

Important information regarding the Yew Tree

The owners of the Yew Tree have told the Forest of Dean Council that they intend to dispose of the pub. The Council has now issued the following notice

Notice of Intention to Dispose of a Community Asset Section 97 Localism Act 2011 The Yew Tree Inn, Cliffords Mesne

The Yew Tree Inn was nominated as an Asset of Community Value by Support Our Yew Tree. The nomination was approved by the Forest of Dean District Council and listed as an Asset of Community Value on the 15 June 2017.

On 10 December 2021, the Council received formal notification of the owner's intention to dispose of an Asset of Community Value, namely the The Yew Tree Inn, Cliffords Mesne.

A six week moratorium has now commenced and will run until 21 January 2022. During this period requests to be considered as a potential bidder in relation to the property can be submitted to the Forest of Dean District Council. Any such request must be made in writing.

If Support Our Yew Tree, or any other community group make a request during the interim moratorium, there will be a full moratorium lasting six months. This period is intended to allow time to develop proposals and raise capital to purchase the building. Alternatively, if no request is received, the land can be disposed of.

There will be a "protected period" of 18 months commencing on 10 December 2021 for the owner to make a relevant disposal.

Our Response

The Yew Tree was listed as a community asset when the current owners bought it in early 2018. They closed the pub and started an ambitious renovation project. These works were never completed and the pub has never re-opened. I contacted both of the owners in March this year to enquire about their future plans for the pub. Neither of them made any reply.

They have now informed the Council of their intention to dispose of the Yew Tree. If they intend selling to someone who will complete the works and re-open the pub, that would be great. However that is by no means certain. They could intend selling to a property developer, who would then apply for a change of use.

The timing of the owners notification to the Council, just before the Christmas and New Year holiday, together with the possibility of further Covid restrictions in January, makes it very difficult for us to make good use of the six weeks interim moratorium. For that reason, we have decided to write to the Council in early January asking to be considered as a potential bidder.

This will invoke the six month full moratorium. This period is intended to allow time to develop proposals. The first development that we would like is for the current owners to tell us what they are proposing. The village pub is an asset to Cliffords Mesne. Whether it can be saved is uncertain. But once it is gone, it is gone forever.

Once we have heard back from the Council, we will contact the owners again and will let everyone know what, if anything, comes from that.

In the meantime, if anyone has any comments or suggestions do please send them to

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