than there are

WheelEnders Episode 108 Happy Hour at The Wheel rent one hearse get another one free



Mercia SNT

Martyn Ford  **224** **145** **16**



View more photos and videos

Martyn Ford Verified account **#dontletmurrayskillourcommunity**

-  **[REDACTED]** [REDACTED] **[REDACTED]**
-  **[REDACTED]** [REDACTED] **[REDACTED]**

Martyn Ford

996

224

145

16

standards... at:chill@safell.com

[Redacted text block]

144

WheelEnders

WheelEnders V Location Location Location ...:deadopposite

View summary

Martyn Ford

...:dontletmurraysburythewheelfindern

[Redacted text block]

135

[Redacted text block]

How much damage is Murray's funeral directors of Burton going to their brand nationally by being so uncaring of Findern ...:asksthataskst

[Redacted text block]

Home Audio books Messages # Dis over

996 224 145 16

WheelEnders are heading west with a new car. The road has been closed by refurty's Police and will remain so for some time


WheelEnders Murray's caring personable approach clearly doesn't apply to those who take the time to write & email their concerns [nyjox files](#)

The pub e place where you can have a pint or a stout if you want, a place where you can have a quiet drink and [the night](#)

Martyn Ford [readstmidlandshour](#) now the time to order your next car van or 4x4 Great lease rates contact martyn.pjmercia@yahoo.com for details

WheelEnders Murray's should open a community room and bar You know - like a pub!

WheelEnders Episode 81 Is it all gossip & hearsay or are there funeral fans in Funderm???





WheelEnders WheelEnders May 20

Episode 81..... Is it all gossip & hearsay or are there 'funeral fans' in Findern???

[View photo](#)



[Redacted]



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[@WheelFindern](#) there's nowhere to hold Wakes anymore - perhaps Murrays should open a community room and bar ... You know - like a pub!

2

1



[View all 3 comments](#)



[\[Redacted\]](#) [@WheelFindern](#)



WheelEnders WheelEnders May 20

[\[Redacted\]](#) Genius! Perhaps the big empty building on the corner?!



Effel you darft
ode bag I
would rather
have a gin 'n'
orange in the
Wheel!

My little Willy
reckons if we
support Murray's we
might get a discount

You're
talking
tripe Effel



WheelEnders Series 1, Episode 1
Episode 1: Is it all gossip & hearsay or are there 'funeral fans' in Findern 777?

Martyn Ford

TWEETS 995

FOLLOWING 224

FOLLOWERS 145

FAVORITE 16

You're talking

My little Willy reckons if we support Murray's we

Enter you wait
ode bag I
would rather
have a gin 'n'
reanne in the

[View more photos and videos](#)

Wheelself-identifi so some villagers have sent messages of support to Murray's year night - some old time spouled by Murray's spokesman

[View conversation](#)

WheelEnders
MURDER on Come tonight! Quick Murray's get in their

Wheelself-identifi the fets procession looks a bit miserable this year!

[View conversation](#)

EAST MIDLANDS MEPs Roger Heimer (UKIP), Emma McClarkin (Con), Glennys Wilmott (Lab), Margot Parker (UKIP), Andrew Lewer (Con)



WheelEnders · 12 · 1000+ members · 14 · 251
 Group step up campaign to save village's only pub
burtom@mail.co.uk · [News/Group-ste](#)



[Redacted]
 [Redacted]



Follow

[@WheelFindern](#) so some villagers have sent messages of support to Murrays? yeah right - same old tripe spouted by Murrays spokesman

3

2



[Redacted]

[@WheelFindern](#)

Home Notifications Messages # Follows

Martyn Ford

995 224 145 16

We need to keep our boys and win this league next season in derby county

#beetsoutlets #keepcalmandsavehell #asknot #asknot #findem

N O T C A S K E
 KEEP CALM *and* SAVE THE

100s like a villain from a Coen brothers film | expect he delivers his half-time team talk holding a cattle-gun

View more photos and videos

Martyn Ford

995 FOLLOWERS 224 FOLLOWING 145 FAVORITES 16

Anyone trying to call outcome of 2015 election might as well try to predict next year's Grand National

Loved the applause for [redacted] at Wembley Nothing comes together like football in tough moments

WheelEnders Where do we want to watch the mighty Rams??? The Wheel Thanks Murray's for cruelly taking this opportunity away from us!

WheelEnders Villagers & supporters all rally against Murray's funeral directors & their decision to rip the heart & soul out the community of Fildem

[redacted]

Martyn Ford



995

224

145

16

Advis for anyone handing back a lease call in the next month or so
Check your alloys for damage!

Martyn Ford



Keep calm and drive the wheel in ask about askets



Wheel if modern. Off to vote later such a shame we cannot pop into our
local on the way home We miss our cars & only put in ask about askets

WheelEnders



Episode 52 I am cannot face life without the wheel!





View more photos and videos





Sampling day


to me 1HNqkPd5



Martyn Ford
995
224
145
16



WheelEnders
 Episode 43 The mission statement is published locally rally to 'Save the Wheel'


WheelEnders
 We seek to use peaceful & legal means in order to reach our objectives of restoring the pub back to the community. [#assaultsok](#) [#pubsok](#)


WheelEnders
 We're reserving the right to state the view that we would like this pub to be reopened. [#pubsok](#) [#assaultsok](#)


WheelEnders
 @Substymon Any independent breweries out there who want to have a beer sent at Fildern Isle 21st June [#pubsok](#) [#assaultsok](#)


WheelEnders
 @Substymon we'll meet again don't no where don't know when but I know we'll meet again some sunny dayyyy


WheelEnders

Martyn Ford

995 224 145 16

WheelEnders
 SPOILER ALERT The Committee is formed just when you thought Bill was lost the residents start the fight back

WheelEnders
 @CAMRA official @Resident in Enderm His village will no public Felle 21st June perhaps a beer tent on the green?!

WheelEnders
 Episode 35 On a recent trip to Mercia Marina Phil & Grant fancied a pint in the local pub



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Martyn Ford
 995
 224
 145
 16
Findern...

View more photos and videos

WheelEnders
 #wheelend30
 #wheelend30 at Wheelend all put it in my will to send me thiers
 Wellings I hope??

Martyn Ford
 #wellovwellings #beersnoiteats #asksnotcaskets

WheelEnders
 Genius marketing play by Wellings Funeral Directors of Burton! Leafleting Findern #wellovwellings Caskets not casket!

WheelEnders
 New beer goes on sale but not in Findern



View more photos and videos

WheelEnders
 This worlds gods maid! Derbyshire county council has set aside £150,000 to pay pregnant women to stop smoking

Martyn Ford

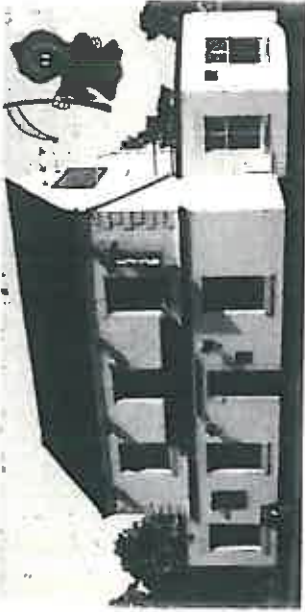
995 **LIKES** 224 **REPLIES** 146 **SHARES** 16



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WheelEnders

Grim reaper class kills and absolute temperature of 23 degrees



View more photos and videos

Martyn Ford

Fantastic community involvement in Fallow Well Dressing

Martyn Ford

Big Community day at Wellington Arts Festival in Fallow Well Dressing

Keen shunter sun 23

Martyn Ford [redacted]

TWEETS 995 FOLLOWING 224 FOLLOWERS 145 CAUGHTS 16

feart) we will all WIN & make the East Midlands Great & UK Great

Martyn Ford @MartynFord · 10h
 #beersnottears #saveourpubfromthegymtreaper
 #casksnottaskets

[redacted]

Martyn Ford @MartynFord · 10h
 You can buy Bass in Las Vegas but not in
 The Wheel #casksnottaskets
 #beersnottears



View more photos and videos

Martyn Ford

995 224 145 16



View more photos and videos

Supporting as Wheelers we are trying to save our pubs and only pub in our lovely village

WheelEnders Residents start to wonder what is next barbed wire???



View more photos and videos

Wheelers@wheelers Please support our fight. We cannot lose the only pub in this village

Martyn Ford

995 224 145 16

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WheelEnders
Thirsty villagers wonder what the future holds...
...wasting betting darling?



View more photos and videos

WheelEnders
Villagers invite funeral directors to discuss their plans for the pub's face to face... will they respond or hide behind their ceiling?

thankyou much appreciated

saveourpubwithhermionebar

Martyn Ford
995
224
145
16

... #savethepubfromnegotiators

... savethewheelinnindem please support this facebook page

... please support savethe-wheelinnindem facebook page

... follow me then

... savethewheelinnindem Please take a look at our campaign on Facebook

... savethewheelinnindem Please look on this facebook page

[Profile](#)
[Notifications](#)
[Messages](#)
[Unfollow](#)

Martyn Ford
995
224
145
16

[#keepthewheelinnfindernopenwedont wantcoffinswantoourvillagepub](#)

Martyn Ford

 it asks not askels save the wheel inn from the fune raldirc for snob body wants

RT

 girl hunting with eagles. Man golla!

bbc.co.uk/news/mia/zine < This hills are alive with my giant eagle



View more photos and videos.

Martyn Ford

[#keepthewheelinnfindernopenwedont wantcoffinswantoourvillagepub](#)

[Profile picture]

Martyn Ford **Martyn Ford**

996 Tweets 224 Retweets 145 Replies 16 Retweets



View more photos and videos

Martyn Ford **Martyn Ford**
 @punchlaverns don't kill our village pubs and community!

Martyn Ford **Martyn Ford**
 @MartynFord's popular tweets Close this pub kill the community. #saveourpubfrombeingreaper

View conversation

Martyn Ford **Martyn Ford**
 #saveourlocalfromthegrimreaperkeepthewhelocalpub

Martyn Ford **Martyn Ford**
 I course it's about saving The Wheel it's also about saving local pubs in every community #saveourlocalpubs



Martyn Ford [redacted] April

#saveourlocalfromthegrimreaperkeepthewheelasalocalpub

1 2



[redacted]
[redacted]



Follow

@MartynFord5 @punchpubs Close the pub
kill the community
#saveourpubfromthegrimreaper

2



19 April 2019



[redacted] : MartynFord5 @punchpubs

Martyn Ford [Profile Picture]

995
224
145
16

[Redacted]

#saveourpubfromthegrimeaper



View more photos and videos

Martyn Ford followed [Redacted]

WHEELENDERS TWITTER FEED

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Confirm your email address to access all of Twitter's features. A confirmation message was sent to becky_hazelidne@hotmail.com

Resend confirmation

WheelEnders

@WheelFindern

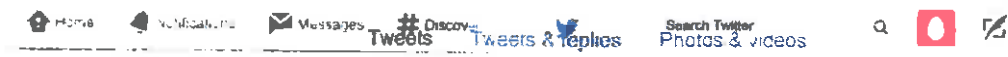
The only pub in the village is to become a funeral directors. We vow to fight against this!

Findern

Tweet to WheelEnders

9 photos in 1 video





WheelEnders retweeted
 [Profile] Sep 3
 WheelEnders! Looking forward to seeing everyone on Saturday either for a stroll through our beautiful village or... [@mex3Nrp06RF](#)

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Sep 3
 Saving the Wheel in Ibizal Go Kev!



WheelEnders @WheelFindern Sep 2
 Finderners march on! Sat 6th Sept 3pm.... Murray's may have our pub but they won't break our community! [#casksnotcaskets](#) [#saynotomurrays](#)

WheelEnders retweeted
 [Profile] Aug 29
 @WheelFindern another weekend without the pub . .so sad I miss it so much ...

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Aug 29
 Episode 279. Nudity in Findern scandal... who could be behind this? [#beernotbums](#) [#saynotomurrays](#)

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Aug 14
 Save the Wheel at Lincoln Cathedral [#casksnotcaskets](#) [#saynotomurrays](#)



Home Notifications Messages WheelEnders @WheelFindern Aug 18 Search Twitter

Even our American pals think selling the Wheel to Murray's was a hideous crime... #saynotomurray's #whelegoneglobal



WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Aug 11
[redacted] the heart of a community is its local hostelry, the heart of any hostelry is its local community!

WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Aug 1
[redacted] another weekend without going to our much loved pub #pub #pub #pub #pub


WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 19
Episode 274 Willington Carnival day... #whelegoneglobal #saveemwheel #saynotomurray's

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 14
Findern Open Gardens #community #whee supporters



Home Notifications Messages **WheelEnders @WheelFindern** Jul 13 Search Twitter

#asknotaskets #saynotomurray #savefindern



1 1 ...

WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jul 11
@WheelFindern @JerbyBeerFest fantastic well done girls ...

1 1 ...

WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jul 11
@MartynFord5 @WheelFindern [redacted] so let's aim high and hard and get Murray's shut down. End of...

2 2 ...

WheelEnders retweeted Martyn Ford MartynFord5 Jul 11
@WheelFindern [redacted] we just want our pub back for all generations. Murrays are wiping out 150 years of history with their plans!

2 2 ...


WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jul 11
@WheelFindern I really miss going there . its so sad ...

1 ...

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 11
Another sunny weekend ahead with no pub in Findern...a community ripped apart.... do the right thing Murray's Independent Funeral Directors

2 1 ...

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 1
WheelEnders the early days.... #asknotaskets



1 1 ...

WheelEnders followed and

Home Notifications Messages Discover Search Twitter



Seven Restaurant

@Sevendertby

Seven. The stunning new Restaurant and Cafe Bar in Derby UK



Tom Robinson

@ESPsecuritytd

Eagle Specialist Protection is a 21st Century Security firm offering the latest and most up to date forms of protection From Shropshire to Monaco!

WheelEnders @WheelFindern

#casksnotcaskets #savethewheel #lastpubinfindern #saynotomurrays



Retweet 3 Like 1

View this photo on your device

WheelEnders retweeted

[Redacted] Jul 10

@WheelFindern I can't wait for them to join Snapchat - hilarious . Quick glimpse of yew coffin anyone? Mmm brass handles ...

Retweet 2 Like 1

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 10

Murray's On Facebook! The excitement is KILLING us waiting for them to start Tweeting too. .

Retweet 1 Like 1

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 10

Welcome to the house of fun....



Retweet 3 Like 2

Home Notifications Messages #WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 10 Search Twitter

A grim warning to passers by... Murray's 'Fun' Parlour in Findern... #fallingmasonry #derelictbuilding #savethewheel



Retweet 2 Like 1

WheelEnders retweeted

Save The Storey Arms @storeyarms Jul 9

The Storey Arms project will be featured on the East Midlands Sunday Politics Show on the 13th July. BBC1 at 11am. Set your Sky+ now!!

Retweet 2 Like

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 9

Mr G Reaper - Murray's employee of the month #casksnotcaskets



Retweet 1 Like 1

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 9

A funeral parlour is a reminder of how short life is & that life is for living & it ought to be enjoyed #halloween #funeralparlour

Retweet 2 Like

WheelEnders retweeted

[Redacted] Jul 9

@ [Redacted] no surrender there business has already failed

Retweet 2 Like

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 7

Hmmm... no housing plans say Murray's.... So are you hoping all the Save the Wheel campaigners drop dead so you can make your fortune?

Retweet 3 Like 1

Home Notifications Messages #WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 9 Search Twitter

Funeral firm boss vows No housing on former Derbyshire pub site | Derby Telegraph [DO 5t 6Z1Nk](#) via @Derbyshire


WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 8
Cameras are watching you 'Murray's Minions'

WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jul 8
Crikey, you lot are like a plague of locusts I've put more sausages on, just give me a minula here, jeez

WheelEnders retweeted Colin @Hilton House @Hilton_House Jul 8
"Hilton House is not just a place, its a state of mind" That's thought provoking on [fb me/16DL700](#)

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 8
"@charfordie30 @WheelFindern is watching you take this as a warning ..." we won't tolerate thieves and trespassers #derbyshirepolice #999

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 8
Posters on private land just disappearing!
Murray's minions are on the loose....
someone must have spotted them...



WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 8
Episode 241 ... The villagers are watching you 'Murray's minions'! STOP stealing & trespassing! #JASKSHOWCASKETS

WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jul 8
@WheelFindern ...im a great believer in comeuppance ..they won't be brave for much longer .

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 8
Breaking news! Poster thief strikes in broad daylight! Murray's your minions usually wait for the cloak of darkness! Feeling brave huh???



Home Notifications Messages **WheelEnders @WheelFindern** Jul 8 Search Twitter

65 days ago the Wheel door slammed shut, that's 2040 hours of hatred racked up against you now Murray's! Keep counting #theightwontstop

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 8
One of Murray's new publicly photos... #cashspitcaswell



WheelEnders retweeted
Localgov.co.uk @localgoveditors Jul 8
Councils urged to ramp up pub protection role [localgov.co.uk/news/2014/07/08/councils-urged-to-ramp-up-pub-protection-role](#) #localgov

WheelEnders retweeted
Save The Storey Arms @storeyarms Mar 31
Great to see the SOS posters in windows around osgalhorpe! [storeyarms](#)

WheelEnders retweeted
Save The Storey Arms @storeyarms Jun 8
Leicestershire villagers bidding to take over their local | Leicester Mercury [leicestermercury.com/news/2014/06/08/leicestershire-villagers-bidding-to-take-over-their-local](#)

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 8
"Murray's service is comprehensive in every detail, but also handled with the sensitivity that only a firm dedicated to quality can provide"

WheelEnders retweeted
[Redacted] Jul 8
@WheelFindern Claudio - Miss Barke in the lounge with fallen masonry #theightwontstop

WheelEnders retweeted
[Redacted] Jul 8
@ [Redacted] I think they are letting the building decompose in the hope that falling tiles and plaster will result in new customers

WheelEnders retweeted
[Redacted] Jul 9
Derby's Summer Beer Festival opens tomorrow - cheers! [derby.gov.uk/news/2014/07/09/derbys-summer-beer-festival-opens-tomorrow](#)



Home Notifications Messages **18:20:15** retweeted **Jul 8** Search Twitter

@WheelFindern that's cos we've got no pub and the worlds biggest funeral home as a village centrepiece! Can I claim compensation?

WheelEnders retweeted **Jul 8**

@WheelFindern it's alarming the effect no pub in the village has on house prices | Newsworthy almost!

WheelEnders **@WheelFindern** **Jul 8**
Some POOR folk in Findern have had to drop their house price by £25k to sell it . . . No pub in the village?

WheelEnders retweeted **Martyn Ford** **Jul 4**
@WheelFindern smiling assassins! The face of the enemy #cashtrotzackets #heinekenthearses#bassnotbodies

WheelEnders retweeted **LGIU @LGIU** **Jul 8**
#locargov can play a key role in protecting community pubs argue **LGIU** and **CAMPA_Other** via **@northamptonshireadvertiser** **Local General News**

WheelEnders **@WheelFindern** **Jul 8**
Murray's 'caring & personable'.... or money grabbing ghouls . . . stealing the heart from a community ..



✱ ✱

Well done Murray's - this is how you make a community feel.... You must be so proud of your efforts....



Retweets 4 Stars 2

WheelEnders followed [User 1], [User 2], [User 3], [User 4] and [User 5]



LGacomms
@LGacomms
The Local Government Association (LGA) is the national voice of local government. We work with councils to support, promote and improve local



Jane and Michael
@Burtons_Best
As the owners of Burtons Best we are passionate about promoting the best businesses locally via social media

WheelEnders retweeted [User] there's not enough embalming fluid in the midlands to cover the stench of this rotten business

WheelEnders retweeted [User] Jul 7 there's something fishy going on

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 7 Nearly 3 months now since our beloved pub closed why are Murray's letting it rot? Questions need answers!

WheelEnders @WheelFindern [User] stay away u have caused enough grief leave Findern alone " Murray's DO ONE!!!

WheelEnders retweeted [User] Jul 5 [User] We could be in there now, it was all set up to carry on as a pub, Murrays said no! They don't care about our community

Home Notifications Messages WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 5 Search Twitter


Sunny Saturday afternoon... cheeky beers in the local undertakers anyone? Thanks Murray's for closing the local & leaving it to rot...

WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jul 5
@WheelFindern perfect opportunity for a get together and for us all to parade our fabulous t-shirts...procession ??? #casknotcaskets

WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jul 2
The fight goes on- keep your eyes peeled folks for more super banners popping up in the neighbourhood
Derby [t.me/57m0rskw](#)


WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jul 2
@WheelFindern and killing there own business in the process ...

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 2
#casknotcaskets #saynotomurrays



WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jul 1
@WheelFindern murrays the forealers is up for sale on hominglow road b.o.t.. buy that instead ..its a pub on a main road

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jul 1
Episode 201.....



WheelEnders followed [redacted] and [redacted]

Home Notifications Messages Discover Search Twitter



Lester Pyatt
@LesterPyatt
M D & Omark Hospitality Solutions AKA
The Pub Specialist Business
Development Programmes Growing
Sales & Profit for Pubs,Hotels



Duffield Life
@duffieldlife
Business news & community & more
#Derbyshire & beyond! Duffield Action
Plan business lead Communication
professional, positive & love family

WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jun 29
@WheelFindern @DerbyBrewCo .it will be worth every penny I miss it so much

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 29
We could save closed pub from becoming a funeral parlour, says leading brewer | Derby Telegraph via @DerbyTelegraph

WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jun 28
@DerbyBrewingCo @WheelFindern: me too

WheelEnders retweeted Derby Brewing Co @DerbyBrewingCo Jun 28
@WheelFindern thanks great article good luck hope it can be saved

WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jun 28
@WheelFindern @DerbyBrewingCo ah wow Thankyou @DerbyBrewingCo

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 28
#casksnotcaskets @DerbyBrewingCo
Fantastic article



Home Notifications Messages **#WheelEnders** retweeted  Search Twitter Jun 27

"@WheelFindern. All sing along now WheelEnders... " if they hear char sing this they will commit suicide

you
 Murray's don't understand what we went through
 It was long, it was sweet, we tried
 And if our words break through your wall and you'll
 meet us at the door all we can say is Murray's we
 mean them all

Been thinking about the bar we drank in
 A local pub called the Wheel Inn
 It was ours, it sold beer, we could cry...

