

# Do you want to Save our Village Pub?



Community ownership plays an important role because if the Anchor Public House – a much-loved pub closes, there will be no pub in the Village. Closing the pub may have an emotional effect that could seriously affect the future economy and community infrastructure with nowhere to meet and no focus for village life potentially resulting in a lessening of neighbourhood spirit and cohesion.

The Anchor Public House has, for many years, been a focal point for the village of Mistley and has had, in the past, resident pool, darts, crib, dominoes and football teams that resulted in an extremely busy place. In recent times, Mistley Rugby Club has used the premises as an after-match venue to host visiting teams, recently however, the pub has seen a decline in its patrons. It would be such a huge shame to the parish of Mistley to lose such a well-known, and historically, a very well used establishment. The Anchor Inn was once the hub of Village life – a place to socialise, do business or just swap stories over a pint.

A key element of community life could be lost forever if this pub calls last orders for the final time.

Whilst it is understood that the owner may have reached the end of his 'landlord days', it would be a huge loss to the community if the premises were converted to residential dwellings that have been proposed under the recent 'change of use' planning application to Tendring District Council (20/00652/FUL).

As soon as Mistley Parish Council were officially aware of the planning application, it submitted an 'Asset of Community Value' application (ACV). This ACV application could potentially delay any pending sale to a private buyer by allowing the local community to bid on any potential sale. Any bid that a third party would put together under the ACV would mean the pub would remain as a pub, but be owned and managed by the community for the community. It would be a non-profit making organisation utilising any profit for the upkeep of the pub itself or perhaps using for local events/charities etc.

The opportunity to nominate this asset to be included on a list of 'Assets of Community Value', gives our community the opportunity to prepare a bid and get a business plan together.

Mistley Parish therefore invites interest to keep the last pub in the village a pub.

Once the pub is listed for sale, any interested community party will need to register their intent to bid for it. This party will then have 6 months to put together a bid to buy the property.

It is therefore the obvious hope that a successful bid, from a local community consortium, can be made to ensure The Anchor remains a public house. The Parish Council will support local residents to pull together and own and run its own pub and take its plans through to fruition.

Mistley residents may wish to set up a Community Pub group to lead a campaign to buy the Anchor pub. The vision could be to restore the pub into a thriving community owned enterprise serving Mistley as a pub and a broader community hub. The pub could create a warm and inviting gathering space, and an all-inclusive amenity for the community that is the social heart of the Village.

If this final local pub closes its doors forever, then we are left with even more housing and even fewer local social facilities.

It is sad to see local facilities disappear. We need to encourage all kinds of local trade, otherwise we will just end up as an urban housing estate with little infrastructure.

For most Villages a pub is a vital service; it is a meeting place, communication centre and an important lynchpin of Village life. Much of the appeal of our Village rests on its sense of community and the amenities within it. It is the reason many people have moved here and remain here.

**Mistley Parish Council Tel. 07982 507584 Email – [mistleyparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:mistleyparishclerk@gmail.com)**