

SAVE OUR STAR UPDATE

February 2021

The past year has seen the leisure industries severely hampered by Covid 19 and for The Star Inn this has meant having to cope with Lockdowns that have meant periods with no trading. This has meant that the future of the pub has been on hold but the SOS Committee has still kept a 'watching brief' on developments. In June 2020 the Parish Council re-registered The Star Inn as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) with alterations to include the pub garden. You can view the details on Stroud's register of ACV's on their website under 'The Star Inn'.

Prior to the first lockdown we were aware of external interest to purchase The Star and whilst we have maintained contact with the potential purchaser everything still remains on 'hold'. However, there have been recent developments which we would like to make you all aware of.

Firstly, the owner has recently submitted new planning applications. These can be viewed on Stroud District Council website, the references are; S.21/0143/FUL and S.21/0144/LBC. To summarise these it indicates that the proposal is to make changes to the internal layout of the pub by bringing the cellar, which is presently situated in the adjoining cottage, into the current pub kitchen. The kitchen will be relocated at the rear of the lounge area. There are other internal changes including the access to the first floor and new letting rooms within the pub. At the same time, these and other alterations may satisfy the outstanding issues with Stroud Planners. If accepted, these changes would then make both the pub and the adjoining cottage, which is used at present as letting rooms, independent of one another.



Although it is welcome to receive an indication from the current owner that the future of The Star should be as a thriving village pub, we have reservations about the proposed new internal layout which would create operational difficulties for the pub business and raises fire safety concerns about the upstairs letting accommodation. We are particularly concerned about the splitting of the pub from the adjoining letting accommodation. This gives rise to the possibility of future 'Change of Use' of the cottage to residential which we feel would seriously reduce the viability of the pub business as a whole. We will be advising the Parish Council of our views before they meet to consider the planning applications, and will be submitting comments to Stroud District Council.

Secondly, we have been made aware that there is a proposal to offer The Star Inn on a commercial lease if planning is accepted and once the alterations have been made. We have been in contact with the Leasing Agents and have obtained an advanced copy of the proposed lease offer terms. It is unlikely that SOS will seek to take on the lease at this stage and on the terms proposed. We would wish to see what commercial interest arises once the lease is marketed. The SOS Committee priority remains the same which is to endeavour to ensure that The Star remains as an operating pub within our Community and will only consider action if there is no viable alternative.

We still hold all of the Funds kindly donated by Friends of Save Our Star and hope that you agree that we should retain these in the event that we may have to re-ignite our campaign if all else fails to keep The Star operating within the Community.

We will keep you informed of the current developments. In the meantime we hope that you keep safe.