Dear Murray's please excuse our writing - we

2 1

WheelEnders retweeted Jun 27

@charford30 @WheelFindern @murdubhina @gofor... I think you could be the lady for the job Char ❤️

4 2

WheelEnders retweeted Jun 27

@WheelFindern lets record it all sales go towards buying the pub...

1

WheelEnders retweeted Jun 27

Genius!! @WheelFindern @ @ #casksnocaskets #savethewheel #notomurrays #beersnottears

1 1

WheelEnders @WheelFindern · Jun 27

All sing along now WheelEnders.....

you
 Murray's don't understand what we went through
 It was long, it was sweet, we tried
 And if our words break through your wall and you'll
 meet us at the door all we can say is Murray's we
 mean them all


Been thinking about the bar we drank in
 A local pub called the Wheel Inn
 It was ours, it sold beer, we could cry...

Dear Murray's please excuse our writing - we

2 1


Home Notifications Messages #WheelFindern retweeted Search Twitter May 26

we need to step in here #saveethewheel #findern




5 WheelEnders retweeted

"Do the right thing Murray's!"



5 WheelEnders @WheelFindern #fuskshotcaskrifs #saynoh-murray



WheelEnders retweeted

@Whe- take your dead bodies elsewhere Im afraid Findern just doesnt want you!!!!

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 26 Findern pub plans continue to move towards funeral parlour bid

WheelEnders followed

Home Notifications Messages Discover Search Twitter

Follow Follow

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 25
Episoda 182 . yet more media coverage of our plight! Check out the Derby Telegraph on Saturday #

WheelEnders retweeted Jun 25
have u ever seen the wickerman

WheelEnders retweeted Jun 25
Murrays are flippin deluded Serving our community they must be joking surely #the-wheel-inn

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 25
Just a few of the cast outside our beloved WHEEL INN FINDERN #casksnotcaskets



WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 25
Pub to be funeral parlour? Over our dead bodies, say Derbyshire villagers | Derby Telegraph via @

WheelEnders retweeted Jun 25
everybody is talking about The Wheel onwards and upwards #

Home @WheelFindern Jun 24 Search Twitter

Episode 175... It's going to be a good one!
Buy The Derby Telegraph tomorrow to see
the cast in glorious technicolour!
[@DerbyTelegraph](#)

WheelEnders retweeted
@WheelFindern the ghastly ghoul

WheelEnders retweeted
@... why the hell do they want a funeral directors in the village . defo must have very sad lonely lives

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 24
The poster thief has struck again! Trespass
off & leave our posters alone!
[#casksnotcaskets](#) [#saynotomurrays](#)


WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 23
@WheelFindern I love the little village where I grew up .the community
are showing so much strength, determination and soul no surrender

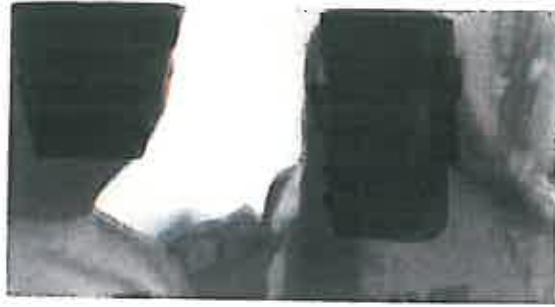
WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 23
WheelEnders show their support & solidarity yet again! Amazing turn out
tonight [#casksnotcaskets](#) [#saynotomurrays](#)

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 23
WheelEnders photo tonight at 6pm! Support the cause!
[#casksnotcaskets](#) [#saynotomurrays](#)

WheelEnders retweeted
@WheelFindern WHEEL FOREVER

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 21
Fete day in the village of Findern! [#casksnotcaskets](#)





1 retweet

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 20
WheelEnders show their solidarity & support in their quest to SAVE THE WHEEL
[#casknotcaskets](#)



2 retweets

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 20
[#casknotcaskets](#)



1 retweet

Home Notifications Messages [Profile] [Retweeted] Jun 20 Search Twitter

[Profile] Jun 20
@WheelFindern: this is no accessory people, this IS your summer wardrobe staple!!



← 2 1 ...

WheelEnders @WheelFindern · Jun 20
SAVE THE WHEEL t shirt orders being taken tomorrow at the fete
#casksnocaskets #saynotomurrays #findernfete

← 1 1 ...

WheelEnders @WheelFindern · Jun 20
Episode 155... Residents and supporters alike are revving up ready for fete day tomorrow... #casksnocaskets #saynotomurrays

← 1 1 ...

WheelEnders retweeted [Profile] Jun 19
@WheelFindern god save our Wheel...
Keep calm England and save wheelenders@wheelfindern

← 1 1 ...

WheelEnders retweeted Charlotte Ford @charfordie30 Jun 19
@WheelFindern: dont worry England fans . keep calm and save the wheel !!
#casksnocaskets

← 1 1 ...

WheelEnders retweeted [Profile] Jun 19
Good morning WheelEnders! What a FANTASTIC week for media coverage so far! The Wheel Inn is back on the map!! [fb.me/2nd5NKbM](#)

← 2 1 ...

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 19
Derbyshire village launches independent.co.uk/life-style/fo...

← 3 2 ...

WheelEnders retweeted [Profile] Jun 18
@WheelFindern as the new pub landlord ...

← 1 1 ...

WheelEnders followed [Profile] and

Home Notifications Messages Discover Search Twitter



Follow

Brewers of beautiful beer from the heart of Scotland. Official beer partners of Homecoming Scotland 2014
facebook.com/inverclydeBeer



Follow

Derby's family-owned milkshake bar with deliciously different - distinctly cool drinks that make our customers want to come back for more - sweeeeet!

WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jun 18

@WheelFindern wheelenders should have its own documentary

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 18

Episode 145 WheelEnders goes national!
Roll on episode 146 #casksnotcaskets
#saynotomurrays

WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jun 18

@WheelFindern please please please...hope you see sense...we will give you a good send off...

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 18

Get your vuvuzelas ready folks! We can give Murray's a fanfare when they arrive! #casksnotcaskets

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 18

Episode 139 is a two parter to make time for the soccer tomorrow...
#ComeOnEngland

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 18

Episode 139.... Murray's where's your business sense? Sell up & glide quietly in your hearse out of Findern #casksnotcaskets

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 18

Episode 139 ... Murray's caring and personable approach clearly doesn't involve basic manners #haveeithercourtesytorespon

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 18

Episode 138 ... Are Murray's in denial or are they just deaf?
#offeronthebar

WheelEnders retweeted Martyn Ford @MartynFord5 Jun 17

@macub we need help check @WheelFindern to see our predicament & Save the Findern Wheel on Facebook



Home Notifications Messages # WheelFindern retweeted Jun 17

Search Twitter

Great to see the beautiful [redacted] supporting @WheelFindern on the move 🇧🇪 🇩🇪 🇮🇹 🇪🇸 🇫🇷 🇮🇸 🇬🇧 🇵🇹 🇸🇪 🇸🇰 🇨🇰 #casknotcaskets



3 3

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 17
Episode 135. Fantastic media coverage today! Just in time for the biggest event of Findern's year #findern135 #asknotcaskets

1 1

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 17
Findern villagers' offer to buy 'funeral parlour' pub is rejected | Derby Telegraph [do su 218 Ju](#) via [@po st](#)

1 1

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 16
[redacted] @WheelFindern I hope they do the right thing " Bury themselves hopefully!!!

1

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 16
"@hiltonhsehotel: Enjoy a drink here #derbyshire #realale "



2 1

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 16
[redacted] @WheelFindern whoops I mean high five ... whoop whoop" soon be waving goodbye to Murray's we hope!

1 1

Home Notifications Messages #WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 16 Search Twitter

Murray's please take your fete sponsorship & nail it in one of your coffins. Thank you. #casksnotcaskets



Retweet 2 Like 1

WheelEnders retweeted

Jun 16 Village pubs can be a success! @WheelFindern po st/6mHnX #casksnotcaskets #savethewheelinnfindern #notdeadatthecourdoorstep

Retweet 2 Like 1

WheelEnders retweeted

Jun 15 @WheelFindern today I've been busy... #casksnotcaskets #findern #savethewheelinnfindern #bearsnottears #community



Retweet 3 Like 2

WheelEnders retweeted

Jun 15 @WheelFindern hate that I cant meet my dad down The Wheel today for fathers day. Murrays what an earth are you playing at

Retweet 1 Like

WheelEnders retweeted

Jun 15 @WheelFindern wheelenders are watching you ... Brian the window cleaner doesn't miss a trick -)

Retweet 2 Like 1

Home Notifications Messages #WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 12 Search Twitter

Criminals... take note & learn the error of your ways! #casksnotcaskets #thievesinfindern



← 2 1 ...

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 12
Thieves targetting village signs being stolen from private properties... another case for Morsel #casksnotcaskets

← 2 1 ...

WheelEnders retweeted
@WheelFindern I bet that's what they say to grieving relatives. Great trendy punch line #casksnotcaskets

← 2 1 ...

WheelEnders retweeted
@WheelFindern The cheek of it charming after everything they have needlessly put the community through...frick off!!!!

← 1 1 ...

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 11
Keep calm and get over it? Loving Murray's Funeral Directors new marketing campaign! #findernfete #casksnotcaskets

← 2 1 ...

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 11
Findern aka 'Village with no pub' Perfect opportunity for a micro pub!!! Screw the funeral folk.... we will piss on their bonfire!

← 3 1 ...

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 11
"Spoiler Alert" Residents hear rumours of 'a bullder' offering funeral folks 5 x what they paid £1.3m Bob must be feeling rich!

← 3 1 ...

*

Home Notifications Messages #WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 9 Search Twitter

Beautiful June evening.... Pint in the Wheel Inn garden anyone? #happymemories #Murrayskilledthecommunity



4 1

Martyn Ford @MartynFord Jun 8 #happymemories #Murrayskilledthecommunity 3 2

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 8 Sweet dreams my sexy little twiter angels . x" It's a Murray's selfie!




"The unfamiliar faces in your dreams are the possible ghosts who stare at you while you are sleeping."

1 1

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 7 Episode 112 the poster thief strikes again & police spotted in the car park... Where's Morse when we need him?! 2 1

WheelEnders retweeted Jun 6 @WheelFindern does that include spirits? 1

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 5 Episode 108.... Happy Hour at The Wheel... rent one hearse get another one free.... #casksnotcaskets 4 1

#

Home Notifications Messages #WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 4 Search Twitter

Findern is a village, a community, a hub!
Take your coffins elsewhere! JUST LET US
KEEP OUR PUB! #casksnocaskets
#saynottomurrays

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 3
I can see the headline now ... Finderners fury over funeral funded fete fiasco!! @ #


WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jun 3
@ [redacted] getting really fed up now Is there anybody out there that can help our pub and village # desperate

WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jun 3
Just posted!
"I was just flicking through the Findern village fete and noticed that Murray's funeral directors

WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jun 3
Sad to say our application to have The Wheel listed as an asset of community value has been turned down - Shame ...

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 3
[redacted] A village without a pub isn't a community it's just houses and people # SAVE THE WHEEL!

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 3
Bruce Willis 1999 thriller... Rumour of a remake in Findern..... #thesixthsense #casksnocaskets #saynottomurrays



WheelEnders retweeted [redacted] Jun 2
@ [redacted] You're more than welcome here though I understand your frustration I wouldn't want to move to a village without a pub

Home Notifications Messages WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 2 Search Twitter

Just moved to Hilton? come and meet the locals at The Hilton House * lucky sods! No pub in Findern!



Retweet 1 Like 1

WheelEnders @WheelFindern Jun 2 Murray's keep their casket firmly closed & refuse to respond to villager's questions something to hide?

Retweet 3 Like

WheelEnders @WheelFindern May 30 WheelEnder widows..... #casksnotcaskets



Retweet 3 Like

WheelEnders followed and



darren smith @dazzersmith

Follow



Spoiler Alert

@MediaSpoilers

Fake spoilers for all things books, movies TV and more. Piss off your friends with the ease of a retweet!

Follow

WheelEnders re-tweeted [redacted] May 30

If a dog weeing up a lamppost and getting a shock is Radio 2 news then why aren't they taking about Murrays killing our community?!

Retweet 1 Like



MARTYN FORD'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Martyn Ford

Home



Martyn Ford

- Timeline
- About
- Photos
- Friends
- More

Add Friend Message ...

- Recent
- 2014
- 2013
- 2012
- 2011
- 2010
- 2008
- 2008
- 2007
- Born

DO YOU KNOW MARTYN?

To see what he shares with friends, send him a friend request

Add Friend

- ♥ Married
- 📍 Went to [The Post School](#)
- 🏠 Lives in [Derby](#)
From [Derby](#)
- 👤 287 friends
- 👤 Became friends with [Mary Stonebridge](#) and [Alan Crosby](#)

PHOTOS



FRIENDS - 287



SPORTS 2



Sponsored



Not on the high
Not on the high
Buy this Rose
Wrap Bracelet
original gift. Shop now



Warrior Red
www.bodybu...
18 powerful a
packed into c
Warrior Red

Chat (Off)



Home

Valentino Rossi
VR46 3

George
Engwood

- Recent
- 2014
- 2013
- 2012
- 2011
- 2010
- 2009
- 2008
- 2007
- Born

MUSIC 3



BBC Radio
Derby



Seasick Steve

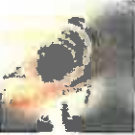


Francisco
Yglesia

LIKES 40



Red Lion
Hollington



Med Heibel's
Hat Hat



Med-Tek
Contracting



Rowan Tunaley
Flowers



Save The
Storey Arms



Capital
Windows

NOTES 1

My thoughts

By Martyn Ford · over a year ago

I've lived in Findern for 50 and a bit years, during this time the local pub The Wheel has played a big part in my life, my parents were regulars, Jean and Ray were very good friends, many very happy

3 15

RECENT ACTIVITY



Martyn is now friends with [...](#) and [...](#)

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Earlier in 2014

HIGHLIGHTS ▾

FRIENDS 2014



Martyn Ford
31 March

Calling all Findern folk, past or present. A Planning Application for Change of use Has been submitted to Change The Wheel Inn Findern into a Funeral Directors! It isn't an April Fool joke I can assure you. Please can I ask all that use The Wheel, daily, weekly or if you only go in once a year to visit SDDC website, view Planning Applications and look at 9/2014/0286. You can make representations through the website. We need a pub in Findern, so please I urge you all to help save The Wheel. This is serious and time is short before the doors could shut on our village pub for the last time.

Share

like this

Chat (Off)

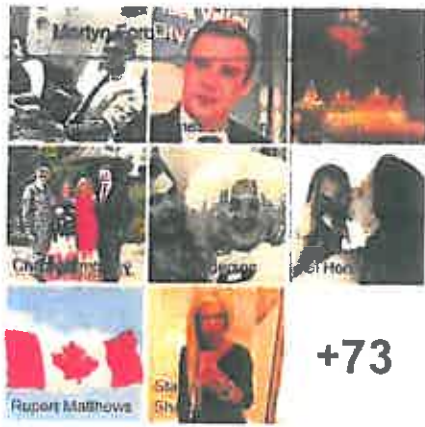
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Warrior Red... 16 powerful... packed into c... Warrior Reds



+73

LIKES 2014



Martyn Ford's Profile Pic



Med Tech Contracting Ltd

+21

- 
 [Redacted] [Shit pub come to blues inn kirk Laigley great happy indford](#)
 31 March at 14 02 1
- 
Martyn Ford The Blue Bell is everything The Wheel should be Ross Great Bass in both pubs -))
 31 March at 14 03
- 
 [Redacted] Like it let's keep wheel open
 31 March at 14 05
- 
 [Redacted] But it's ok to change pubs in Swad on dangerous and busy junctions to sansburys locals!!
 31 March at 14 46
- 
 [Redacted] Absolutely ridiculous the pub needs investing in and updating to bring folk into the village, I have commented on the SDDC website regarding this app for what it's worth
 Whatever next!
 31 March at 14 50
- 
 [Redacted] Old adage use it or lose it, a sad day when my beloved Blue Pool became a boring Tesco Good luck in keeping it open A village buy out maybe?
 31 March at 15 06
- 
Martyn Ford Todd the District Council refused The Masons application but were over ruled at Appeal I objected to that as well mate
 31 March at 15 15
- 
 [Redacted] I'll burn the funeral directors down *
- 
 [Redacted] I've been on and wrote my feelings about it
 31 March at 15 45
- 
 [Redacted] could you post this link to his original post and everyone you know - its to the CAMRA site and how to fight pub closures - on it there's also a PDF document with example objection letters which are useful for anyone objecting on the SDDC site - the link is
 31 March at 17 34
- 
 [Redacted] <http://www.camra.org.uk/page.php?id=127>
 31 March at 17 35
- 
 [Redacted] It needs changing into a pub
 1 April at 07 09
- 
Martyn Ford Most helpful Jim -))
 1 April at 07 29
- 
 [Redacted] Thanks its good to help
 1 April at 07 30
- 
 [Redacted] Maybe if you stay out **Martyn Ford** , the regulars will come back :
 2 April at 06 15

More posts from 24 March to 31

 **Martyn Ford**
24 March

Bye Bye Billy!

Share

3 people like this.

More posts from 14 March to 24

 **Martyn Ford**
15 March

How good was that to have Andy and Lorraine back in The Wheel again. Great night with great mates, thanks to all who came along Early start for Victor to watch England play Italy, he'll be ok with super Bass!

Share

4 people like this.

 [Redacted] Had a fabulous evening with you all it's so good to see you again xxx
 15 March at 01 39

 [Redacted] Well, never new about this one!
 15 March at 03 15

More posts from 22 February to 14 March Chat (0/0)

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 Not on the high
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 packed into c
 Warrior Reds

Martyn Ford


 **Martyn Ford**
22 February

 Home


The Wheel is rockin tonight. Please come down and support, there's not a lot on telly anyway, so get down to your local and have a really lovely evening.

Share

1 people like this

 We're rocking in Etwell just had lovely bottle of wine and Turkish Delight yum yum ... ha he
22 February at 19:54

 Good to hear that Me Ford!! X
22 February at 20:34

 so sorry we are not there x
22 February at 21:37

 Bullshit its empty
22 February at 21:58

 **Martyn Ford** What would you know little fella, your tin chest couldn't stand the excitement :-)) xx
22 February at 22:31 Edited 1

 What a night!!!
23 February at 08:46

 Wasn't empty when I was there
23 February at 07:02

- Recent
- 2014
 - 2013
 - 2012
 - 2011
 - 2010
 - 2009
 - 2008
 - 2007
 - Born

 **Martyn Ford**
17 February

You just cannot beat Fortum & Mason marmalade!

Share

1 people like this

view 1 more comments

 Yeah the one fm on is but it's the spare one should get mine back tomorrow at some point
17 February at 17:00

 [Redacted]
17 February at 17:21

 **Martyn Ford** Mart, that's our little secret:-))
17 February at 19:43

 Someone must have given it to you I thought you were a happy shopper boy!!
18 February at 09:50


 **Martyn Ford**
18 February

Always thought Nige was a great manager :-))

Share

1 people like this

view 1 more comments

 **Martyn Ford** Hi Taff, a lot better thank you. I will be back at R-R on Wednesday.
17 February at 07:51

 I will watch the share price rise then
17 February at 07:53

 **Martyn Ford** Have you been off mate?
17 February at 15:17

 Still am . chest infection yet again.
17 February at 16:08

More posts from 1 February to 16

 **Martyn Ford**
1 February

I really cannot understand people posting telling me where they are! Like who cares... I certainly don't!

Chat (Off)

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N:anti-veg
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Warrior Red
www.warriorred.co.uk
16 powerful s
packed into c
Warrior Red





Martyn Ford

Share

Home

7 people like this

View 4 more comments

-  Martyn's I'm jus sat reading this on the toilet
2 February at 06:15
-  Well you weren't at rolls royce again this week for sure
2 February at 06:16
-  Martyn Ford Thanks Simon -)) x
2 February at 07:55
-  Then don't read it! Lol x
2 February at 08:40

Recent





- 2014
- 2013
- 2012
- 2011
- 2010
- 2009
- 2008
- 2007
- Born

More posts from 11 January to 1 February -

 Martyn Ford
11 January

Thank you Shotgun Paddy (-))

Share

-  You shooting saturday mart?
11 January at 16:47
-  Martyn Ford Yes, don't get confused though mate. Shotgun Paddy won this afternoon and I dragged £100 (-)) see you on Saturday xx
11 January at 18:10
-  Less than two weeks til malc's get ya best pants packed x
11 January at 18:19
-  Did you back it cus you look like Paddy on Emmerdale ?
12 January at 07:11

 Martyn Ford
10 January

Something else was great tonight, apart from The Wheel being open was to see two great mates back together again after a year or two separated. True love conquers all (-)) xx

Share

Lindsay Hill likes this




 Martyn Ford
10 January

Wheel open, let's hope the worst is behind us now New start Time for Findern folk to support Vic and just go in for a couple now and again

Share

4 people like this

View 4 more comments

-  Martyn Ford Back down your hole little man
11 January at 14:18
-  Up yours 7 weeks
11 January at 14:19
-  Open and closed like a whore's legs that place!
11 January at 15:33
-  Martyn Ford 7 weeks (-))
11 January at 16:37

 Martyn Ford
5 January

Poor game, have all the Forest fans gone home early? Shocking if that's the best they can do if they haven't.

Share

John Treborough likes this

View 4 of 10 comments

Chat (Off)

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Not on the high
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Warrior Red:
www.bodybu
16 powerful s
packed into c
Warrior Reds

Martyn Ford

[Profile Picture] Ok ill look forward to that [Profile Picture] Home
5 January at 13:26

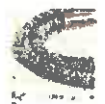
[Profile Picture] Forest deal kids, we haven't had a full attendance but we still hi
are seats more than forest can, and we are higher in the league fact!!! Bye bye
5 January at 15:20

[Profile Picture] Yeah your pulling on your bellend hahahaha
5 January at 15:30

[Profile Picture] Some stupid comments on here!! 2-0 down who gives a [Profile Picture]
wer dcfc and wer going up!!! We should be proud of that performance
5 January at 15:34

- Recent
- 2014
- 2013
- 2012
- 2011
- 2010
- 2009
- 2008
- 2007
- Born

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Warrior Reds

Chat (Off)

**EXTRACTS FROM
SAVE THE WHEEL FINDERN
FACEBOOK PAGE**

Save The Wheel Inn Enderm

WheelEnders! Looking forward to seeing everyone on Saturday either for a stroll through our beautiful village or for a drink on the green. Let's show Murray's that they may have our pub (for now) but they cannot steal our community or our spirit! #bookshuteastels #saynotomurray's

Like Comment

Like this

Let's show it's an act of togetherness against ruthless, uncaring, out of town businesspeople who have taken the main meeting place away from the community they claim to want to serve.

Sorry I can't be with you But I am in spirit!

Eightish is anticipated but when everyone has gone is probably more accurate.

Wot brax the pop up pub gain on bill x

Save The Wheel Inn Enderm

saving the Wheel in Ibiza! Let's keep the positive vibe WheelEnders!

People Who Like This

- Gary Brown
- Sue Annott David
- Lindsay Bennett
- Maryn Ford
- Samantha Austin
- Phil Watts



I have organised a march and a pop up pub which will...

2014

Like Comment Share

26 5 1 share



Save The Wheel Inn Findern

17 hours ago

Well said [redacted]



[redacted]

Really sorry to see The Wheel closed. I've been to some great karaoke's there and the locals are a wonderful bunch. This little village has a big church, church with a very kept green that it needs to keep its village pub. There's a funeral directors in nearby Littleover and Newover and they don't stand out like a sore thumb in these areas because they are of colour and they make more than one pub. Findern like only The Wheel. I can be this has a happy ending. You wouldn't see life with drinking and singing on that bend of the road rather than it being the death end of the very much alive village.

Like Comment Share

10



Save The Wheel Inn Findern

So the Save the Whale poster at the bottom of Castle Hill was not a whale but a large naked bottom mimicking a whale in water - shame on you! This is a nice family village and it's the school holidays too - have some respect!







Create Page

POSTS TO PAGE

[Redacted]

Brilliant poster placing folks! Wonder how long they will last? At least we should be able to spot who is taking them all down cameras at the ready

[Redacted]

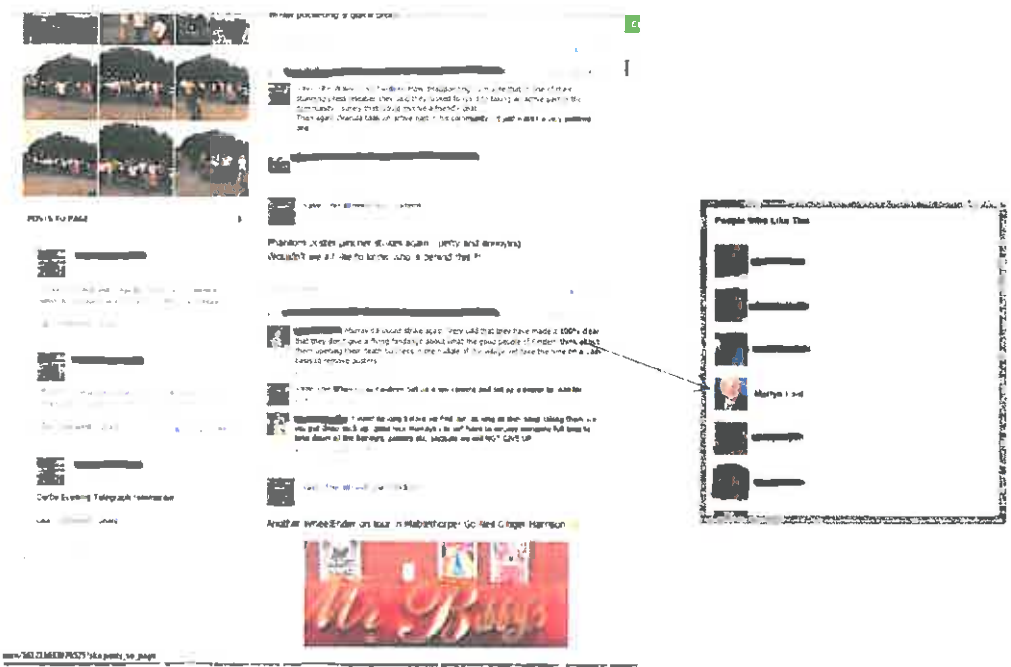
The crooks never sleep and neither does Clouseau in a village where you

[Redacted] What does it say?

[Redacted] Are you sure its them?

[Redacted] [View The Wheel Into Freedom](#)

[Redacted] [View The Wheel Into Freedom](#)





POSTS TO PAGE

- [Profile picture] [Name] [Text]
- [Profile picture] [Name] [Text]
- [Profile picture] [Name] [Text]



Create Post

Do you suppose Murrys are using all those poster boards they have stolen to build a coffin for the heart of our community that they have so trustily ripped out?

... it takes to be built much much more so and they give

... a sin and a price ... the job is not a good ... it is a

The already change of our ... the planning exception has made





national news

Create Page

Like Comment

4.2k

1.2k

Save The Wheel Inn Farnham

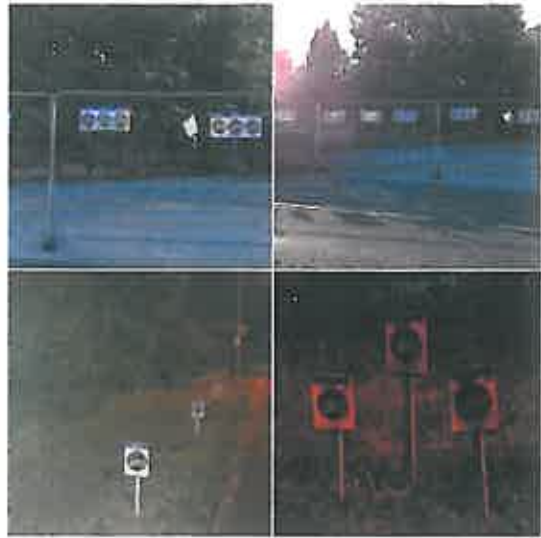
Murrays - we want a pub - we want to meet our friends - do the right thing - you are unwelcome , take the offer and move on

POSTS TO PAGE

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow
Like Comment Share

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow
Like Comment Share

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow
Like Comment Share



Like Comment

1.2k

Martya Ford They've been taken down already. There at 7.45, gone by 8.30. the Phantom Flyer Flyer has struck again!!!

Save the Wheel Inn Farnham I cannot believe they have gone already. I wish I knew who was doing it



Save The Wheelchair Kidnaper

Free this man from Alcatraz & free our village from the horror that is Murta's turera directors

Like this

Many of our Alcatrazers have cars in Alcatraz

Save The Wheelchair Kidnaper, Scott Brown, Bastiag of the day, anarc goes to Vietnam, Manly, Fordin

Dang our trip San Francisco to save the wheelchair Steve of Lewi

Friend Requests



Confirm friend



Morning Wheel fans it's been very quiet out there!
Marvellous to see some brilliantly placed banners have popped up overnight.

The fight still goes on -

How many likes can we get to move on the the next big plan? ...come on folks we need to know the support is still there!

Like · Comment · Share

48 people like this.

Top Comments

Write a comment

SAVE THE WHEEL!

Like Reply 3 hours ago

Martyn Ford I bet Murrays thought we had given in and weren't bothered anymoreWRONG!! The fight goes on today, tomorrow, next week, next month, next year and until Murrays decide that they are not wanted in Findern and move on before they damage our community even more than they have done already!

#casknotcaskets

Like Reply 18 minutes ago

Chat



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Taking Card Payments?



Compare multiple Fr
Quotes from supplier
in Credit Card
Processing. Free Set
Up & Trial



1 August



POSTS TO PAGE

[Redacted] ...
[Redacted] ...
[Redacted] ...

[Redacted] ...
[Redacted] ...
[Redacted] ...

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

also notice that some brake equipment has gone in upstairs

[Redacted] I posted this morning that there is a plumbing engineer working there. This afternoon there was 4 or 5 funeral cars parked round the back and sounds of a lot of work going on in the upstairs part of the pub. Doesn't look good for us folks I'm sorry to see

Save The Wheel from Fandern

Too true Martyn.
We came back from Burton on the bus. The Sump was buzzing, as were the pubs in Newton Sainey and Repton. Willington was rammed, folk outside at 3!
We entered Fndern and there was The Wheel, empty and forlorn when that too would also have been lively not anymore now that Murrays have callously ripped the heart out of the village and closed our local down. We should still be in there Mr & Mrs Barke, thanks to you with your perverse plans you have killed our village. We will not forget what you have done to us

[Redacted]

[Redacted] We did the same thing on Saturday, popped down to Hadees for a curry walked home past the Wheel and said, if only the Wheel was open, we would have enjoyed our night in there. It's in such a sorry state of repair, is Murray's ever going to do anything with it seeing as they've now had it for quite a while now?

[Redacted] Save The Wheel from Fndern. I imagine their plan is to keep it a run long enough to justify knocking it down and then applying for planning permission to build houses on the site. God the village they can make a few thousand pounds and who gives a shit about the feelings of a couple of thousand people who live locally because they don't. Greed greed greed

[Redacted] end for 15 years!

[Redacted]

Save The Wheel from Fandern

An old derelict building, a village without a heart, a place fenced off and surrounded by mystery unwanted people in black pretending to be nice while in the background rumours run rife why won't they take the large amount of money they have been offered for the old building? Meanwhile the phantom poster pincher creeps around cunningly disguised ...



Create Page



Brilliant. Are
What have I'm England and haven't a lot of white faces
are

Save the Wheel Derby Evening

We vow to keep fighting



POSTS TO PAGE

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow
Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow
Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow
Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow



26 others like this
Save The Wheel Derby Evening tonight Kate and Steve are
nice selfie lol
Professional

PHOTOS



POSTS TO PAGE

[Profile Picture]
 As a special promotion for Findern residents, during November and De...
 Like Comment Share

[Profile Picture]
 As a special promotion for Findern residents, during November and De...
 Like Comment Share

[Profile Picture]
 As a special promotion for Findern residents, during November and De...
 Like Comment Share

Save The Wheel Inn Findern

Black clouds gather over The Wheel as the community ponders if they will ever know the truth behind the loss of their pub



Like Comment Share

[Profile Picture] **[Profile Picture]**

[Profile Picture] Save The Wheel Inn Findern Nobody can be blamed for not going into a run down badly managed pub with no food - we wanted a freehold landlord to turn the pub into a welcoming family place - the planned and purposeful decline of the wheel by Purich chased away a lot of trade but it doesn't make the community does not want a nice place to meet

[Profile Picture] **Martyn Ford** The tragedy is that he had really started to turn the pub around, when Murray's closed it. The pub was trading better than it had done for years. We probably need to look back to the early 2000's to see when the decline started and the rot set in.

[Profile Picture] Perhaps if the locals had supported the pub more this would not be

10

< Search



Funeral firm boss vows: No housing on former Derbyshire pub site

from by telegraph.co.uk

Like Comment Share

3 people like this.



Save The Wheel Inn Findern
The arrogance of Murrays constantly astounds me- they clearly do not give a toss about the community and our feelings - time to take the gloves off folks!

Like 3 Reply



Martyn Ford
Save The Wheel Inn Findern vow No Funeral Parlour on The Wheel site!

*

Like 3 Reply



<http://www.morningadvertiser.co.uk/General-News/Rural-pubs-worth-up-to-120k-to-community>

Like · Comment · Share



Save The Wheel Inn Findern
1 July · 12:14

<http://www.derbyexpress.co.uk/Findern/save-the-wheel-inn-findern-heading> · See More

Like · Comment · Share

1 · 1 Share



Derby Evening Telegraph
8 October at 16:14

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

Like · Comment · Share

English · UK · Friends · Terms · Cookies · More · Facebook © 2014



Save The Wheel Inn Findern
8 July

The phantom Murray loving poster thief strikes again! Who are you?! Morse we need you again!

Like · Comment

12 · 2



Mary Bailey · Derby, Derbyshire · 10th July at 11:40

Top Comments ·



Martyn Ford · Murrays have probably offered them a deal on a burial, more posters removed, more money off!
10 July at 11:40

JK



It's only a matter of time before they get seen doing it.
10 July at 12:33



Save The Wheel Inn Findern
7 July

Earth to earth , ashes to ashes, dust to dust ...
Our once vibrant pub is decomposing before our eyes
Is that the plan Murrays?



Save The Wheel Inn Fudern

Every summers day that passes, every balmy evening or sunny Sunday afternoon, every joke with friends and with loved ones just highlights how much poorer our community is without a pub to meet our friends and celebrate life.

Don't fool yourselves Murrays; as time passes the strength of feeling against your culling of The Wheel is growing - not diminishing!



Like Comment

35



Save The Wheel Inn Fudern

People Who Like This

-
-
-
- Murray Ford
-
-

MURRAY'S
INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**KILLING
COMMUNITY?**



SAVE THE WHEEL PUB
FINDERN



Save The Wheel Inn Findern

like this



Save The Wheel Inn Findern Brilliant comment by [redacted] on Twitter
Murrays killing our community. And killing their own business in the process!
Very true



Save The Wheel Inn Findern Fantastic poster and response thanks Phil



Martyal Ford Brilliant poster Murrays are in our sights as well!



Save a community



POSTS TO PAGE

- Dear Murray's please excuse our writing - we won't ever stop campaigning and fighting, cause our pub is closed tonight
Wheel Inn we miss you and nothing hurts like no you
Murray's don't understand what we went through
It was long, it was sweet, we tried
And if our words break through your wall and you'll meet us at the door all we can say is Murray's we mean them all
- Been thinking about the bar we drank in
A local pub called the Wheel Inn
It was ours, it sold beer, we could cry
- Dear Murray's please excuse our writing - we intend to continue fighting, for our pub, we know it's right
Wheel Inn we miss you and nothing hurts like no you
Murray's do the right thing and pass through
It's time to go...you tried
And if our words break through your wall and you'll meet us at the door all we can say is Murray's we mean them all
- Save The Wheel Inn please

A very good picture, but - only fear half the man - used to be, haha

Create Page

Save The Wheel Inn please

Thank you Oily Murs...

Dear Murray's please excuse our writing - we won't ever stop campaigning and fighting, cause our pub is closed tonight
Wheel Inn we miss you and nothing hurts like no you
Murray's don't understand what we went through
It was long, it was sweet, we tried
And if our words break through your wall and you'll meet us at the door all we can say is Murray's we mean them all

Been thinking about the bar we drank in
A local pub called the Wheel Inn
It was ours, it sold beer, we could cry

Dear Murray's please excuse our writing - we intend to continue fighting, for our pub, we know it's right
Wheel Inn we miss you and nothing hurts like no you
Murray's do the right thing and pass through
It's time to go...you tried
And if our words break through your wall and you'll meet us at the door all we can say is Murray's we mean them all

Like

Save The Wheel Inn please: Kate you are great

Not to have a bit of fun on a Friday

Just brilliant

Save The Wheel Inn please

We don't need you & we don't want you either





Save The Wheel Inn Lounge

Life time

Mr & Mrs Barre we could get everybody on the photo many more weren't able to get who would have loved to be on this photograph urging you not to come to Findern with your business. we can't want you we don't need you Please just go so that we can live without the very dark cloud of having a funeral parlour opening in our beautiful village

I moved from Findern in 82 That was my dads local So sad to see whats happening to it

you summer!!!!

Incredibly Sorry we couldn't be there!

Save The Wheel in Findern. Who's that fella on the left hand side?

Surprised you noticed the me haha!!!

...



POSTS TO PAGE



http://www.morningstar.com/...
http://www.morningstar.com/...
http://www.morningstar.com/...

Like Comment Share



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http://www.derbytelegraph.com/...

Like Comment Share



Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

Like Comment Share

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Create Page



Save The Wheel Inn Farnem

Great article in the Derby Telegraph today folks, our mugshots didn't make it into print this time sadly... clearly we are just too beautiful to be hidden away on page 19 so fingers crossed we'll be online for all to see very soon!

Like Comment



and 6 others like this



Disappointing no photo of the people backing it. There's been enough pictures of the sorry empty building. Needed to see real people to show the feeling behind it!

Save The Wheel Inn Farnem it was a mistake I believe Louise, I have been promised it will be used on future stories and it will go online, will keep you posted with anything else I can find out. Absolutely gutted about this as I have seen the photos and they are AMAZING!



Save The Wheel Inn Farnem Completely agree Dave. I counted at least 100 people on the photo. Will try and get permission to share asap I promise



Suggest you establish contact with the Save The Storey Arms group in Osgathorpe. They are on Facebook and may be able share experiences with you. Good luck. Farnem needs The Wheel!!



Stonny hall I've just splashed out 45p on a copy!!!



Well if it was mistake they should put it right. accept nothing less than a front page photo!!!



Agree David Ross. great idea! Murray's comment is just a joke I thought!!



Good idea David Ross. Maybe a united front about the loss of village pubs would keep the momentum national??



Martyn Ford hopefully all will be rectified for the On line edition. Still another opportunity for all to see how we feel!



Was a little disappointed after mandays turn out



Save The Wheel Inn Farnem



Save The Wheel Inc's Instagram's photos
 on Mobile Uploads

Options Share Send Like

Save The Wheel Inc's Instagram's photos
 on Mobile Uploads

Save The Wheel Inc's Instagram's photos
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POSTS TO PAGE

www.derbyeveningtelegraph.com...
Newspaper published in Derby, Derbyshire
Like Comment Share

Derby Evening Telegraph...
Like Comment Share

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow
Like Comment Share

and 13 others like this. [View Comments](#)
I've heard the coop in wilmington may become a chapel of rest any
truth is it
Did any one use the pub. It always looked empty to me
Save The Wheel Tin Findem
Go Martyn!



and 10 others like this
Point on bass for lol
Like Comment Share



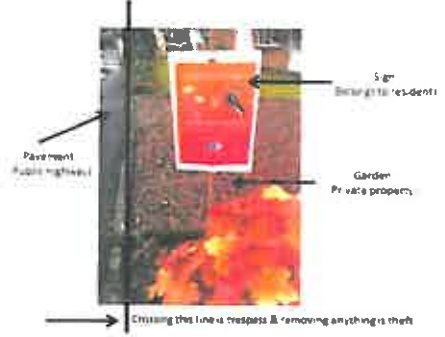
Wish I had the money to buy one and come back best place I have ever had the pleasure to work and best people I ever met

Create Page

Save The Wheel Inn Gardens. More room for banquets at Brian and Betty's house and the house for sale across the road from the pub. Utilise the space before fete day for maximum publicity and if anyone knows any sympathetic farmers or people who like to drive slower than a hare...

Save The Wheel Inn Gardens

For any criminals reading this page, here is a handy guide to what you should & shouldn't do... please learn the error of your ways:



People Who Like This

- [Profile Picture]
- [Profile Picture]
- [Profile Picture]
- [Profile Picture]
- Marty Ford
- [Profile Picture]
- [Profile Picture]

Save The Wheel Inn Gardens

Now then... something interesting has just come to light... at least two families in the village have had their Save the Wheel posters removed from their private property. The posters were displayed on wooden signs WITHIN their garden boundaries I do believe this is therefore TRESPASSING and THEFT any thoughts folks? I for one do not like the idea of a serial thief around the village...



POSTS TO PAGE

[\[Profile\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
News Rumor about all the village 12th to community

Like Comment Share

[\[Profile\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
Wheel pub - Hadn't happen - see - see

Like Comment Share 2 · 1 · 1 share

[\[Profile\]](#) [\[Link\]](#)
Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

Like Comment Share

Well well well the poster at the bottom of Castle Hill has been covered by another which says 'keep calm and get over it'
So glad some anti-community idiot has the time on their hands to keep taking our posters down and now this!
Whoever you are you are probably following this page - have no sense of passion for our village life - no sorrow for the loss of a community meeting place and no real understanding the loss of a village pub has on a community
Murrays were in the Wheel this afternoon maybe you should apply for a job - you seem to fit the person specification !!!

[\[Profile\]](#) and 20 others like this. Top Comment

[\[Profile\]](#) Save The Wheel! too fudern Murray's won't fit in, don't fit in, their business will suffer, their reputation will suffer, their image will suffer. Are they so stupid as to think this will melt away? Probably sniffed too much embalming fluid. Murray's Stay Calm and Stay Away. Sell up and we will forget all about you.

[\[Profile\]](#) Save The Wheel! too fudern: As we know businesses can fail, well a funeral directors is a business. They should take a profit now what it's offered or they could end up with a business mortgage they can't maintain. Murray's, Stay Calm And Sod Off!!!

[\[Profile\]](#) Martyn Ford Murrays really need to understand how much the pub meant to us, it's a real shame they didn't come into our community and see how much The Wheel meant to so many of us, really shows how they feel about us, for them it's how much they put cash above community, pounds above people, profit above pride, do do what they are doing to us they cannot be proud.....but then again

[\[Profile\]](#) Surely the same applies to a pub business. If a village has a healthy community that wishes to congregate in a pub and socialise drink then the profits will reflect that and the pub stay open.

[\[Profile\]](#) Martyn Ford Hi Zac, at the time the pub closed it was doing better than it had done for years, that's another thing that Murrays didn't realise.

[\[Profile\]](#) What a sardo

[\[Profile\]](#) Small issue intended to provoke. It's nothing. We should focus on the stuff that's important.

[\[Profile\]](#) Perhaps he/she has got elderly relatives about to pop their clogs and doesn't drink! Come each to their own

[\[Profile\]](#) I say 24 hour staze out!!!

[\[Profile\]](#) We have more patience than they have whoever they are. Not



Save The Wheel Inn Fudern

I see someone has taken down the poster at the bottom of Castle Hill yet again - how many is it this week? Pathetic behaviour!

148 views

Like this

Murray Ford They take them down, we put another up in its place. simple :))

Save The Wheel Inn Fudern I think we should blitz the village with posters tagged to every lamppost and street sign. We should have them on the entry signs to village, we should have Fudern welcomes careful drivers but not hearpes at the entry to the village and we should put ALWAYS KEEP OUT on the pub. Then if they still refuse to read we should hold slow moving demonstrations especially in front of their houses. See how they like to be held up by a slow moving vehicle. That'd be good for business wouldn't it?

I think we have one or two spys who live in our village and are working for Murray's. I agree that we should organise plastering our village with posters. I like to see whoever it is try and take mine out of my lounge window.

In fact u should just print out loads n loads to many that they cant take them all down every lamppost, notice board and telegraph pole

I heard a rumour one of their relatives live in Lilliover so I suppose that might not be true but they might have other friends or relatives that pass through the village. The thing is, every time they do it, it makes them even more unpopular and even people who weren't so bothered about them burning the pub are more bothered now. If this is how they treat the village notice board, how did they treat customers in the village? Although they have probably realised they will get very little business now from people in the village, or from our family or friends.

Police were at the wheel last night

Loe again hehe I live on castle h5 and I've never seen a save the wheel poster

Murray's

Why don't we know who it is?

Save The Wheel Inn Fudern

Fudern Fete will be great

POSTS TO PAGE

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

Like Comment Share

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

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Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

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Save The Wheel? Inn Fndern

Can I just state , for the record and the reputation of all the fine people on this group, we are not malicious , vitriolic or intimidating. We do not indulge in childish actions - we have acted with great restraint and dignity so far. Our aim is purely to protest at having an unwanted funeral directors in our village taking over the place where a village pub should be.
...and it doesn't matter if we are members of Save the Wheel, Save the Whale or the Mickey Mouse Club...bottom line is we are concerned villagers who have to live with these very unwanted changes!

Like Comment

POSTS TO PAGE

www.morningadvertiser.co.uk
[News: Are all pubs worth up to...?](#)
 Like Comment Share

http://www.derbytelegraph.com
 Wheel pub, Fndern reading...
 Like Comment Share

Derby Evening Telegraph
 Like Comment Share

and 31 others like this

Why did the Wheel close?

Save The Wheel Inn Fndern **Lack of investment over the years by Punch Taverns and some very average management**

Save The Wheel Inn Fndern **Ed I'd also like to add that the wheel was actually sold whilst still trading but for some reason Punch decided a funeral directors was the best option. Great business to have as a focal point in a village.**

Save The Wheel Inn Fndern **Perhaps any victims of vandalism in the village would be better placed to channel their frustration and enquiries towards the neighbourhood watch or the police who would be much more qualified to deal with such incidents rather than a group who's sole purpose is to SAVE THE WHEEL and raise awareness of the plight of local pubs.**

Yes I agree I did think the comments from Humays were harsh and untrue...it would be good to have proof of the communications they've received from villagers in Fndern!

Martya Ford I would also like to record that we have been very careful to resolve any issues that were causing concern, we even contacted Humays when it looked like an attempt had been made to enter the pub by breaking a door down. I leave you to guess what thanks we got!

Save The Wheel Inn Fndern **Some nursery has knocked over the fence across the pub car park can a couple of people nip round and put it back up. We don't need silly behaviour reflecting back on us. Might be useful to check the back doors are still secure too. Saw it this morning on my way to work.**

Well said. We need to communicate this to all residents who are not on Facebook.

Practical Law Home UK Google Comparison House Loans Library Mortgage Land Registry Land Reg... Home - The Department f...




Save The Wheel Inn Foston

Kate's gone all philosophical - Hilarie Belloc

From the towns all Inns have been driven, from the villages most. Change your hearts or you will lose your inns and you will deserve to have lost them. But when you have lost your inns drown your empty selves, for you will have lost the best of England.

and 8 others like this

Save The Wheel Inn Foston. This is the philosophical one - this quote came from watching Escape to the Country on a mid Bank Holiday Monday when I should have been in the wheel. There is a pub in Cumbria which is owned by 148 people. They bought it in 1970 not to make any money but purely to keep their village community alive. It is a thriving pub. I will share their website just for info. Each of them put £2500 in. I know the wheel would need more than this but really good to hear a success story.

Save The Wheel Inn Foston

Old Crown Pub - Hesket Newmarket Cumbria
Britain a first co-operatively owned pub

The Old Crown is a public house in the small village of

Save The Wheel Inn Foston

Inspirational idea all the way from Spain (he means poles not popes)
Just a thought - how about re-ordering getting some flags that people can put up outside their houses? In particular those that have pipes outside for Xmas trees in the green and main road through the village? Then nobody can remove them and there are in full view of everyone passing through the village?



PHOTOS



POSTS TO PAGE



NEED www.morningadvertiser.co.uk General News: All pubs worth a look for community



http://www.donnington.com/fight.aspx Wheel Inn Fildern head to the Mill



Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

- Great idea. Can we do it?**
4 likes
- Save The Wheel Inn Fildern**
Someone has actually gone to the bother of taking the poster off the notice board at Castle Hill - we will put it up again - more posters needed!!!
Like Comment
- Save The Wheel Inn Fildern** More posters will be printed & delivered to the shop tomorrow.
2 likes
- Save The Wheel Inn Fildern** Banners and posters in every supporter garden. Who owns the wall and garden at the side of Brian's house?
1 like
- Save The Wheel Inn Fildern** Yup ours is mobile in the car with banner to follow I the house - you can't take those away as that would be intimidation.
1 like
- Martyn Ford** Whoever is taking them down will have to break a window to get ours, very silly attempt to hide the anger and resentment in the village, if you're reading this, and you probably are.
1 like
- Keep it going**
1 like
- We'll have to get a couple of posters each and keep our eye on it.**
1 like
- And we are said it be intimidating, it's a joke**
1 like
- LEAVE OUR POSTERS ALONE!**
Put them on the notice board with a staple gun and laminate them..harder to remove!
1 like
- Portsmouth** are following this page. You might think they are too far away but a friend in Leicester's parents have just moved to Burton and said they will never use Murray's and various people at Leicester Tigers have said the same.
1 like
- Preston and**
1 like
- Ridiculous that they have taken it down off our stage notice board. That is what they think of our village. Where can we legally put the posters? If you haven't got one in your window yet then do so now. Apart from you Paul Elson, you are a bit far away.**
1 like



POSTS TO PAGE

News: Phil's jobs-waiting-to-be-booked-out-murray's

Like Comment Share

http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/...
Booked out: Funeral directors in Derby

Like Comment Share

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

Like Comment Share

Someone's being a prick

Create Page

Save The Wheel Inn (index)

Like Comment Share

Does anybody know if Murrays are part of a Guild of Undertakers? If so can they let me know how to contact the Directors of this organisation please.

Martyn Ford and Angela Duffin like this

1 comment

Martyn Ford and [redacted] like this

See who likes this

Save The Wheel Inn (index) The directors of Murrays are Susan and David Barke which makes me wonder if this is a franchise. The company is affiliated to The Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors whose job it is to audit and inspect these businesses. Might be worth writing to these people with our concerns. They can be contacted on info@siafd.org.uk

Save The Wheel Inn (index) Not Murrays directors but the people who oversee any guild or organisation that Murrays and other undertakers might be part of. Use the people should award customer care awards etc

Phil have a look at this link... paragraph 2 where it says most funeral companies have become franchises of either Colop or Dignity... I will try and contact someone on this website...

FuneralDirectors.co.uk - A Guide to Funerals and Funeral Directors

Our mission is to tell you everything you need to know about funerals and funeral directors. Whether you have recently suffered a bereavement, are planning a funeral or just want to learn more, we offer simple, straightforward advice in a helpful and friendly way.

They will be part of HAFD & SAIF

Murrays are part of a holding company and I have been trying to find out information about this. Will keep trying and find out what I can about anything else

The directors of Murrays?

Save The Wheel Inn (index)

Its been fun chatting on Facebook but we need to take the fight directly to Murrays now - they have the chance to make a quick profit and walk away

Leif... Are they... Andrew...

Computing tomorrow

Have the... are... BEAC?

... When... are... asked for a... and the... said "No, the... gun at the... fired a... test... committee said... in... outside... when... where we will have to be

... Are we going to... an... staff... on the... to get... out... and...? What... do we need from... so we don't get... made for...?"

... probably get more..."

... will have

... an... leading... as... of the... isn't... solved... the...? That... at the... for...?"

... (no...)

... Look out... for these... around the... If you would... one for your... then we intend to leave some... in the... for... collection...

... and... others... like this

... will get... up the... window of the car

... some... down... at... as well

... Just a... idea... There are... 3... in... I'll put them... have... only get... in...?"

... Forget the word... alone..."

... have... without..."

People Who Like This

Maryn F. ed

Save the Wheel Steering Group

Lead Registry Land Regi... Home - The Department f...

Who and where does the profit go to?

Exciting news: Our bid to have The Wheel listed as an Asset of Community Value is still going ahead and will be discussed at SDDC on 2 June. Here's some useful info. Does listing an asset place a restriction on what the owner can do with it?



Home - My 4 community profiles

save The Wheel Steering Group

Last night saw the inaugural meeting of the Save the Wheel steering group. We've come to a decision that will increase the value of the wheel as a place.

People Who Like This



Mystyn Ford



Ok 'Save the Wheel Inn Fudern' followers. Admin are sensing a few negative vibes sneaking in. That's not what we're about. We're here to try and save our village pub not to dwell on the past, lay blame or attract internet trolls. The pub trade has suffered for many years and we want to keep ours as it is THE ONLY PUB IN THE VILLAGE. Support from anyone local or from far afield is appreciated and we thank everyone who has taken the time to get involved in any way. Casks not caskets!

POSTS TO PAGE

<http://www.manningwells.co.uk/2014/07/12/save-four-31-pubs-worth-salvaging-in-dalbury/>

Like Comment Share

<http://www.derbysiteegraph.co.uk/2014/07/12/save-wheel-pub-fudern-headline/>

Like Comment Share

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

Like Comment Share

Like Comment Share

[Redacted] 47 others like this

save The Wheel Inn Fudern Sadly too many people have jumped on the blame the village snowgagon today, which isn't constructive. Onwards and upwards not backwards please folks!

save The Wheel Inn Fudern Totally agree Zoe, please see our latest comment too!

Martyn Ford Absolutely, we need to be focused on moving forward and keep sensible posts that show the group in a bad light aren't needed.

Zoe Evans Maybe now we need to focus on promoting the pub ourselves to attract a buyer, not sure how...but maybe the media coverage has helped?

[Redacted] Why not join together and buy the Pub back? I am sure they did this in Dalbury Lees with their village pub? I know there are some wealthy business men that live in or near Fudern

[Redacted] Hear hear!

[Redacted] Well said

[Redacted] very well said. We need constructive, positive help and hopefully we may move forward

[Redacted] I said that ages ago. The only option you realistically have is if you can get someone else to buy the place and run it as a pub. If you can organise that and take it to the powers that be proving there is another option ready to go that will keep the village happy then you stand a chance. Until you have another option why should they change anything just because you're not happy about. With the lack of trade, profit being the reason the owners were selling this will be an uphill struggle for you. Get some fundraising events organised to raise funds towards it - at least if it prove you are serious and trying to do something to the powers that be and any potential investors.



10:05

<https://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Fight-save-Whise-pub-Findem-reading> See More

Like · Comment · Share

1 Share



3 hours at 08:04

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

Like · Comment · Share

Facebook share link

10:05

Like · Comment · Share

9 10

and 5 others like this.

Top Comments ·



Martyn Ford I've yet to meet anybody who shows anything but contempt for horrific proposal. Of course Mr Burke can say they have received support from some people, possibly not villagers and possibly not much, we'll never know will we. For a company that prides itself on being caring and compassionate, what have they shown the village of Findem.....nothing!

10:10 · 14 May at 08:00

**



Save The Wheel Inn Findem I am personally very tired of Murrays talking of intimidation from villagers via social media - despite our strength of feeling against this despicable purchase we have acted with great restraint and dignity.

Murrays are not the victims in this callous oulting of our only village pub - the villagers are - and yet we have directed our efforts towards positive action and saving our pub rather than vilified towards Murrays, a company who do not even have the good grace to consult with us regarding this issue.

10:14 · 14 May at 08:11



Save The Wheel Inn Findem Mrs Merton's comments on this article in the Burton Mail are worth a read. I think we all need to keep a sense of humour throughout our fight!

Mrs Merton

10:20 at 08




That's disrespectful! Grow up. Create


Save: The Wheel Inn Findern


2014


Murray's Funeral Directors were quoted on Radio Derby this morning as saying they felt 'intimidated' by some comments made on social media sites. This is not the intention of this page or the community of Findern. Our intention as the name suggests is to 'Save the Wheel Inn Findern'. We as a community feel that the heart and soul has been ripped out of our village the pub is a place for us to co...


POSTS TO PAGE


- 

It's disgusting there putting a funeral directors in Findern it's only a small village and I don't fancy walking past it when I take my daughter to nursery it's gonna put a right miserable corner on the village I feel for the people that have to live opposite it and when they open their curtains both all there gonna see
- 

I have contacted a representative of Murrays this morning who was in the council chamber last night to hear the community express their anger and annoyance at this perverse orange of jobs. As yet I haven't had a reply from her. Murrays, in my opinion have absolutely now got to begin dialogue if they want any form of respect and co-operation from the village. Hopefully this can be facilitated sooner rather than later. In the mean time I have had some reassurance that our application for Asset of Community Value application is still going through the process at SDDC, I will keep an eye on progress. We fight on!
- 

for one I would welcome a representative from Murray's to share their plans first hand with the community. A further meeting has been suggested & I would like to invite Murray's to come along and have a chat, meet some of the people who's lives you are potentially affecting. As stated, the aim is not to intimidate (we will put our pitchforks away on this occasion) but to SAVE OUR PUB FROM THE GRIM REAPER!
- 

Murrays can always set up and relocate elsewhere they know they've got a buyer. No one is making them come to Findern. They need to think of their business reputation, this isn't doing it any good at all from the point of view of the people of Findern, their families and friends all potential future business...
- 

I find this a little ironic as the owner of Murrays have been quoted as saying that the funeral directors WILL happen at some point and as far as I have read or seen there has been no understanding of our concerns. What I would like to hear is a bit more empathy for the village community and for them to use an opportunity to gather all concerned and answer questions. What they have to be aware of is the small community they wish to impose themselves on rather than, as far as I have seen, a very arrogant and ignorant approach from Murrays. This quite frankly has not done them any favours.
- 

Look like I will be opening my curtains in the morning to be greeted by the depression.



save the Wheel Inn Findern

Due to the law being utterly ridiculous the council had no option but to agree to the change of use
The villagers were purely invited to have a chance to speak and hear the explanation of why the council could not refuse the change of use
It's a sad day but we will still explore every option to try and persuade Murrays that Findern villagers want rasks not caskets

POSTS TO PAGE

- Like Comment Share
 - Like Comment Share
 - Like Comment Share
 - Like Comment Share
- Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

- and 23 others like this.
- How did Murrays turn down the offer that was made to them?? They clearly know the strength of feeling within Findern that their business is completely inappropriate and for them to continue to pursue things against such a tide of objection is make me worry that funeral parlour is only part of the plan. If they are made to realise the damage they're causing to their reputation they might decide their business name is more important than this location and they could make a nice profit and retain their name by setting up and moving to a more suitable location if they wish to expand.
- I am devastated the wheel inn holds so many memories for me & my family some sad times but mostly amazing
- save the wheel inn findern pub was totally brilliant today thank you both I appreciate the hours you have given to this
- Sorry but if the villagers of Findern were so passionate about the pub they should have spent some money there and then it would not have closed.
- Here is the address for the new owners if anyone wishes to send a letter I will be sending them to find out their plans and express my concerns. Murray's funeral directors 29 York St. Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 2LS
- Posters I think, NO TC Funeral Parlour all over the village
- The pub used to be very popular and still could be. It just needed to be run by people with some business sense. Rather than blame villagers for a lack of support, how about you take a look at why people may have travelled to Wirksworth? What you were doing to get new business and attract people in? A pub cannot survive on local alone, look at the thriving pubs in Wirksworth and Repton. If any of the recent landlords had a sense of business sense they would not be in this situation now. So, enough of the "let's blame the villagers" please.
- Love the old one too. Findern. Must definitely
- A national press campaign emphasising how this legal loophole is affecting our village community, naming the funeral directors and highlighting the strength





POSTS TO PAGE



As a special promotion for Finedon residents during November and De...

Like Comment



As a special promotion for Finedon residents during November and De...

Like Comment



... AWW the village gallery is at Finedon News R...

Like Comment



Last rites at Wheel Inn in Finedon may be looming

... the village gallery is at Finedon News R...

Like Comment



Save The Wheel Inn Finedon

From Martyn Ford

Just a note about tonight the car parking around Swadincote is free but please get early to avoid missing the start of the meeting it will start at 6.00 prompt. This will be the first item so you will need to have found a space and signed in at SDDC to be in the Council chamber which isn't vast by 6.00

Like Comment



Save The Wheel Inn Finedon

Apologies for my mistake!

Planning meeting 13 May at 6pm SDDC council chambers Civic Way Swadincote

There's a public gallery there so please let's all take this last opportunity to stand as a village against Murray's Funeral Directors and show support for our objection speech and speaker!

Like Comment



Save The Wheel Inn Finedon

Spon



Noton
Action
Buy th
Wrap f
origine



Free
sky
Enjoy
when
£21.50
more



POSTS TO PAGE

[Redacted] ...
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[Redacted] ...
[Redacted] ...
[Redacted] ...

[Redacted] What's the address for the meeting on Tuesday?

[Redacted] Save The Wheel Inn (Nov 7, 2014)

Wow! What an amazing turn out to this afternoons meeting! Thank you everyone who turned up or contacted the page to offer support. Phil and Helen you are both brilliant we can't thank you enough xxx Please all make the effort to go along to the planning meeting on Tuesday 6pm a turn out like today is bound to make a huge impact

Like (10)

Jean Shaw, Sue Bonradale, Karen Swindell and 11 others like this.

Marys Ford Brilliant. So sorry not to be there, hopefully now Murray's will realize that we just don't want them in our village. I hope they had somebody at the meeting

[Redacted] We believe they did! One of the attendees told me that they had asked them to write their name and address down but they refused as they were from the funeral directors. I wonder what they made of it?

[Redacted] Where is the meeting on Tuesday?

[Redacted] We never expected so many people. The village Hall was packed!

[Redacted] Helen, if you found a shorthand notesoor among the papers it could be mine, I lent it to one or two people to lean on to write comments who could not get to the table. If found please let me know, could do with info in at Christian Skaupe

[Redacted] Fingers crossed for Tuesday, but seems as if it's just a formality now. But at least finders view is perfect, clear. If it all goes ahead, I suppose the best we can hope for, mean as it sounds, is that the business isn't a success and they have to sell up. Then maybe it will be rightfully back as a pub again.

[Redacted] 5 plus will be there

[Redacted] So pleased to hear some one couldn't make it. Great to hear everyone's rallying

Save The Wheel Inn (today)

Create

2014



More from Siddi local plan

2017 - 2021 Local Plan
The local plan will be developed in response to the local plan process...

more than 100 people. The main aim is to ensure that the local plan is developed in a way that is consistent with the local plan process...

Create P
2014

POSTS TO PAGE



10:00 AM - [User Name] commented on the article: The local plan will be developed in response to the local plan process...

Like Comment Share



10:10 AM - [User Name] commented on the article: The local plan will be developed in response to the local plan process...

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10:15 AM - [User Name] commented on the article: The local plan will be developed in response to the local plan process...

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The local plan will be developed in response to the local plan process...

The local plan will be developed in response to the local plan process...

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The local plan will be developed in response to the local plan process...

Posts to Page

[Profile] likes this

21 People

[Profile] Save The Wheel Inn Fildern

Hi all,
I have taken the step of booking the Village Hall on Sunday from 6pm-7pm to hold a forum of opinion to generate a joint statement from the people of the village for this '3 minute slot' we have at Tuesday's meeting. I will be posting leaflets confirming this to each house in the village. Please publicise this ASAP - the more, the merrier.
Phil

21 People

[Profile] and 2 others like this.

[Profile] Save The Wheel Inn Fildern You are totally brilliant! Thanks Phil xxx

21 People

[Profile] Save The Wheel Inn Fildern

Anyone else received email from sdcic re meeting about the wheel

21 People

[Profile] Save The Wheel Inn Fildern likes this

[Profile] Save The Wheel Inn Fildern It's ok I've just received the email myself and posted it on the page xxx

[Profile] Save The Wheel Inn Fildern I'm not at home Tracy but my sons told me if you send me a copy to Julie.cowburn@icloud.com I will post it for everyone x

[Profile] Just sent a

[Profile] Will do

[Profile] Save The Wheel Inn Fildern

Save the Wheel Inn Fndem

Well that didn't take long! Wire fences being put up across the Wheel car park as I speak ! Such a sad sight - come on everyone let's decorate the place !!!!

and 6 others like this

Save the Wheel Inn Fndem Thank you Emay we support the right to a well maintained village pub - Lack of investment by Punch killed our local

Save the Wheel Inn Fndem Here area to put flowers up - it will be like a gallery by time we've finished!

Banners printed... RIP The

Save the Wheel Inn Fndem Where is the village support here ?

Martya Ford It will soon be 6.00 time for Fndem to go to sleep now we haven't got a local pub to enjoy

you have left to late now should of supported the wheel years ago

We have attended the pub fairly regularly since we moved here 18 months ago, once it was open. We are gutted it has shut. Punch Taverns kept the sale quiet. They claim it was on the market but the board was only up a short while. At that time, they got the landlord to tell the punters that it was just a deal from one part of the brewery to another. We did get a landlord who was going to invest but then the brewery would have increased their rent massively. All the pub needed was a bit of investment and it could have been a thriving business.

Welcome to the new 'Dad Centre' of Fndem. Places available.

Save some R.I.P posters up earlier on the doors and windows- now they've been torn down!

That could be down to a call to the council last night mentioning the risk of travellers in the area...

Let's keep the 'be post' up!

I haven't copies of the other about it being an internal area within the

Derby Evening Telegraph tomorrow

Posts to Page

... will add some if others do.



Save The Wheel Inn Findern

Such a shame, had many a good evening in the Wheel. Lived in Findern since birth until moving to Yorkshire. Quite often popped in on our visits back, will miss it.



Save The Wheel Inn Findern

I'm just amazed that anyone could turn this into a Funeral Parlour. The developers must be not of this planet!! Are we now the only village without a pub in the UK ?



Martyn Ford · Save The Wheel Inn Findern

We are now in what could be the very last few days of The Wheel. Many thanks to everybody who has done so much to keep the profile very high. Radio Derby and the local press are still on the case, so please keep spreading the message that we need to keep our village pub open.



Save The Wheel Inn Findern





Create P
 2014

Save The Wheel Inn Indern

Fantastic to see so many people in the pub this afternoon and evening - the pub is coming alive again... Please continue to show your support by walking through the doors - we will save our pub!!!

Comment

and 23 others like this.

Marilyn Ford The Wheel isn't going to die without a massive fight to keep our amazing local as a pub, the momentum to keep The Wheel as a pub is growing by the day save the wheel from the grim reaper

Was a mad night

What a fun evening Like all times. We need to keep supporting by coming through the door. Save our Pub...


So nice to be in the wheel last night, so much fun this place just cannot close, it would be a tragedy

NO SURRENDER

Great to see the pub so full tonight

Save The Wheel Inn Indern

Let's keep our pub on the map!



Posts to Page

 Save The Wheel Inn Findern

I've sent an email to the land registry to try to find out more about the '15 year covenant' - if it exists and what it says. Unfortunately, land registry doesn't open again until Monday.

 and Save The Wheel Inn Findern like this.


 Save The Wheel Inn Findern Good move! X


 Save The Wheel Inn Findern

Last summer, when the for sale sign went up, we asked the landlord what they knew about it (Andy and Lorraine). They said it was a deal within the brewery, from one part of the brewery to another. So when the for sale board came down after only a couple of months, that is what we assumed had happened. We did not know that the pub was still for sale and neither would potential buyers as the sign was taken down. Then, more recently, we were being told that Punch were selling it to be a Freehouse. This was obviously a lie to stop us finding out until it was too late. They say contracts have been exchanged but surely legal processes have not been followed correctly. I wonder if there is an ombudsman we can complain to.


 Save The Wheel Inn Findern likes this.

[Top Comments](#)


 Save The Wheel Inn Findern It certainly was absolutely gutting to find out the sale was very advanced before the change of use notice went to the council - basically leaving us no time to have the pub listed as a community asset or for the council to put an order on the building to stay as a public house - we have been cynically outmanoeuvred!
All is not lost though we are still trying very hard to save the pub - dir Martyn Ford has been amazing in the fight to keep it open

 Better than our MP. I have not received a reply from her. And we did use the pub. Not all of the time as we have young children but fairly regularly.

 Save The Wheel Inn Findern

This is the reply I got from Punch Taverns:
Dear 

I am writing in response to your recent correspondence in regards the Wheel Inn in Findern dated 11th April 2014, which has been logged under reference number 02440414


Create Post

[Redacted] and [Redacted] others like this
 [Redacted] took this photo of [Redacted]

[Redacted] Save the Wheel Inn history

Morning all We need at least 23 names of people interested in saving The Wheel Inn can anyone interested please come to The Wheel at 2pm on Sunday 6th April so we can take a register of names to form our community group bid to have the Wheel Inn listed as a valuable community asset. We need to apply as a community group of 23 people or more and we need to act quickly
 If you can't make the meeting please message this page to register your interest

[Redacted] and [Redacted] others like this
 [Redacted] Register Doug, Brian and myself. Chris Smith please will try and get there but visitors arriving around 3pm
 [Redacted] Have registered donation on USDC website will try to come to Wheel tomorrow
 [Redacted] Former resident of of Indian Street and my wife would like to register
 [Redacted] Can't make following but interested
 [Redacted] Register the Time House and Tom's house please will try and get to the meeting
 [Redacted] Can't make here but would like remaining a village job
 [Redacted] But being as an incorporated community group you cannot bid, as you cannot own property. It is just to have the place listed as an asset of community interest this keeps the door open for replication and opportunity to bid if it goes up for sale which as we know already is but what the actual list a few questions is

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Boycott Murray's Funeral Directors

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Boycott Murray's Funeral Directors. Make sure nobody ever gives this company any future business whatsoever. **I wouldn't be seen dead at Murray's.**

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PHOTOS



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9 May at 09:06

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Boycott Murray's Funeral Directors
20 September

Murray's...just in case you had forgotten, we still don't want you in our village. You will never be welcome.

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Boycott Murray's Funeral Directors
10 June

Murray's, you are not wanted here. Do the right thing for everyone, accept the generous offer you have been given and set up a funeral parlour somewhere that won't permanently damage a community. Your business will always suffer here now due to the resentment you have caused. Now is the time to go.

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Boycott Murray's Funeral Directors
9 May

Keep sharing the page and spreading the word for everyone to boycott Murray's Funeral Directors. This WILL have a negative impact on their business if everyone in the area stops using them and ultimately force them to reconsider taking away our village pub. They were quoted in the Burton Mail saying a lot of their customers are from Findern. Not any more they aren't...

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Boycott Murray's Funeral Directors
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"I wouldn't be seen dead at Murray's".

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Boycott Murray's Funeral Directors. They want to turn The Wheel Inn, Findern into a funeral parlour and remove our village pub. Let's hit them where it hurts, in the pocket. Make sure nobody ever gives this company any future business. Spread this message far and wide.

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20 September

Murray's...just in case you had forgotten, we still don't want you in our village. You will never be welcome.

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Murray's, you are not wanted here. Do the right thing for everyone, accept the generous offer you have been given and set up a funeral parlour somewhere that won't permanently damage a community. Your business will always suffer here now due to the resentment you have caused. Now is the time to go.

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Keep sharing the page and spreading the word for everyone to boycott Murray's Funeral Directors. This WILL have a negative impact on their business if everyone in the area stops using them and ultimately force them to reconsider taking away our village pub. They were quoted in the Burton Mail saying a lot of their customers are from Findern. Not any more they aren't...

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9 Oct

By Isaac Crowson



The Wheel Inn, Findern

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Comments (3)

A CAMPAIGN to save a village pub is to be highlighted in Parliament

The Save The Wheel Campaign was launched after the Findern pub closed. The new owners of the building are currently turning it into a funeral directors.

Former GMB Union representative Dave Mountford has stepped into the row and will speak to MPs about the pressures landlords are placed under by pub companies.

He will give evidence to the public bill committee considering the Government's Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill.

Related content

- [Pop-up pub from Findern's Wheel Inn protesters \(/Pop-pub-Findern-s-Wheel-Inn-protesters/story-22892054-detail/story.html\)](#)

Mr Mountford is a campaigner on this issue and has stepped into previous battles.

He said: "I will give evidence at the committee next week and then the bill will be debated

"I intend to throw a large amount of hand grenades

"I believe The Wheel Inn was a viable opportunity as a pub. I have run a pub for five years and I know what needs to be done. I believe the company model which exists for landlords is corrupt and does not work.

"When I give evidence, The Wheel case will be a shining example of how this practice works and how it makes tenants go bankrupt.

"I think pubs are becoming more and more viable."

Murray's Funeral Directors, in Burton, has purchased the building.

Mr Mountford said he was extremely passionate about the issue and thinks more should be done to help pubs survive.

He said: "At the committee I will give them information they cannot ignore. It's as simple as that.

"The public need to be aware of this issue. They might think it is supermarkets which is causing pubs

<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Fight-save-Wheel-pub-Findern-heading-MPs/story-230...> 20/10/2014

problems but it is not "

A spokesman for Punch Taverns, which used to own the pub, said, "Punch Taverns settled a dispute with Mr Mountford over five years ago and since then we are widely regarded as having led positive change in landlord and tenant relationships across the pub sector

"We are surprised Mr Mountford is talking to the media about The Wheel at Findern. He is in regular dialogue with Punch and has never mentioned this case with us

"The Wheel was identified for sale some time ago, along with a number of other pubs in our estate. The pub was for sale on the open market for more than 12 months

"Of the six people who viewed the property, only the purchaser came up with a substantive offer in that time. It is important to stress that more than 90% of our sites are sold as pubs."

A spokeswoman for Murray's did not want to comment

74

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Pop-up pub from Findern's Wheel Inn protesters

By Derby Telegraph (/people/Derby Telegraph/profile.html) | Posted: September 08, 2014

By CHRIS PEDDY



Protesters marched through Findern to the former Wheel Inn, left. They are angry that the last remaining pub in the village has closed.



Comments (3)

VILLAGERS staged a "pop-up pub" to protest over the closing of their last remaining hostelry.

Residents of Findern are angry that their only pub has been sold to a funeral directors.

About 50 people marched through the village on Saturday before meeting in a field to have a drink in protest at the closure of the Wheel Inn pub, which has been shut since April.

Murray's Funeral Directors, in Burton, has purchased the building, saying it wants its business to be nearer to its customers.

<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Pop-pub-Findern-s-Wheel-Inn-protesters/story-2289205...> 20/10/2014

Related content

- [Fight to save The Wheel pub at Findern is heading to MPs at Westminster \(/Fight-save-Wheel-pub-Findern-heading-MPs/story-23066139-detail/story.html\)](#)

But it is a move which has been strongly opposed by villagers, who have already seen another of their pubs and a butcher's close

The protesters met outside the garden centre before making their way to the field and sitting down to enjoy a drink.

Phil Watts was present at the event and was pleased at the way the day turned out.

The 39-year-old teacher, of Findern, said: "It was very positive and there was lots of laughing and joking.

"It was a nice afternoon, everyone brought their own deck chairs, tables and beers and had a nice time.

"It's just a shame that it will be a one-off."

Mr Watts said the pub's closure had been an annoyance for the village's community, as it was the only place left for people to go out and enjoy a drink.

He said: "It is very inconvenient. The nearest pubs are a 40-minute walk away and there are only buses every hour.

"But there are many of us who will keep this going and try to get the pub back."

Fellow villager Phil Mason is also keen to continue to push to get The Wheel Inn reopened as a pub.

He said: "We are still hopeful.

"We are hoping that common sense will prevail and the community can have an effect."

Mr Mason is prepared to do what he can to make his voice heard.

He said: "To change what has happened is impossible.

"But to make life uncomfortable for them [the funeral directors] is possible.

"Our aim is to disrupt their business so that it is more hassle than it is worth for them."

He was also glad to see lots of old friends at the march, even if the numbers were not as high as he had initially hoped.

"It actually brought people together who haven't seen each other for six to eight months," he added.

"We don't see them at all now unless we bump into them at restaurants and pubs in the surrounding villages."

He is hoping to hold a similar event in the future, but possibly without the march to make it more accessible to Findern's older residents.

He added: "We will continue to fight.

"It is about more than just this one pub. They're closing all over Derbyshire and all over the country."

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Comments (17)

Dozens of protesters have taken to the streets of Findern today to demonstrate against the closure of the Wheel Inn, the last pub in the village.

Residents in Findern organised a march and a pop-up-pub.

The owner of the Wheel Inn in Findern, Murray's Funeral Directors, of Burton, has been granted permission to convert the building into a funeral parlour. The pub was closed in April and since then residents have campaigned to highlight their plight.

A spokeswoman for Murray's refused to comment. The company had previously said: "Unfortunately the Wheel Inn failed to be a viable business a long time before the doors were finally closed by Punch Taverns. It is a great pity the Save the Wheel Campaign was not active during the 18 months Punch were trying to sell their pub."

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- Last rites at Wheel Inn in Findern may be looming (/rites-final-pub-Findern-looming/story-21088153-detail/story.html)
- Wheel Inn, Findern: Protests fail to save popular village pub (/Closure-popular-village-pub-Findern/story-20965597-detail/story.html)
- Punters at Wheel Inn, Findern: 'We don't want our pub to become funeral parlour!' (/Punters-Wheel-Inn-Findern-don-t-want-pub-funeral/story-20960774-detail/story.html)
- The Wheel Inn, Findern, could be turned into funeral parlour (/Wheel-Inn-Findern-turned-funeral-parlour/story-20900018-detail/story.html)
- Punch Taverns close to cutting massive debts (/Punch-Taverns-close-cutting-massive-debts/story-22945957-detail/story.html)

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Derbyshire villagers plan pop-up pub protest over loss of their local

By Derby Telegraph (/people/Derby Telegraph/profile.html) | Posted: August 28, 2014

By Isaac Crowson



Campaigners at The Wheel Inn in Findern.

Comments (9)

CAMPAIGNERS are organising a protest to highlight their plight after the final pub in their village closed.

Residents in Findern (<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/findern-news>) have organised a march and a pop-up-pub, which will descend on to the village green next week.

The owner of the Wheel Inn in Findern, Murray's Funeral Directors, of Burton, has been granted permission to convert the building into a funeral parlour.

Phil Mason, who has lived in Findern for 20 years, said the Save the Wheel group hopes a large number of villagers will attend on the Saturday.

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- [Funeral firm boss vows: No housing on former Derbyshire pub site \(/Funeral-firm-boss-vows-housing-Derbyshire-pub/story-21347167-detail/story.html\)](#)
- [We could save closed pub from becoming a funeral parlour, says leading brewer \(/save-closed-pub-funeral-parlour-says-leading/story-21302776-detail/story.html\)](#)
- [Pub to be funeral parlour? Over our dead bodies, say Derbyshire villagers \(/Pub-funeral-parlour-dead-bodies-say-Derbyshire/story-21287405-detail/story.html\)](#)
- [Findern villagers' offer to buy 'funeral parlour' pub is rejected \(/Findern-villagers-offer-buy-funeral-parlour-pub/story-21247256-detail/story.html\)](#)
- [The Wheel Inn pub open again after a revamp \(/Pub-open-revamp/story-21207133-detail/story.html\)](#)

Mr Mason, of Doles Lane, said: "We are meeting at the garden centre and a large group of us will make our way to the green for the pop-up pub. The pub closing is another nail in the coffin of village community life."

He said that, over the last few decades, the village has lost The Greyhound pub, a greengrocer and a butcher and the post office has become part of the village store.

He said: "There is nowhere to go any more."

Marlyn Ford, who represents Findern on South Derbyshire District Council, supports the campaign

He said: "There is so much anger with the company, we feel they have really let us down."

A spokesman for Punch Taverns said: "It is always our priority that our pubs are operating well and we work closely with our operators to support them."

<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Derbyshire-villagers-plan-pop-pub-protest-loss/story-228400R1-detail/story.html>

"A sale at the Wheel Inn had been agreed, so a refurbishment was not planned at this property. We brought in some temporary operators to trade the pub before it closed and it would always be in our interests to maximise trading opportunities while the pub remained open."

A spokeswoman for Murray's refused to comment. The company had previously said: "Unfortunately the Wheel Inn failed to be a viable business a long time before the doors were finally closed by Punch Taverns. It is a great pity the Save the Wheel Campaign was not active during the 18 months Punch were trying to sell their pub."

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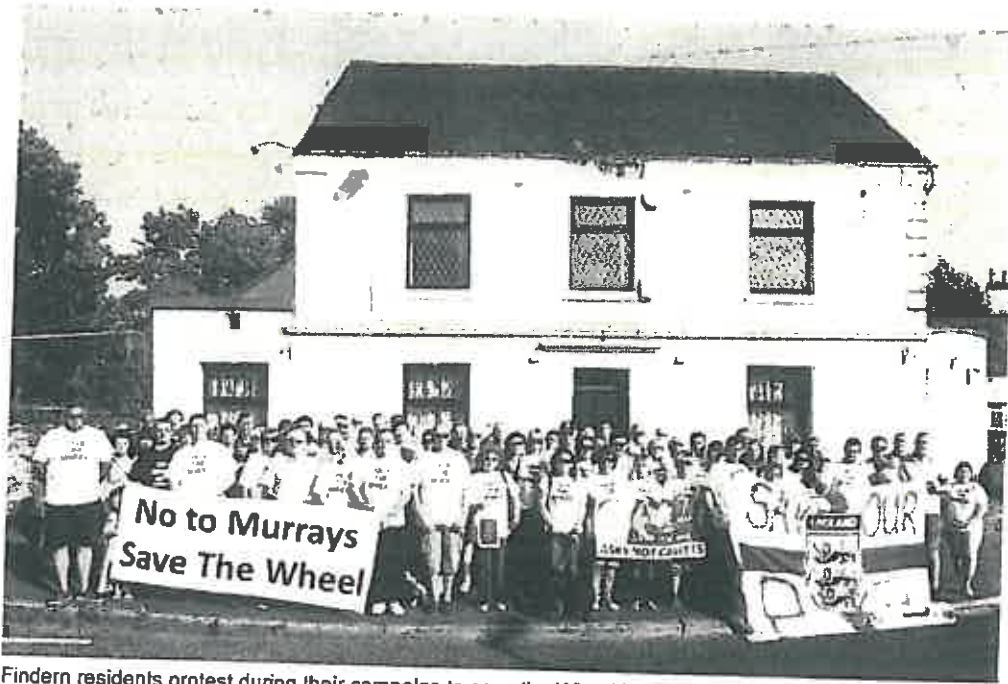
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Funeral firm boss vows: No housing on former Derbyshire pub site

By Derby Telegraph ([http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/people/Derby Telegraph/profile.html](http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/people/Derby%20Telegraph/profile.html)) | Posted: July 09, 2014

By ISAAC CROWSON



Findern residents protest during their campaign to save the Wheel Inn, the last pub in the village.



Findern residents protest during their campaign to save the Wheel Inn, the last pub in the village

● Comments (19)

A FUNERAL director's firm has denied claims it will eventually build homes on the site of a former pub.

The owner of the Wheel Inn in Findern, Murray's Funeral Directors, of Burton, has been granted permission to convert the building into a funeral parlour.

<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Funeral-firm-boss-vows-housing-Derbyshire-pub/story-...> 20/10/2014

The business has also said it is not interested in receiving offers "from anyone, now or in the future".

Residents were concerned at the lack of activity at the site on Main Street. But the company said delays were down to "technical issues".

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- Funeral director plans for pub in Findern given the go-ahead amid a storm of protest (/Funeral-director-plans-pub-Findern-accepted/story-21092251-detail/story.html)
- Last rites at Wheel Inn in Findern may be looming (/rites-final-pub-Findern-looming/story-21088153-detail/story.html)
- Pub's £150,000 revamp to start (/Pub-s-pound-150-000-revamp-start/story-20992989-detail/story.html)
- 'Tsunami of unhappiness' over conversion of Derbyshire pub to funeral director's business (/8216-Tsunami-unhappiness-8217-conversion/story-20986399-detail/story.html)
- Wheel Inn, Findern: Protests fail to save popular village pub (/Closure-popular-village-pub-Findern/story-20965597-detail/story.html)
- CAMRA: New laws needed to save our pubs (/CAMRA-New-laws-needed-save-pubs/story-22596758-detail/story.html)

Trevor Harris, owner of Derby Brewing Company, has expressed an interest in the building becoming a pub again and part of his company.

He said: "It would have been helpful if we had been consulted and I do not think this is fair on the villagers.

"I would think the business would have the common sense that so many people are against it.

"There are places all over South Derbyshire the company could move to. They do not need to pick the last pub in the village of Findern.

"They are not thinking outside the box. Time will tell to see if they have made the right decision not to be open to offers. I think it's tragic and really bad. I would have expected some dialogue.

"I have spoken to other people in the business and they all feel the same as me about this."

Mr Harris's company owns the Tap, in Derwent Street, the Greyhound, in Friar Gate, and the Queen's Head, in Little Eaton.

Mr Harris, in the pub business for 33 years, said he had never previously come across such strong opposition.

Former pub regular Kate Horton, of Heatherton, used to live in Findern. She said: "In the worst-case scenario, I would have rather it had been housing. I don't understand why they are not communicating with the community."

Martyn Ford, who represents Findern on South Derbyshire District Council, was pleased there were no plans for houses but still hoped it could return as a pub.

He said: "If they do come into the village then it will be with a torrent of discontent.

"I think that this latest news will inspire the community into campaigning more."

David Barke, director of Murray's Funeral Directors, said: "There have been a small number of technical issues which have had to be addressed which have delayed the start of our refurbishment.

"However, our plans are now well under way and we are working with local contractors on the project timelines.

"We did receive an offer to buy the Wheel Inn in April, which we rejected. It is nearly three months since we bought the premises and we are not interested in receiving further unsolicited offers for our premises from anyone, now or in the future.

"Unfortunately the Wheel Inn failed to be a viable business a long time before the doors were finally closed by Punch Taverns. It is a great pity the Save the Wheel Campaign was not active during the 18 months Punch were trying to sell their pub.

"There are no plans for housing on our site "

<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Funeral-firm-boss-vows-housing-Derbyshire-pub/story-...> 20/10/2014

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We could save closed pub from becoming a funeral parlour, says leading brewer

By Derby Telegraph (/people/Derby Telegraph/profile.html) | Posted: June 29, 2014

By Isaac Crowson



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Residents from around Findern gather to show their support for their Save The Wheel Pub, Cask Not Caskets campaign.

Comments (9)

A LEADING figure in Derby's beer scene says he can stop a village pub becoming a funeral parlour by making it popular again.

Trevor Harris, owner of Derby Brewing Company, says the Wheel Inn in Findern – the last remaining pub in the village – “should not disappear”.

Punch Taverns closed the pub in April and South Derbyshire District Council has given permission to Murray's Funeral Directors, of Burton, to convert it.

Mr Harris said: “I look at the Wheel and I think it could have a great future as a pub. I've got no bias with it being a funeral directors, it's just it should definitely stay as a pub. I'm amazed this has been allowed.

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- CAMRA: New laws needed to save our pubs (/CAMRA-New-laws-needed-save-pubs/story-22596758-detail/story.html)

“It will not work as a funeral parlour. They will not be looking forward to business from their point of view because of the reaction we have seen.

“I would look at buying it. There is no reason why it can't be a Derby Brewing Company pub and we can make it special.

“I completely sympathise with how the people of Findern feel about this. I think they would be pleased if we were to buy it and would think it would be great.

<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/save-closed-pub-funeral-parlour-says-leading/story-213...> 20/10/2014

"It should not disappear, but it has to stand on its own two feet and I think it can."

Mr Harris's company owns, The Tap, in Derwent Street, The Greyhound, in Friar Gate, and the Queen's Head, in Little Eaton.

Mr Harris, who has been in the pub business for 33 years, said he has never come across such strong opposition to plans before.

He said: "I got my first pub in Herefordshire in 1981 and I know the importance of a village pub.

"We did not realise it was on the market and if we did we could have done something at the time.

"You only have to look at other pubs in the area like the Green Dragon, which has been a tremendous success. The Wheel can be the same.

"I have never seen anything quite like this in terms of strong opposition against these plans."



Martyn Ford, who represents Findern on the district council, was delighted Derby Brewing Company was showing interest.

He said: "This is extremely promising and would be a dream come true to us here in the village.

"The company is incredibly well respected and the thought of it being under their control is tremendous.

"If Murray's accepted, they would get great support from the village."

David Barke, from Murray's Funeral Directors, previously said: "We are continuing with our plans to refurbish our new premises.

"There is much to be done as the building was left in a poor state of repair. Once the renovations are completed, we look forward to playing an active role in the community for many years to come."

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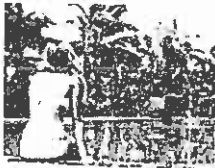
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Pub to be funeral parlour? Over our dead bodies, say Derbyshire villagers

By Derby Telegraph (/people/Derby Telegraph/profile.html) | Posted: June 25, 2014

By ISAAC CROWSON



Residents are stepping up a campaign to buy The Wheel Inn in Findern.



Residents are stepping up a campaign to buy The Wheel Inn in Findern.

Comments (32)

A NEW offer is being lined up by villagers to buy a former Derbyshire pub and stop it becoming a funeral directors.

Mark Gregory said the offer is "substantially higher" than £300,000 he has already put in on behalf of other angry Findern folk to buy The Wheel Inn.

<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Pub-funeral-parlour-dead-bodies-say-Derbyshire/story-...> 20/10/2014

South Derbyshire District Council has given permission to Murray's Funeral Directors, of Burton, to convert the pub.

Mr Gregory, 50, of Longlands Lane, Findern, said: "I hope that the hassle will put pressure on them to realise this is not wanted here.

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- Findern villagers' offer to buy 'funeral parlour' pub is rejected (/Findern-villagers-offer-buy-funeral-parlour-pub/story-21247256-detail/story.html)
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"When the offer is organised I will send it off in writing. I can't see much point in the building being turned into a funeral directors.

"We will not want a funeral cortege coming through all day. Life is depressing enough without one of those here. We need to try and enjoy life.

"If it was down a back street then fine, but this parlour will be on the main road in the village. This new offer will be the new fight."

Punch Taverns closed the pub in April. Mr Gregory said anger in the village has not died down.

South Derbyshire MP Heather Wheeler is backing the residents' campaign and proudly wore a Save the Wheel Inn T-shirt at the Findern village fete last weekend.

Mrs Wheeler said she would be campaigning against planning rules, which meant a pub can remain if it is the last in the village, unless there is permission for a funeral parlour. She said: "The legislation needs to be replaced and that is my focus in Parliament by talking to ministers."

Steve Johnson, managing director of Archway Motors, is also backing the campaign and sees the benefits of a village pub. He said: "Regardless of whom the potential buyers may be, we believe that, for the long-term benefit of the community, The Wheel Inn must remain as a pub, which is why we are backing this campaign.

"Archway Motors is the longest-established business in the village and generations of my family have frequented The Wheel over the years.

"We need businesses like The Wheel to maintain community cohesion – and it would be a great shame if we were to lose such an asset, which, with the right level of investment, has the potential to be a great community pub once again."

David Barke, from Murray's Funeral Directors, said: "Contrary to the many false rumours circulated by the Save the Wheel group, we have received only one unsolicited expression of interest, but as they didn't give an address or even cover the true costs of purchasing the site, we decided not to take it any further.

"We are continuing with our plans to refurbish our new premises. There is much to be done as the building was left in a poor state of repair. Once the renovations are completed, we look forward to playing an active role in the community for many years to come."

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Findern villagers' offer to buy 'funeral parlour' pub is rejected

By Derby Telegraph (/people/Derby Telegraph/profile.html) | Posted: June 17, 2014

By ISAAC CROWSON



Villagers in the pub before it was closed in April.



The Wheel Inn in Findern.

Comments (13)

VILLAGERS are planning to use "disruptive tactics" to stop a Derbyshire pub being converted into a funeral parlour
Mark Gregory has put in an offer to buy the Wheel Inn in Findern on behalf of other angry villagers.

<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Findern-villagers-offer-buy-funeral-parlour-pub/story-2...> 20/10/2014

He said that all his offers – including the latest of £300,000 – had been rejected but he is determined to block the conversion.

Mr Gregory, 50, of Longlands Lane, said: "I will do anything legal I can to stop it from going ahead, including trying to stop people working on the site

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"I want to use disruptive tactics to make life difficult for them. We are very angry in the village and it is a burning issue."

South Derbyshire District Council has given permission to Murray's Funeral Directors, of Burton, to convert the pub. Mr Gregory said: "I contacted them several months ago and they indicated they might be open to offers because of the bad publicity they were getting.

"The offer I have made is on behalf of several people.

"I would definitely want to keep it as a pub because I've been going there for 30 years and it's needed in the village.

"It's where people got together in the village and, although it's not been as busy recently, people still gather there. It's a very important place and holds a lot of memories for people. It is the focal point of the village."

Punch Taverns closed the pub in April. Mr Gregory said anger in the village has not died down.

He said: "I would much rather it be a pub than a funeral parlour, that would be the worst thing it could be.

"But they hold all the aces at the moment."

Martyn Ford, who represents Findern on the district council, said it was very positive news that people wanted to buy the building.

He said: "I would love to be able to be in a position to buy it myself. As a village, we need something to draw people to us and that is what the pub did."

David Barke, of Murray's Funeral Directors, said: "We have received only one unsolicited expression of interest but, as they didn't give an address or even cover the true costs of purchasing the site, we decided not to take it any further.

"The application for the former Wheel Inn to be listed as an asset of community value was turned down by the district council. We are continuing with our plans to refurbish our new premises."

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Funeral director plans for pub in Findern given the go-ahead amid a storm of protest

By ICrowsonDT (<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/people/ICrowsonDT/profile.html>) | Posted May 14, 2014



Comments (3)

CONTROVERSIAL plans to turn a village pub into funeral directors were approved at a planning meeting last night.

Murray's Funeral Directors, of Burton, bought The Wheel Inn, in Findern, and has been granted the right to turn it into a funeral parlour.

The move has angered local residents and councillors who have fought the plans since they were first submitted to South Derbyshire District Council.

Residents feel losing the pub would be a big loss to the village and community life.

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Councillor Martyn Ford said. "There was no way the committee would turn it down.

"However, this is not the nail in the coffin yet.

"Myself and residents are very angered that the company has not had any discussions or

<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Funeral-director-plans-pub-Findern-accepted/story-210...> 20/10/2014

communication with us about the plans."

The committee was addressed by Murray's Funeral Directors and a group of residents, who met on Sunday to discuss how to make their case against as strong as possible.

The residents' meeting was held at Findern Village Hall. About 185 people attended, including South Derbyshire MP Heather Wheeler.

Speaking to the Derby Telegraph after the residents' meeting, the Conservative MP said: "Planning guidance calls upon authorities to make sure the last pub in a village is saved from developers, or that six months be given to find a new pub landlord or owner.

"But the commercial people who have been looking after the sale appear to have found a loophole which would allow the applicant to change the building's use.

"If the committee feels it cannot turn the application down, they could at least defer making a decision until more is known about what would happen with the surrounding highways.

"If it becomes a funeral parlour, they will regularly have to close the road. It's an incredibly busy road and busy junction."

A spokesman for David Barke at Murray's Funeral Directors said: "We have been surprised and saddened by some of the vitriolic and widely inaccurate comments made by a small number of individuals on the campaign's Facebook page and in the media.

"However we have been heartened by the many messages of support sent to us privately from Findern residents.

"The previous tenants and villagers were aware that the site was up for sale since July last year.

"Our plans are exactly as stated in the now approved Lawful Change of Use application. We can confirm that we are not in discussions with any other land owners.

We are a small independent funeral directors and look forward to being able to help and serve the people of South Derbyshire from our new local office."

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'Tsunami of unhappiness' over conversion of Derbyshire pub to funeral director's business

By Derby Telegraph ([http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/people/Derby Telegraph/profile.html](http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/people/Derby%20Telegraph/profile.html)) | Posted April 20, 2014

By Isaac Crowson



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The Wheel Inn, Findern, which could be turned into a funeral director's.

Comments (9)

THERE is a "tsunami of unhappiness" in a Derbyshire village over the loss of a pub, according to a councillor.

People in Findern are demanding to know who is behind a mystery planning application to turn the Wheel Inn into a funeral director's.

An application to change its use has been submitted to South Derbyshire District Council by agent DPDS Consulting Group.

The representatives for the group refused to tell the Derby Telegraph who was behind it.

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- [Punters at Wheel Inn, Findern: 'We don't want our pub to become funeral parlour!' \(/Punters-Wheel-Inn-Findern-don-t-want-pub-funeral/story-20960774-detail/story.html\)](#)
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Advertising



Martyn Ford, who represents Findern on the council, said: "I'd like to know what the secret is.

"In 99% of planning applications the person applying is named. So why not tell us?

"There is a tremendous amount of resentment in the village towards them, whoever they are. What is their motive?"

Protests to save the pub failed last Wednesday, as its owner, Punch Taverns, closed it down, leaving landlord Victor Watkins homeless.

Mr Ford said anger in the village was still high.

He said: "There is a tsunami of unhappiness.

"It would be for the benefit of the people behind this application to come forward because they can't see the emotion we have.

"Findern will just become a little sleepy village."

Julie Cowburn, of Longlands Lane, is also angry.

She said: "The rest of the village were aghast that the venue was being sold and there was an application for a funeral director's.

"It's very disconcerting and frustrating. We want to make our voices heard but can't contact the people behind it.

"It's a miserable situation. We're devastated."

She said the village would never be the same again.

She added. "It will just be a series of roads. Most of the relationships in the village have been formed at the Wheel Inn

"I feel like this is the end of community life."

Kate Horton, of Hawthorn Crescent, Findern, has leafleted residents and got councillors involved.

She said the fight would not stop. The 41-year-old said: "We are devastated but we are not giving up hope.

"To drive past the pub and see it closed will be heartbreaking."

A spokesman for DPDS said: "Punch Taverns put the property up for sale on July 15, 2013

"It was then extensively advertised by a specialist agent, which resulted in 167 requests for sales particulars.

"However, after months of advertising, there was only one offer that could be taken forward to a sale.

"There are still technical matters to be addressed through the planning process and these are commercially sensitive at this time.

"We would hope to be in a position to confirm the new owners in due course."

<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/8216-Tsunami-unhappiness-8217-conversion/story-209...> 20/10/2014

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Wheel Inn, Findern: Protests fail to save popular village pub

By ICrowsonDT (<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/people/ICrowsonDT/profile.html>) | Posted: April 16, 2014



The Wheel Inn, Findern.

Comments (1)

PROTESTS to save a popular village pub (<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/beer>) failed this morning as its owners started "stripping the place out", according to its former manager.

Victor Watkins, formerly of The Wheel Inn, in Findern, has admitted defeat and said he has been left homeless.

The pub is owned by Punch Taverns, which put it up for sale last July. An application to change its use into a funeral parlour has been submitted to South Derbyshire District Council by agent DPDS Consultancy Group.

Victor, 61, said: "This is the last thing I ever wanted. I can't see it re-opening and it's all over now.

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• Findern residents protest at closing of Wheel Inn pub (/Findern-residents-protest-closing-Wheel-Inn-pub/story-22886903-detail/story.html)

"We had a few people supporting us this morning but we can't do anything. I'm packing up my last belongings in a suitcase and I have no plans for the future yet."



Councillor Martyn Ford, who represents Findern on the district council, said he would be writing to Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities, about the situation.

He said: "There needs to be a change of legislation because there needs to be consideration for community backing before a pub can be shut down.

"I have colossal resentment for the decision. Words can't describe how much I disagree with it."

A spokesman for Punch Taverns said: "We have extensively marketed the Wheel to let, with a £150,000-proposed refurbishment, since December 2012. Due to very little interest in running the site, we also marketed the pub for sale as a freehold from July 2013. We have attempted to keep the pub trading over that period but it is no longer sustainable for us.

"The sale is a decision we did not make lightly but, unfortunately, we had very little interest and, since July, we have had only one offer for the freehold. We have now exchanged contracts with the purchaser so are legally bound to sell the property.

"We take concerns from the local community very seriously and met with Councillor Martyn Ford and representatives from the community group to discuss the matter, with them making suggestions of potential options. The pub has been sold with a licence and in an operational state having run it up to completion. The purchaser will now decide how they want to deal with the pub."

The Derby Telegraph approached DPDS Consultancy Group for a comment but did not receive one.

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'Pop-up pub' is latest effort to save village boozier

By Burton Mail (<http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/people/BurtonMail/profile.html>) | Posted: September 09, 2014

Comments (0)

VILLAGERS staged a 'pop-up pub' to protest over the closing of their last remaining hostelry

Residents of Findern are angry that their only pub has been sold to a funeral directors

About 50 people marched through the village on Saturday before meeting in a field to have a drink in protest at the closure of the Wheel Inn pub, which has been shut since April.

Murray's Funeral Directors, in Burton, has purchased the building, saying it wants its business to be nearer to its customers.

But it is a move which has been strongly opposed by villagers, who have already seen another of their pubs and a butcher's shop close

The protesters met outside the garden centre before making their way to the field and sitting down to enjoy a drink

Phil Watts was present at the event and was pleased at the way the day turned out

The 39-year-old teacher, of Findern, said. "It was very positive and there was lots of laughing and joking.

"It was a nice afternoon, everyone brought their own deck chairs, tables and beers and had a nice time It's just a shame that it will be a one-off."

Mr Watts said the pub's closure had been an annoyance for the village's community, as it was the only place left for people to go out and enjoy a drink.

Fellow villager Phil Mason is also keen to continue to push to get The Wheel Inn reopened as a pub

He said: "We are still hopeful

"We are hoping that common sense will prevail and the community can have an effect."

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Findern pub plans continue to move towards funeral parlour bid

By [Burton Mail](http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/people/BurtonMail/profile.html) (<http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/people/BurtonMail/profile.html>) | Posted [June 26 2014](#)

Comments (0)

BOSSSES revealed that they are pressing on with plans to convert a former South Derbyshire pub into a funeral directors – despite

David Barke, from Murray's Funeral Directors, stated that plans were on track to refurbish the Wheel Inn, in Findern – and that the community in the future

This comes after a Save the Wheel group was launched after the firm was handed permission by South Derbyshire District Council into a funeral directors

He said: "We are continuing with our plans to refurbish our new premises

"There is much to be done as the building was left in a poor state of repair. Once the renovations are completed we look forward many years to come."

Mr Barke also moved to dispel rumours that the firm had been inundated with offers from various individuals to try and buy the site

He added: "Contrary to the many false rumours circulated by the Save the Wheel group, we have received only one unsolicited offer. As an address or even cover the true costs of purchasing the site, we decided not to take it any further."

This comes after Findern resident Mark Gregory had a £300,000 bid for the site rejected by Murray's

South Derbyshire MP Heather Wheeler is backing the residents' campaign and proudly wore a Save the Wheel Inn T-shirt at the

An application to list the site as an asset to the community was turned down by chiefs at the district council

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Group step up campaign to save village's only pub

By [Burton Mail](http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/people/BurtonMail/profile.html) (<http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/people/BurtonMail/profile.html>) | Posted **May 26, 2014**



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01/04/14 GV of the wheel in Findern Planning ap to convert it into funeral directors - Findern Funder

Comments (0)

A GROUP which formed to try and stop a pub in a South Derbyshire village from being turned into a funeral parlour have requested a meeting with the new owners

The Wheel Inn in Findern has been sold by Punch Taverns to Burton company Murray's Funeral Directors

The Save the Wheel Inn group say they will fight to get the pub open again

They held a committee meeting last week and have now come up with a mission statement that reads "We seek to use peaceful and legal means in order to reach our objective of restoring the pub back to the community

"We reserve the right to state the view that we would like the pub to reopen "

Councillor Martyn Ford, who lives in Findern, told the Mail "We contacted Murray's on Friday and hopefully we will get an answer from them this week as to whether they will meet with us

"We do not want our pub turned into a funeral directors "

The group are encouraging people to write to Murray's, and even held up a 'Save the Wheel' banner at Derby County's match against QPR on Saturday

They have also applied to South Derbyshire District Council for the pub to become a community asset. It is due before the council on June 2

David Barke from Murray's Funeral Directors said "We have been surprised and saddened by some of the vitriolic and widely inaccurate comments made by a small number of individuals on the campaign's Facebook page and in the media. However we have been heartened by the many messages of support sent to us privately from Findern residents

"The previous tenants and villagers were aware that the site was up for sale since July last year

"Our plans are exactly as stated in the now approved Lawful Change of Use application. We can confirm that we are not in discussions with any other land owners

"We are a small independent funeral directors and look forward to being able to help and serve the people of South Derbyshire from our new local office "

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Death knell for pub could not be stopped

By Burton Mail (<http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/people/Burton-Mail/profile.html>) | [Post](#)



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 01/04/14 CV of the wheel in Findern Planning ap to convert it into funeral directors - Findern, Findern

Comments (0)
 COUNCILLORS were left with no choice but to allow for a village pub to be changed into a funeral parlour.
 The Wheel Inn in Findern has been bought by Burton based Murray's Funeral Directors, leading to uproar from residents who do not want to see the death of the only pub in the village.
 At a meeting of South Derbyshire District Council's planning committee on Tuesday night, members agreed to issue a certificate for the change of use because, by law, that's the only thing they could do as planning permission is not needed.

The council told residents they could not prevent it and a certificate for a lawful change of use was on y put forward by Murray's to show that the council agreed with what was said, rather than being a necessity

The meeting was attended by a large number of residents

Villager Phil Watts spoke at the start of the meeting

He said the location was a 'totally inappropriate place' for a funeral parlour, adding '1,600 tax payers will not be able to attend a pub for a drink'

Councillor Lisa Brown, vice chairman of the committee, said the 'law is an ass

She said the council could possibly pass villagers' views onto central government

David Barke from Murray's Funeral Directors said: "We have been surprised and saddened by some of the vitriolic and widely inaccurate comments made by a small number of individuals on the campaign's Facebook page and in the media. However we have been heartened by the many messages of support sent to us privately from Finedon residents

The previous tenants and villagers were aware that the site was up for sale since July last year

We can confirm that we are not in discussions with any other land owners"

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Fight to save village pub is set to continue

By Burton Mail (http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/people/BurtonMail/profile.html) | Posted May 13, 2014

Comments (0)

ALMOST 200 people from a South Derbyshire village turned up to a meeting to vent their anger over plans to turn a pub into a funeral home

The Wheel Inn, in Findam, was sold to Burton-based Murray's Funeral Directors by Punch Taverns. The firm has applied to South Derbyshire District Council to change its use from a pub to a funeral directors.

Residents are determined to save the pub and held a meeting on Sunday ahead of a meeting of the district council's planning committee tonight, when a final decision is due to be made.

A Facebook page called 'Save The Wheel Inn' has been set up and South Derbyshire MP Heather Wheeler has also given her support.

The meeting gave people the chance to have their say on what should be mentioned in a three-minute speech due to be given ahead of the meeting at the council's offices in Civic Way. A number of the villagers are due to attend the meeting.

Resident Phil Watts said: 'Findam is an English village with a church and post office. People are proud of the village and the pub is part of that.'

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Pub 'will' be turned into funeral parlour in future

By Burton Mail (<http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/people/Burton-Mail/profile.html>) | Posted [10:11](#)



Comments (0)

A BURTON based funeral directors have confirmed that they are the new owners of a former South

Derbyshire village pub

Murray's Funerals: Directors bought The Wheel Inn in Findern from Punch Taverns, who put the pub up for sale last July because it was no longer profitable.

An application was submitted to South Derbyshire District Council earlier this year to change the use of the building from a pub to a funeral directors.

The decision will be made at a meeting of the planning board on Tuesday night.

Sue Barke from the funeral directors said she did not expect the application for change of use to be an issue and they had just let people know out of courtesy.

However villagers who have been rallying to keep the pub as a pub have not given up their fight and will hold a meeting on Sunday night, ahead of the planning meeting, to put together comments that will be raised in a public speaking session ahead of the meeting on Tuesday.

Sue Barke from Murray's, which is based in York Street, said: "We are the new owners and we will be opening a funeral directors there at some point in the future."

"It is not a planning issue - it was just courtesy to let people know we are changing its use."

"We have customers that way so they won't have to travel far."

She said they were not being secretive in not previously speaking about being the new owners.

A meeting will be held in the village hall in Findern on Sunday at 2pm for people to gather ideas and thoughts in order to make an objection speech to the planning committee as strong as possible.

The pub closed its doors for good earlier this month, despite strong feeling from residents who did not want to lose the only pub in the village.

They still hope that something can be done to prevent the changes going ahead.

A Save the Wheel Inn Facebook page was set up and some villagers have written to MP Andrew Griffiths, who said he would write to Eric Pickles, urging him to change the law regarding pubs being sold to funeral companies.

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Hope dies for beloved pub

By [Burton Mail](http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/people/Burton-Mail/profile.html) (<http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/people/Burton-Mail/profile.html>) , Posted [redacted]

Comments (0)

PROTESTS to save a popular village pub have failed as its owners started stripping the place out according to its former manager Victor Watkins, formerly of The Wheel Inn in Findern, has admitted defeat and said he has been left homeless.

The pub is owned by Punch Taverns, which put it up for sale last July.

An application to change its use into a funeral parlour has been submitted to South Derbyshire District Council by agent DPDS Co owner:

Councillor Martyn Ford, who represents Findern on the district council, said he would be writing to Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State.

Former owner Punch Taverns said that the pub was being sold with a licence and in an operational state.

They said the purchaser will now decide how they want to deal with the pub.



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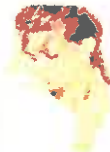
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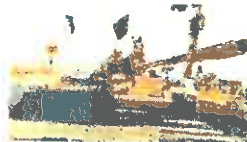
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Residents plea with Wheel's new owners

By [Burton Mail \(http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/people/Burton+Mail/\)](http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/people/Burton+Mail/) | Posted [10/28/2014](#)



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01/04/14 GV of the wheel in Finedon Planning ap to convert it into funeral directors - Finedon Finner

Comments (0)

VILLAGERS are urging the new owners of a pub to keep it as a drinking establishment instead of turning it into a funeral parlour.

The sale of The Wheel Inn in Finedon has gone through and an application could see it turned into a funeral parlour.

Martin Ford, councillor for the area, said the new owners were being asked by previous owner Punch Taverns to keep it as a pub.

He said: "What would normally happen is that Punch would send people in and strip it out but in this instance they are not doing that - the idea being that the new people could keep it as a pub."

People know that emotions are running high and have been very helpful and understanding.

"We would like to say thank you to Punch for asking the new owners to keep it open as a pub - it's a traumatic time."

It would be distressing for people to see funeral cars in the village.

An application from residents for it to be listed as a community asset has been sent to South Derbyshire District Council but the sale has already gone through.

Villager Kate Horton said: "The pub was absolutely packed all weekend and the village have pulled together against its closure hugely."

A Punch Taverns spokesman

"We have been marketing the Wheel to let since December 2012 alongside a £150,000 refurbishment. We have also marketed the pub as a freehold since July 2013. It was a decision we did not make lightly but the pub is no longer sustainable for us as a business. Unfortunately in both cases we had very little interest and since 2013 we have had only one offer. We have now exchanged contracts with the purchaser so we are contracted to sell the property. We take concerns from the local community very seriously and we have with representatives from the community group to discuss the matter with them and made some suggestions. The pub has been sold with a licence in place but what is now is the decision of the new owner."

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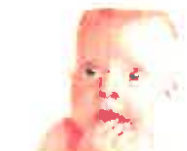
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Funeral parlour plan would see death of pub

By [Burton Mail](http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/people/burton-mail/profile.html) (<http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/people/burton-mail/profile.html>) | Posted: April 02, 2014



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01/04/14 GV of the wheel in Findern Planning ap to convert it into funeral directors - Findern Forder

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THE only pub in a South Derbyshire village could be turned into a funeral parlour if an application is approved

Regulators of The Wheel Inn in Findern say it would be a massive loss to the village if it closes

Residents and councillor Maryn Ford, who represents Findern on South Derbyshire District Council, said residents will do all they can to keep the pub open

An application for a new development certificate in order to change its use has been submitted to the district council by agent DPDS Ltd, though the applicant has not named

The pub is owned by Pux's Taverns who put it up for sale last July

Councillor Ford said: "Like most people in the village I am devastated

"The pub is doing better now than it has been doing for years. It was going to the buffers in 2003 and for several years suffered because of lack of investment. It's desperately sad that potentially it could be shutting down.

"Until recently we thought it would be kept as a pub, then came the hammer blow that someone wanted to change it into a funeral parlour.

"We all know what happens to villages when pubs go - it becomes a dormitory village.

Councillor Ford said there was a large amount of momentum going in the village to save the pub and people were going to do all that they could to save it.

He added: "We are asking as many people as possible to show their strength of opposition.

"To turn it into a funeral parlour beggars belief.

Angela Duffin, who lives in the village and attends a quiz at the pub every Sunday night, said: "To a lot of people it is not important but to those that live here it is import-

I don't think the village needs a funeral directors.

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YOUR COMMENTS AWAITING MODERATION

Text Message from Martyn Ford to Jackie Alderson of Optimum PR

Murrays selling and moving on. They aren't wanted in Findern, despite David Barke and his letters of support, love to see how many of those they are. Anyway, let's see what happens and if the group are happy to be lecture to.

[REDACTED]
Findern
Derby
[REDACTED]

26th June 2014

Murray's Funeral Directors Ltd
23 York Street
Burton-on-Trent
DE14 2LX

To whom it may concern,

As you don't seem to count any previous offers that have been made for The Wheel Inn at Findern, through your 'agent' as being 'proper offers', please now find a written offer to purchase the freehold of the former Wheel Inn.

On behalf of all investors concerned, I have been authorised to make a final offer of £340,000.00.

Please consider this offer and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.


Feel free to reply by email to [REDACTED]

If however you would prefer that an offer be made through a solicitor, please let us know and this can be arranged.

Thanks.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]

 Mark Gregory
On behalf of Save the Wheel

Date 2014-08-18 22:11

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Martyn Ford <[REDACTED]>
Date: 18 August 2014 19:53:04 BST
To: "[REDACTED]"
Subject: The Wheel

Dear Mr & Mrs Barke,

As you know all too well you and your business are not wanted in Findern. We all know that contractors are working on the building, we all know how much money you have paid for the building, please can I ask that you think seriously about spending any more money when you have a very attractive offer to buy the building back at a substantial profit. The group aren't going away, so please do the right thing and sell the pub and leave Findern alone with it's local pub back again.

Regards,
M Ford.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]
Finden,
[REDACTED]
0865 64-
[REDACTED] May

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you to reiterate
the most sincere apology I made to you earlier
today. I was saddened to hear that
comments made on Social Media had
caused you so much distress, that was
never meant to be the case.

My family have known you for
several years, your help and kindness shown
to us when we needed it most was endless
and the work and effort you have put
into the community of Finden can only be
appreciated.

I can only hope this letter, from
me to you can restore some of that friendship
and restore some trust that we can take
forward together,

Yours Sincerely

Owen Willcox

From: Kaur Ardip <Ardip.Kaur@south-derbys.gov.uk>
Sent: 05 November 2014 09:45
To: Owen Willcox
Subject: Code of Conduct Complaint

Sensitivity: Confidential

Owen

Please see below the response received from the Planning Services Manager.

Kind regards

Ardip

Ardip Kaur, Solicitor
Legal and Democratic Services Manager & Monitoring Officer
South Derbyshire District Council

From: Sylvester Tony
Sent: 04 November 2014 14:13
To: Kaur Ardip
Cc: Nash Chris
Subject: RE: The Wheel, Findern
Sensitivity: Confidential

Ardip,

I'm afraid I can't remember in either case – I know we discussed an Article 4 but came to the view that we were not confident in proposing it as a possibility to the members given the contract had already been exchanged and it would look to the SofS as unreasonable and possibly even attract compensation.

Tony Sylvester
Planning Services Manager
Community and Planning Services
South Derbyshire District Council
tony.sylvester@south-derbys.gov.uk
Tel 01283 595743
Fax 01283 595850
www.south-derbys.gov.uk

From: Kaur Ardip
Sent: 04 November 2014 11:41
To: Sylvester Tony
Subject: The Wheel, Findern
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Confidential

Hi Tony

Can you please confirm whether the Article 4 Direction option in relation to the above had been eliminated prior to the Planning Committee meeting.

Furthermore, if it was, are you able to advise whether Councillor Ford was made aware and notified of such.

Thank you

Ardip

Ardip Kaur, Solicitor
Legal and Democratic Services Manager & Monitoring Officer
Legal and Democratic Services
South Derbyshire District Council
Civic Offices Civic Way Swadlincote Derbyshire DE11 0AH
Tel: 01283 595715
Fax: 01283 595853
Mobile: 07772 578678
Email: ardip.kaur@south-derbys.gov.uk

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Owen Willcox

From: Sylvester Tony <Tony.Sylvester@south-derbys.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 October 2014 17:04
To: Kaur Ardip
Subject: RE: The Wheel Findern

Ardip,

I would respond as follows:

1. My discretion is governed by the Scheme of Delegation September 2013.
2. The item was presented to committee at my discretion given the level of public interest. This happens occasionally when there is a controversial case and there is no other reason other than I think that it is in the interests of the public seeing that an open debate is had and a better understanding of the process is achieved.
3. It is usual for me in these circumstances to inform the Chair of my intention to have the committee determine such an application. I can't remember in this case exactly when I told him that I was going to do this.

Tony Sylvester
Planning Services Manager
Community and Planning Services
South Derbyshire District Council
tony.sylvester@south-derbys.gov.uk
Tel 01283 595743
Fax 01283 595850
www.south-derbys.gov.uk

From: Kaur Ardip
Sent: 20 October 2014 16:37
To: Sylvester Tony
Subject: The Wheel Findern

Hi Tony

Following the information sent to me last week, I now have some further questions in relation to the application for The Wheel, Findern.

I would be grateful if you could confirm the following;

- The extent of your discretion in bringing matters before the Planning Committee,
- The reasons for bringing this particular matter before Committee,
- Whether this was done in consultation with Councillor Ford.

Regards

Ardip

Ardip Kaur, Solicitor
Legal and Democratic Services Manager & Monitoring Officer
Legal and Democratic Services
South Derbyshire District Council

Civic Offices Civic Way Swadlincote Derbyshire DE11 0AH

Tel: 01283 595715

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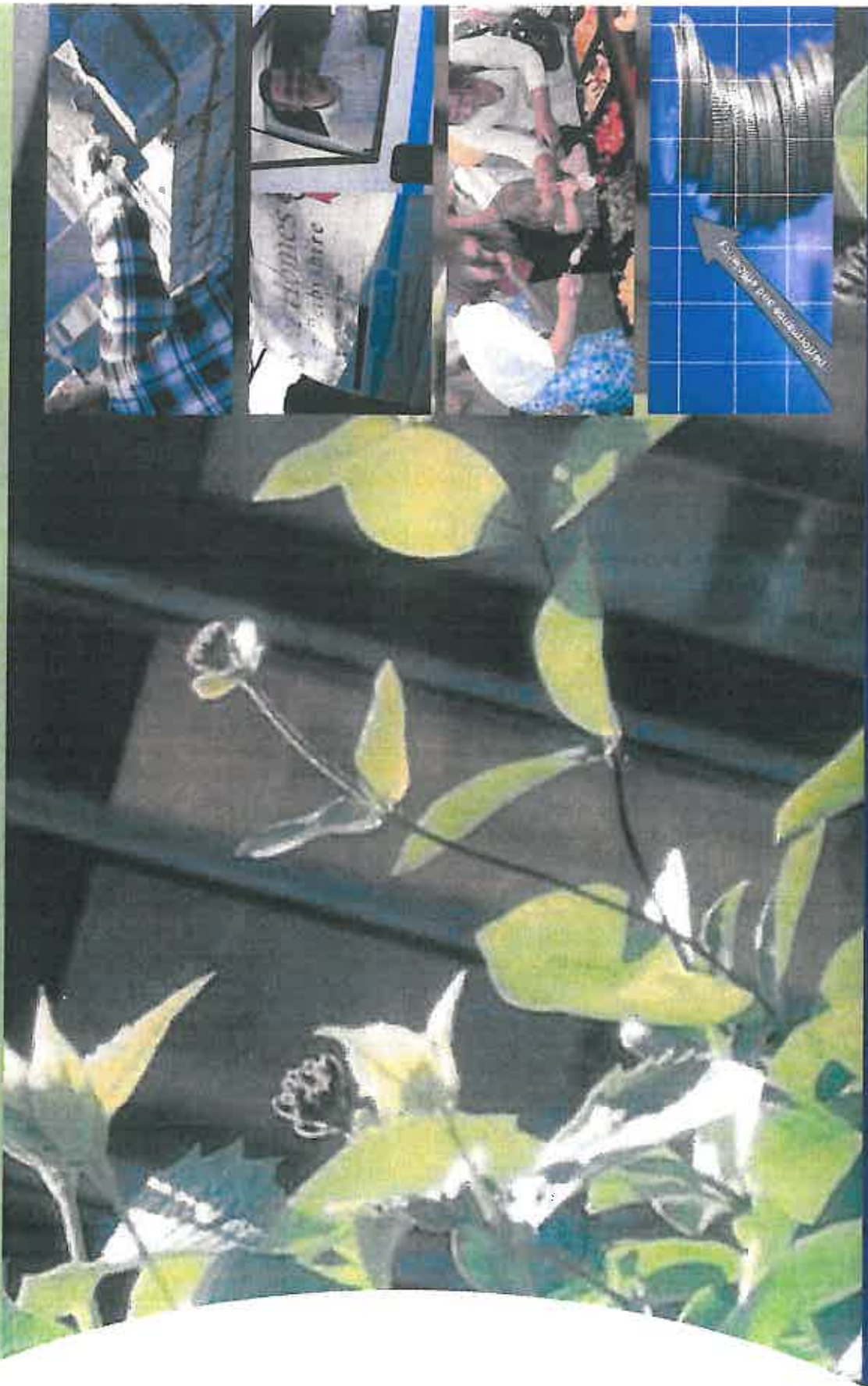
Email: ardip.kaur@south-derbys.gov.uk

Visit the Council's website at www.south-derbys.gov.uk

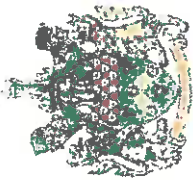
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Corporate Plan 2009-2014



South Derbyshire Changing for the better



South Derbyshire District Council

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2 District map Consultation process and outcomes

3 Achievements from the Corporate Plan - 2008

5 Our Vision, Values and Priorities for 2009-2014 Our themes – an introduction

Our four themes:

6 Sustainable growth and opportunity

8 Safe and secure

10 Lifestyle choices

12 Value for money



Welcome to South Derbyshire District Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2014



From a detailed evidence base and consultation programme with our community, we have set out our vision of 'Making South Derbyshire a better place to live, work and visit'.

We have set out four themes for improvement...

- Sustainable growth and opportunity
- Safe and secure
- Lifestyle choices
- Value for money

The plan outlines the actions we intend to undertake in 2009-2010.

Leader

Chief Executive



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Background: South Derbyshire District Council, Civic Offices, Swadincote, Derbyshire.
Sustainable growth and opportunity: progress at one of the business parks in South Derbyshire. Courtesy of Christopher Beech Photography
Safe and secure: The Safer Homes project which improves security around the district. Courtesy of Louise Galdes Photography
Lifestyle choices: Creating fruit kebabs at the annual South Derbyshire Festival of Leisure.
Value for money: Working to improve performance and efficiency.

Background information

South Derbyshire is a rural district in central England covering an area of over 100 square miles. Its population is growing and currently stands at 91,200. It adjoins and is heavily influenced by the City of Derby to the north and Burton-upon-Trent to the west. The town of Swadlincote, in the south of the District, is the main urban centre with a population of around 33,000. The percentage population growth of South Derbyshire is expected to be twice that of Derbyshire and England over the next 20 years. This will have a major effect on Council services.

Evidence base

We have compiled an 'evidence base' for the District of South Derbyshire. This brings together a whole range of information about the economy, the area and feedback from residents and businesses. You can find a full copy of this on our website:

Some facts about the District:

Economic

- The economic slowdown has affected South Derbyshire but this is comparable with similar sized councils.
- The proportion of people who are employed is still higher in South Derbyshire than regional or national levels.

Environmental

- We have 3,772 buildings at medium flood risk including 2,705 at high flood risk.
- Residents have been highly satisfied with improvements in recycling and waste minimisation.

Housing

- Housing needs in South Derbyshire are influenced by:
 - The central Swadlincote urban area, which has links to Burton-upon-Trent for commuting and migrations.
 - Derby on the northern edge, including suburbs on the edge of the principal urban area and villages linked to the city.
 - Rural areas, which are to a considerable extent free standing, with residents travelling to work in many diverse locations.
- Home ownership, at nearly 80%, is the highest in Derbyshire and well above the regional and national averages.

Crime and community safety

- Crime levels are significantly lower than the regional and national average and have reduced over recent years; with the exception of vehicle crime.
- Around half of the people within South Derbyshire are very or fairly worried about crime.

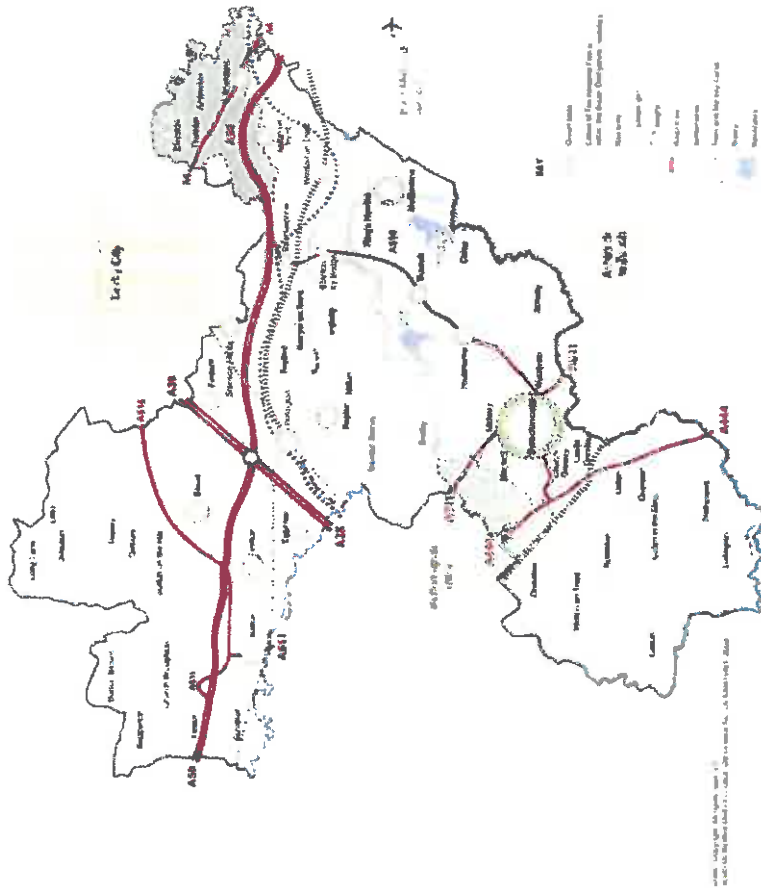
Leisure

- Only half of adults undertake any form of exercise.
- The proportion of adults with a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity who have not taken part in any sport or recreational activity in the last four weeks is higher when compared with the County.

Health

- The proportion of overweight and obese children is not significantly different from national levels but is still a concern.
- Teenage pregnancy rates in South Derbyshire are significantly lower than the national average.

District map



Consultation process and outcomes

During 2008 and early 2009, we have consulted key stakeholders on priorities for the District. We did this with Derbyshire County Council, South Derbyshire CVS and South Derbyshire 50plus Forum and used the following methods:

- A local priorities questionnaire sent to South Derbyshire's Citizens' Panel of 1,000 local residents, that are broadly representative of the make-up of South Derbyshire.
- A local priorities questionnaire sent to residents through the South Derbyshire Safer Neighbourhood Meetings of approximately 160 residents.
- An online local priorities questionnaire on our website.
- A local priorities questionnaire sent to partners through the Local Strategic Partnership.
- The Place Survey sent out to 4,000 randomly selected residents in South Derbyshire.
- Joint consultation at the Area Forums in October and November with Derbyshire County Council on local priorities for the residents of South Derbyshire.
- A local priorities questionnaire sent to all Parish Councils.
- Workshops held with Chatterbox, the South Derbyshire Youth Forum, voluntary and community sector organisations, representatives of the business community, council housing tenants and the Values and Attitudes Group made up of interest groups who represent the needs of individuals from communities of interest.
- Feedback to Area Forums in February 2009 on the outcomes from consultation so far and the current budget position.
- Fit for the Future Event held at Toyota on 4 February 2009 that attracted over 200 attendees from across the District.
- Over 2,000 responses from our tenants through the STATUS survey.

From this consultation the following top five priorities were identified:

1. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime
2. Activities for children and young people
3. Clean streets
4. Highways, roads and transport
5. Decent and affordable housing

The complete set of results can be found on our website [Council Priorities Consultation](#)

Achievements during 2008

Last year's Corporate Plan included a range of planned activities to achieve the priorities and key outcomes set out in 2008. Here are some of the achievements:

Theme 1: Safer and healthier communities

- Nine new Safer Neighbourhood projects funded to date, including fencing at Rosliston, support for Neighbourhood Watch in Aston-upon-Trent and five new Neighbourhood Watch groups set up in Regent Street, Church Gresley; South Street, Woodville; Oakwood Close, Hatton; Brook Close, Findern and Ashby Road, Ticknall to promote community safety.
- An increase in the number of home visits to vulnerable people by Customer Services staff. Visiting Officers have provided awareness of benefits and services. In addition, a number of referrals have been received from Community Wardens. 80% of customers surveyed rated the service as 'excellent'.
- Debt counselling services consolidated with Derbyshire Housing Aid. 90 consultations have been undertaken in 2007-2008. In 2008-2009 there has been a 61% increase (145 consultations). 60% of people seeking homelessness advice have been able to remain in their current accommodation due to Housing Options initiatives.

Theme 2: You at the centre

- Older Persons' Survey is complete. We have compiled a number of actions through focus groups. These include an expanded Safer Homes Scheme to include 'fire checks' and installing personal safety equipment and security measures.
- We have established a Cultural Events Group and published a cultural calendar for the District.
- We have implemented an integrated waste collection service across the District, resulting in a combined recycling and composting rate of 45% to date.

Theme 3: Higher quality services

- We have identified assets "surplus to requirements" in accordance with our Disposals Policy. This will generate resources for capital investment. £303,000 has been generated so far, to re-invest in Council priorities.
- We are implementing measures to minimise Council Tax increases by improved commissioning of services, streamlining processes and restructuring. As at 31 March 2009 we achieved efficiency savings of £677,000.

- Currently we are dealing with 71% of our customers at the first point of contact. The Customer Services Team has received Benefits and Council Tax training, which will enable them to deal with more calls at the 'first point of contact', thus increasing customer satisfaction.
- We also introduced choice-based lettings system in partnership with ten Registered Social Landlords allowing customers choice when applying for housing.

Theme 4: Prosperity for all

- We opened two new forest lodges and a community arena at Rosliston Forestry Centre. The provision of ten overnight stays and an open-air performance venue provides a further boost to the tourism economy.
- We have established a voluntary leasing scheme to promote the availability of affordable and decent homes in the private sector, including rented property. A pilot project is now underway.
- We have set up a Rural Landlord Scheme to reduce fuel poverty and improve home energy efficiency measures.

Theme 5: Rural South Derbyshire

Work to encourage and support local communities in preparing Community and Parish Plans is progressing well. Currently, we are supporting nine Parish Plans in order to identify local priorities that in turn are informing the District's priorities.

We are continuing to involve communities in the development of our key plans and strategies. We are undertaking appropriate consultation in line with a revised Local Development Framework.

- A study is being undertaken in the north west parishes to look at rural transport issues. We will make recommendations later in the year about the future options for the area.

Theme 6: Stronger in the region

- In November, the Environmental and Development Services Committee considered a response to the consultation about modifications to the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- Members considered a Rural Housing Strategy identifying potential development land in March 2009.

Our vision

**Making South Derbyshire
a better place to live, work and visit**

Our values

Our values provide a framework for the way we want to work as a council, helping us to deliver our vision and themes.

As we work, we will:

- Put our customers first
- Set clear targets
- Act decisively
- Lead for success
- Actively listen and resolve problems
- Develop our people
- Maintain value for money through continuous improvement
- Treat people fairly

Our priorities for 2009-2014

Our vision for South Derbyshire is based on the four themes that will guide the services we provide over the next five years. Our budget will be prioritised to help us deliver in these areas. This is outlined in our [Medium Term Financial Plan](#).

Our themes - an introduction



Sustainable growth and opportunity

This recognises the Council's strong and growing economy, with its vibrant communities and even greater opportunities for the future, such as tourism and job creation, together with more sustainable development and a clean environment.

Safe and secure

This theme covers quality decent homes to promote independent living and in neighbourhoods that feel safe and secure. Crime levels in South Derbyshire are significantly lower than average, but half of the people in the District are very or fairly worried about crime.



Lifestyle choices

This theme is about improving health and well-being by promoting and enabling a range of leisure and cultural activities for all age groups. It will include actions relating to the health of the community and also help for the community to reduce its carbon footprint.



Value for money

This includes ensuring we continue to meet community needs, improve performance and reduce costs through efficiencies. It involves the development of staff and Members to be responsive to change and high standards of corporate governance, including sound and stable finances.





Sustainable growth and opportunity

Theme 1

This recognises our strong and growing economy, with its vibrant communities and even greater opportunities for the future, such as tourism and job creation, together with more sustainable development and a clean environment.

We have three main priorities that we will focus on to promote sustainable growth and opportunity ...

Priorities

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1.1 Economic development – skills, training and job creation

- Building on the District's successful inward investment track record and business events to attract further investment and maximise the survival and growth prospects of local businesses.
- Starting phase two of the Swadlincote Town Centre Public Realm Improvements.

1.2 National Forest and beyond – tourism and industry

- Building and letting small business units at Rosliston Forestry Centre.
- Undertaking activities to promote continued employment and business growth in tourism and related industries.
- Promoting The National Forest as a source of sustainable and renewable fuel through exemplar wood heat projects.
- Continuing investment in the award-winning tourist information centre and destination management system.

1.3 Sustainable development – affordable housing, environment and planning

- Providing an appealing, easy to use and comprehensive system for waste collection and recycling to help residents to recycle more.
- Preparing a Core Strategy as part of the District Local Development Framework (LDF) that will set the broad locations for all types of development up to 2026.
- Facilitating new affordable housing for people unable to afford market prices. Improving the sustainability of rural communities through proportionate growth in housing particularly social housing.
- Supporting residents to access services through Community Transport initiatives.
- Reducing the number of vulnerable households experiencing fuel poverty with a package of targeted measures.
- Delivering flood resilience measures in homes at risk from or with past history of flooding.

Outcomes that we will deliver:

- Businesses will form and grow, and investment will be attracted, creating employment for the local community.
- A vibrant town centre.
- Improved employment opportunities and a showcase for woodland economy.
- Creating employment for the local community.
- The National Forest expansion secured whilst lowering each person's carbon emissions.
- An easy to use recycling scheme for all households.
- Creating sustainable communities by setting a clear direction for the future development of the District.
- More affordable housing options.
- Lobbying for better transport to help residents access services across the District.
- Vulnerable and 'at risk' households assisted out of fuel poverty.
- 'At risk' households have access to advice and measures to safeguard their homes against flooding.

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How we will measure improvement?

- Increasing the rateable value based on business rates by encouraging the development of businesses in the District.
- Increasing the visitor satisfaction with the public realm and the amount of retail money spent in Swadlincote.
- More jobs created at Rosliston Forestry Centre.
- Visitors spending more money in the District and more small businesses showing employment growth.
- More wood heat projects and feasibility schemes delivered.
- More waste recycled or composted.
- Local Development Framework Strategy agreed.
- More affordable homes provided.
- More community transport journeys made by residents across the District.
- More vulnerable households helped out of fuel poverty and better SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) energy rating of local authority homes.
- More 'at risk from flooding' properties that are protected.

You can find full details of how we will deliver our priorities in the Corporate Action Plan on our website www.south-derbys.gov.uk



Safe and secure

Theme 2

This theme covers quality decent homes to promote independent living in neighbourhoods that feel safe and secure.

We have two main priorities that we will focus on make the District safe and secure ...

Priorities

2.1 Promoting independence, security and inclusion through the provision of decent housing

- Adopting 'Building for Life' criteria standard for new homes as a basis for negotiation with developers.
- Improving the condition of public and private sector homes. Maintaining at least the Decent Homes standard in the public and private sector and aiming to meet a higher local South Derbyshire Housing Standard.
- Beginning a scheme of parking enforcement within the District.
- Helping people to remain in their own home for longer through Telecare.
- Delivering the Swadlincote Extra Care project in partnership with other organisations. This will provide the largest single development of such housing in Derbyshire which will be linked in a unique way to a residential care model.
- Helping people to stay in their own homes by supporting those facing difficulties with rent or mortgage arrangements.
- Promoting Next Step, domestic abuse outreach service.

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2.2 Safer Neighbourhoods

- Completing ten local area Safer Neighbourhoods projects, using Safer Neighbourhood funding.
- Improving partnership working with local secondary schools and identifying three new initiatives that will help reduce anti-social behaviour and underage drinking.
- Improving the existing Anti-social Behaviour Policy and Procedure Document and promoting to partners and advising through the Council.
- Continuing to promote deterrents such as stop and search exercises and provide rapid clear up through the work of the Clean Team, including the use of covert cameras, to reduce fly-tipping.
- Cleaner streets through a high profile campaign for a Cleaner South Derbyshire.
- Publicising the successful work of the Safer Neighbourhood Wardens who patrol many areas.

Outcomes that we will deliver:

- Properties that are well designed and adaptable to meet the future needs of occupiers.
- More public and private dwellings meeting the Decent Homes Standard.
- Enhanced road safety, reduction of illegal parking and the availability of safe access to facilities for disabled people.
- 120 new units of accommodation for those with support and care needs.
- Working to reduce homelessness across the District.
- Enable more victims to access support to reduce further domestic violence assaults.
- Giving local people the opportunity to be involved in helping their community through engaging with young people.
- Improved perception of the District as a safe place to live.
- Provide better education to young people and to their parents of the risks associated with underage drinking.
- Reduction in incidents of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour and the associated calls for service.
- Cleaner public areas, tougher action on fly-tipping and littering and fewer incidents of fly-tipping.
- Cleaner more pleasant environment for residents.
- An enhanced sense of safety and order for the public.

How we will measure improvement?

- More new development schemes meeting 'Building for Life' criteria.
- More homes classified as decent in both public and private sectors, especially those occupied by vulnerable households.
- More Telecare units used.
- Fewer households at risk of homelessness and fewer households living in temporary accommodation.
- More referrals to Next Step and fewer repeat incidents of domestic violence.
- Fewer residents feeling fairly or very unsafe when outside in their neighbourhood at night.
- Less criminal damage caused in the District.
- Better understanding of anti-social behaviour and crime by local people.
- Less litter in public spaces.
- Better awareness of the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Wardens across the District.

You can find full details of how we will deliver our priorities in the Corporate Plan – Action Plan on our website www.south-derbys.gov.uk



Lifestyle choices

Theme 3

This theme is about improving health and well-being by promoting and enabling a range of leisure and cultural activities for all age groups. It will include actions relating to the health of the community and also help for the community to reduce its carbon footprint.

We have three main priorities that will give our residents and visitors lifestyle choices ...

Priorities

3.1 Promoting healthy facilities and lifestyles

- Successfully implementing and maximising the benefit of the free swimming initiatives.
- Launching the new leisure centre in Etwell.
- Delivering a feasibility study into leisure, sports and arts provision in Melbourne and the immediate surrounding area.
- Helping all food businesses to achieve high standards in the star ratings for food safety.
- Delivering the Get South Derbyshire Active project.

3.2 Supporting cultural events and activities

- Delivering a project in partnership to provide dance opportunities for all ages.
- Supporting local communities in delivering cultural events.
- Delivering a programme of events at The Glade in The Forest at Rosliston Forestry Centre.

3.3 Helping the community to reduce its environmental footprint

- Reducing carbon emissions from homes by promoting and delivering a range of schemes. These include installing energy saving measures, renewable technology and the new carbon footprint village project in Overseal.

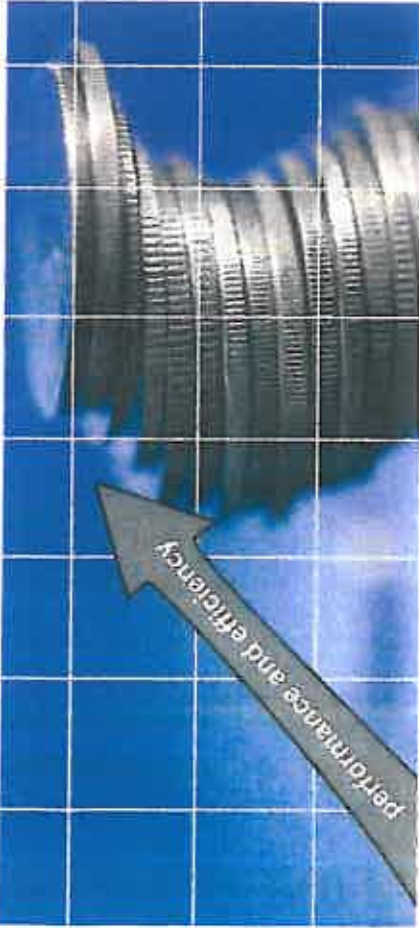
Outcomes that we will deliver:

- More people swimming regularly.
- Better leisure facilities and opportunities.
- Healthier food, informed choice and more businesses benefiting from positive reports.
- Increased cultural activity across the District.
- Overall reduction in CO2 emissions from households.

How we will measure improvement?

- More adults taking part in active sport and recreation.
- Completing the feasibility study into leisure, sports and arts provision in the Melbourne area and the successful delivery of the Get Active project.
- More businesses meeting three stars and above for food safety.
- Better engagement in the arts and more community events supported in the District.
- Reducing CO2 emissions in the District.

You can find full details of how we will deliver our priorities in the Corporate Plan – Action Plan on our website www.south-derbys.gov.uk



Value for money

Theme 4

This includes continuing to meet community needs, improving performance and reducing costs through efficiencies. It also involves the development of staff and Members to make sure that we are all able to be responsive to change and high standards of corporate governance, including sound and stable finances.

We have five priorities that will help us deliver value for money for residents ...

Priorities

4.1 Meeting community needs

- Making sure vulnerable customers, particularly those in isolated rural communities have access to Council services. Effective consultation and communication with the community, businesses and other organisations.

4.2 Increasing efficiency

- Improving performance and releasing cash by reviewing how we provide our services through commissioning, streamlining and restructuring. Disposal of assets which are surplus to requirements.

4.3 Development of staff and Members

- Implementing key actions from the Workforce Development Plan, developing the Leadership and Management Programme and the Member Training and Development Plan

4.4 High standards of corporate governance

- Maintaining sound and stable finances and high standards of corporate governance. Outcome-based corporate planning, local code of corporate governance and performance management.

4.5 High performing services

- Improving performance of services shown through external assessment and comparison with other councils.

Outcomes that we will deliver:

- Increased customer satisfaction with the Council.
- Keeping Council Tax increases low and our finances stable while maintaining priority service levels.
- High quality services provided by a trained and skilled workforce and strong community leadership through our Members.
- Transparency and accountability when we make decisions.
- High levels of service delivery for residents.

How we will measure improvement?

- More first time contact for customers and higher satisfaction both with the Council and the services it delivers.
- Better value for money and higher overall Use of Resources Assessment score.
- More staff and Members completing training programmes.
- More people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality.
- More National Indicators that achieve top quartile performance and improving our 'Managing Performance' assessment as part of the overall Comprehensive Area Assessment judgement.

You can find full details of how we will deliver our priorities in the Corporate Plan – Action Plan on our website www.south-derbys.gov.uk





Obtaining alternative versions of this document

If you would like this document in another language, or if you require the services of an interpreter, please contact us. This information is also available in large print, Braille or audio format upon request.

Phone: 01283 595795 email: customer.services@south-derbys.gov.uk

Jeśli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać ten dokument w innym języku lub potrzebują Państwo usług tłumacza, prosimy o kontakt. Informacje te są również dostępne na życzenie w wydaniu dużym drukiem, w alfabecie brajla lub w wersji audio.

如果你需要这份文件的中文翻译，或者需要传译员的帮助，请联系我们。这些数据也备有大气体印本、盲人点字和录音带，欢迎索取。

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यदि आपको ये दस्तावेज किसी दूसरी भाषा में चाहिये, या किसी दुभाषिये की सेवाओं की जरूरत है तो हमें सम्पर्क करने की कृपया करें। ये जानकारी माँग करने पर बड़े अक्षरों, ब्रेल या आडिओ के रूप में भी उपलब्ध करवाई जा सकती है।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਸਰੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬ੍ਰੇਅਲ ਜਾਂ ਆਡਿਓ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਉਪਲੱਬਧ ਕਰਵਾਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

آگر آپ یہ ڈاکیمنٹ کی اور زبان میں چاہتے ہوں، یا اگر آپ کو کسی ترجمان کی خدمات درکار ہوں، تو براہ کرم ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔ درخواست کرنے پر یہ معلومات بڑے پرنٹ، بڑیل یا ڈاؤن لوڈ میٹ میں بھی دستیاب ہیں۔



Official copy
of register of
title

Title number DY306738

Edition date 17.06.2014

- This official copy shows the entries on the register of title on 22 JAN 2015 at 12:55:14.
- This date must be quoted as the "search from date" in any official search application based on this copy.
- The date at the beginning of an entry is the date on which the entry was made in the register.
- Issued on 22 Jan 2015.
- Under s.67 of the Land Registration Act 2002, this copy is admissible in evidence to the same extent as the original.
- This title is dealt with by Land Registry, Nottingham Office.

A: Property Register

This register describes the land and estate comprised in the title.

DERBYSHIRE : SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

- 1 (15.03.1999) The Freehold land shown edged with red on the plan of the above Title filed at the Registry and being The Wheel Inn, Main Street, Findern, Derby (DE65 6AG).
- 2 (15.03.1999) A Conveyance of the land tinted yellow on the filed plan dated 12 January 1935 made between (1) Ben Watson (the Vendor) and (2) Offilers Brewery Limited (the Company) contains the following provision:-

"IT IS HEREBY AGREED AND DECLARED that the boundary line on the eastern side of the land hereby conveyed where there is an existing hedge shall be deemed to be the root of the hedge"

B: Proprietorship Register

This register specifies the class of title and identifies the owner. It contains any entries that affect the right of disposal.

Title absolute

- 1 (12.05.2014) PROPRIETOR: DAVID ANTHONY BARKE and SUSANNA MARIA BARKE of The Wheel Inn, Main Street, Findern, Derby DE65 6AG.
- 2 (12.05.2014) The price stated to have been paid on 16 April 2014 was [REDACTED] plus VAT.
- 3 (12.05.2014) A Transfer of the land in this title and other land dated 3 November 2003 made between (1) Punch Taverns Properties Limited and (2) Punch Pub Company (PTL) Limited contains purchaser's personal covenant(s) details of which are set out in the schedule of personal covenants hereto.

The Transfer to the present proprietor contains a covenant to observe and perform the aforesaid covenant(s) and of indemnity in respect thereof.

Schedule of personal covenants

Title number DY306738

- 1 The following are details of the personal covenants contained in the Transfer dated 3 November 2003 referred to in the Proprietorship Register:-

"The Transferee covenants with and undertakes to the Transferor that the Transferee and its successors in title will at all times:

(a) observe and perform the Incumbrances insofar as the same affect the relevant Property and are subsisting and capable of being enforced;

(b) observe and perform the covenants, obligations and agreements binding on the Transferor contained in the Occupational Leases;

and indemnify the Transferor against all actions, proceedings, costs, claims, demands and liabilities in respect of any future breach or non observance or non performance of them or any of them.

In this transfer, except where the context otherwise requires, the following words and expressions have the following meanings:

"the Incumbrances" means in respect of a Property, the matters subject to which it is transferred;

"Occupational Lease" means the leases, tenancy agreements, licences and other rights of possession granted by the Transferor or its predecessors in title (if any) in respect of a Property;"

End of register

Rebecca Hazeldine

From: Ford, Martyn <Martyn.Ford@Rolls-Royce.com>
Sent: 26 February 2015 07:33
To: Rebecca Hazeldine
Subject: Report

Dear Owen,

Many thanks for your patience in allowing me time to respond.

The fact that your report has, disappointingly, found me in breach of the SDDC Code of Conduct, I can only offer my apologies for this breach to the authority, my colleagues, and ultimately Mr & Mrs Barke.

My intentions were well meant in that I sincerely hoped that knowing the feeling of the community against the proposals to close The Wheel and open a branch of Murrays Funeral Service, Mr & Mrs Barke would accept offers made to them by a member of the community and move on, sadly for all concerned this wasn't to be. If some of the content expressed on social media around this time caused offence and anxiety to Mr & Mrs Barke, again, I apologise.

I have always, throughout my time as an elected representative it has been an honour and privilege to represent my community, I have always behaved with the very best intentions of the community in the forefront of my mind, and when we were faced with losing the pub, which has served the village of Findern for over 100 years, did my best to represent that community against the law as it stood at that time, now, thankfully because of the issues with local community pubs the law has changed significantly giving the community more weight to protect the heritage of the community against unwelcome and unwanted Planning Applications such as the one in Findern. Punch Taverns have also strengthened their internal processes, giving time for more widespread consultation, consultation that was sadly lacking in our instance.

It is widely recognised by all who embrace living in rural communities, and in wider Planning circles, a pub is at the heart of any community, and when, for whatever reason the pub is taken away, the social and economic fabric of that community begins to wither and deteriorate, we are now witnessing this desperately sad deterioration in Findern, and once this starts it is very difficult to pull back from.

Your Sincerely,

Cllr Martyn Ford

The data contained in, or attached to, this e-mail, may contain confidential information. If you have received it in error you should notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail, delete the message from your system and contact +44 (0) 1332 622800(Security Operations Centre) if you need assistance. Please do not copy it for any purpose, or disclose its contents to any other person.

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SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERING A COMPLAINT THAT A MEMBER HAS BREACHED THE CODE OF CONDUCT

1. The Monitoring Officer acknowledges receipt of the complaint within 5 working days of receipt.
2. The Monitoring Officer informs the subject Member of:-
 - (a) the complaint, giving a summary of it and the name of the complainant.
 - (b) his/her right to consult one of the Independent Persons appointed by the Council, through the Monitoring Officer.
3. The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with an Independent Person (other than one consulted by the subject Member under paragraph 2 (b)), decides, within 20 working days of receipt of the complaint, that:-
 - (a) The complaint does not come within the remit of the Code of Conduct.
 - (b) The complaint is not sufficiently serious to warrant an investigation.
 - (c) It is not in the public interest to investigate the complaint.
 - (d) He/she should seek to resolve the complaint without the need for an investigation (e.g. by an apology or training by the subject Member).
 - (e) The complaint should not be investigated because it is vexatious, malicious or obsessive.
 - (f) The complaint should not be investigated because it is broadly similar to a complaint against the same Member about the same alleged incident.
 - (g) The complaint should not be investigated because there is a clear ulterior/political motive for it or it is just a tit for tat complaint.
 - (h) An investigation should take place.
4. Before coming to his/her decision under paragraph 3, the Monitoring Officer may request further information and/or clarification from the complainant and/or the subject Member and the time period shall be extended accordingly.
5. If the Monitoring Officer decides that the complaint should be investigated, or his/her attempts to resolve the complaint without an investigation do not succeed, then he/she will carry out an investigation or appoint an investigator to carry out an investigation on his/her behalf.

6. The investigator appointed under paragraph 5 by the Monitoring Officer may be:-
 - (a) A senior officer of the Council.
 - (b) A senior officer of another Council.
 - (c) An external investigator with relevant experience.
7. A report into an investigation shall include the investigator's findings on whether the Code has been breached.
8. Before finalising his/her report, the Investigator shall send a copy of it to both the complainant and subject Member and give them at least 5 working days to comment on it.
9. If the investigator's final report finds there has not been a breach of the Code, the Monitoring Officer can, in consultation with the Independent Persons, decide to:-
 - (a) Take no action.
 - (b) Refer the report to the Hearing Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee.
10. If the investigator's report finds there has been a breach of the Code then the Monitoring Officer must refer the matter to the Hearing Sub-Committee.
11. When the matter has been referred to the Hearing Sub-Committee by the Monitoring Officer, it will:-
 - (a) Allow the investigator to present his/her report and call witnesses, including the complainant.
 - (b) Allow the subject Member to make representations and call witnesses.
 - (c) Decide if the subject Member has breached the Code of Conduct.
 - (d) Decide what sanction should be imposed if it decides the Code has been breached.
12. The sanctions the Hearing Sub-Committee can impose if it finds a breach of the Code are:-
 - (a) Censuring the Member.
 - (b) Reporting its findings to Council for information.
 - (c) Recommending to the Member's Group Leader (or in the case of ungrouped Members, recommending to Council or to Committees) that he/she be removed from any or all Committees or Sub-Committees of the Council.
 - (d) Recommending to Council that the Member be replaced as Leader of the authority.
 - (e) Recommending to the Leader of the Council that the Member be removed from Committees and/or Sub-Committees.

- (f) Recommending the Monitoring Officer to arrange training for the Member.
- (g) Recommending to Council that the Member be removed from all outside appointments to which he/she has been appointed or nominated by the authority.

[In respect of Parish Councils all of these will be recommendations].

13. In reaching a decision as to whether there has been a breach of the Code and, if so, what sanction should be imposed, the Hearing Sub-Committee will consult and take into account the views of the Independent Persons who will attend such hearings.
14. Following any final decision by the Monitoring Officer or the Hearing Sub-Committee, at whatever stage, the Monitoring Officer shall inform the complainant and the subject Member of the decision and the reasons for it within 10 working days.
15. Where there has been a decision that the subject Member has breached the Code of Conduct, that decision and the reasons for it shall be placed on the Council's website.
16. Wherever there is a decision that the subject Member has not breached the Code of Conduct, that decision shall be placed on the Council's website if the subject Member wishes it to be.
17. Any decision of the Monitoring Officer or Hearing Sub-Committee shall be final and binding.
18. The Monitoring Officer will, every 6 months, take a report to the Standards Committee providing:-
 - (a) The number of complaints received and brief details.
 - (b) How they are progressing.
 - (c) What decisions have been made.
 - (d) What action has, where appropriate, been taken.
19. The Monitoring Officer has delegated power, in consultation with the Independent Persons and the Chairman of the Standards Committee, to approve a departure from these arrangements when he/she considers it is expedient to do so to secure the effective and fair consideration of any matter.
20. In all cases where the Monitoring Officer is unable to perform his/her role, his/her deputy will do so.