



Interim Planning Policy Guidance on The Protection of Public Houses in the City of Cambridge

Public Consultation Draft

May 2012

Cambridge City Council

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1. INTRODUCTION

Scope and Purpose of this Guidance

- 1.1 In recent years more than twenty pubs in Cambridge have been lost to alternative uses, most commonly for residential development or conversion to restaurants or have simply closed and are currently vacant. A number of factors can be cited and attributed to the decline in public houses. These include competition from supermarket discounting of alcohol, changes to people's drinking habits, a ban on smoking in public areas, pressure to realise higher value housing development and the ability of public houses to change use to restaurants without the need for planning permission.
- 1.2 Many public houses occupy large plots and have capacity for several dwellings to be built on site or for conversion to apartments, making them attractive residential development investments. In a declining market, some breweries and pub companies have sought to take poor performing pubs out of the pub market (providing a better market for the remaining pubs in their portfolio) and realise their alternative use value. However, some closed public houses may still be commercially viable if managed by a different pub company or under a different system (e.g. as free houses).
- 1.3 Public houses can play a crucial social role in supporting local community interaction and activities to help maintain sustainable neighbourhoods; an economic role in contributing to the vibrancy and vitality shopping and commercial areas; and an environmental role in their intrinsic value to the cultural and historic heritage of local areas. This is reflected by the recent National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which encourages a positive approach towards the delivery and "use of community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, ... public houses and places of worship) ... to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;" (NPPF, Para 70).
- 1.4 This Interim Planning Policy Guidance (IPPG) addresses the current concerns raised by local community groups to guide the protection of public houses in Cambridge. The IPPG therefore provides a supplement to the 'saved' policies in the Cambridge Local Plan (2006). The IPPG will be a material consideration in determining any planning applications for existing public houses in the City of Cambridge district.

Status of the IPPG

- 1.5 The plan led system would normally require a revised statutory planning policy to be prepared where a new approach to development is proposed. However, in the context of current development trends and local public concerns, the Council have agreed that the most appropriate policy approach is to develop IPPG and for this to broadly follow the same process to that of developing a Supplementary Planning Document or SPD (see section below). It is intended that the policy approach in this IPPG (and the accompanying evidence base) is incorporated into the Councils' forthcoming Local Plan Review at the earliest opportunity in order to provide a robust policy to protect public houses in the future.
- 1.6 This interim guidance will provide a policy framework prior to adoption of the new Local Plan to clarify the circumstances when it is acceptable for a public house to be lost to alternative uses and when it is not acceptable. The guidance will also be used

to help determine planning applications relating to the loss of a current or former public house to alternative uses.

Process of Preparation

- 1.7 In order to give the IPPG as much weight as possible as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, its preparation has been similar to that for an SPD. A wide and detailed evidence base has been put together. Consultants were commissioned to carry out research, produce a report ("Cambridge Public House Study" by GVA Humberts Leisure, April 2012) and draft the IPPG.
- 1.8 The report included: (1) an analysis of national market trends, (2) a benchmarking analysis, (3) a local market assessment including an audit of existing Cambridge City pubs (including the creation of a GIS layer), (4) a review of planning policy and decisions (including an analysis of those pubs lost to alternative uses/closure in recent years), and (5) an options appraisal of various policy approaches.
- 1.9 Consultation is taking place on this draft IPPG and the background report following the Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee on the 12 June, at which this draft IPPG was approved for consultation purposes. The consultation process commences on the 15 June and last for 6 weeks.
- 1.10 The representations received will then be used to help guide the development of the IPPG and will be reported along with the final version of the IPPG to the Environment Scrutiny Committee Council Meeting on 9 October 2012.
- 1.11 The IPPG will become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications from that date.

2. CONTEXT

Area Covered by the IPPG

- 2.1 This IPPG is applicable to all land within the administrative area of Cambridge City Council.

Planning Policy Context

National

- 2.2 The NPPF was published on 27 March 2012 and resulted in the cancellation of the national planning policy guidance notes and statements (with the exception of certain practice guides).
- 2.3 The NPPF sets the achievement of sustainable development as its key focus. Sustainable development encompasses economic, social and environmental factors. Public houses contribute to and support all three of these factors and as such they have an essential role to play in the building and maintaining of a strong, responsive and competitive local economy. Without its pubs, Cambridge will not be able to attract the students, academics, young workers and tourists that its economy and future growth depend upon. Moreover, pubs help to support social and cultural well-being by providing a place for social interaction within a community. Many pubs are

also integral to the physical and cultural heritage of the city. A thriving local pub sector is therefore important to achieving sustainable development.

2.4 The NPPF provides a wealth of general support for economic development, development that promotes social inclusion & cohesion and community facilities. In particular, paragraph 70 deals with community facilities and services including public houses. It recommends that planning policies and decisions should:

- *“plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;*
- *guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community’s ability to meet its day-to-day needs;*
- *ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community; and*
- *ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.”*

2.5 National planning policy advises that community facilities including public houses enhance the sustainability of local communities and should be safeguarded and retained for the benefit of the community while allowing them to develop and modernise in a sustainable way.

2.6 In addition, paragraph 28 whilst targeted at rural areas is relevant to the outlying areas of Cambridge such as Trumpington and Cherry Hinton. It states that:

“Planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development. To promote a strong rural economy, local and neighbourhood plans should:

- (4) promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.”*

2.7 With regard to maintaining flexibility to respond to changes in economic circumstances, paragraph 21 of the NPPF states that:

“Investment in business should not be over-burdened by the combined requirements of planning policy expectations. Planning policies should recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including a poor environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing. In drawing up Local Plans, local planning authorities should: (3) support existing business sectors, taking account of whether they are expanding or contracting and, where possible, identify and plan for new or emerging sectors likely to locate in their area. Policies should be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan and to allow a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances”.

- 2.8 Notwithstanding the terms of the IPPG, public houses will retain a significant degree of economic flexibility with their ability to change to any of Use Classes A1, A2 or A3 without planning consent.

Local

- 2.9 Existing policy relating to pubs and community facilities is set out in the Cambridge Local Plan (2006) (policies saved in July 2009) - Saved Policy 6/6 (Change of Use in the City Centre), Saved Policy 6/7 (Shopping Development and Change of Use in District and Local Centre's), Saved Policy 6/10 (Food & Drink Outlets) and Saved Policy 5/11 (Community Facilities: Protection of Existing Facilities). None of the first three policies seek to prevent the redevelopment or change of use of public houses. Furthermore, Policy 5/11 relates only to traditionally defined community facilities and does not include public houses within its remit.

Need for the IPPG

- 2.10 At the time of writing, there are approximately 86 public houses still open and trading in Cambridge and with more than 20 public houses having disappeared in the past five years; more if those that have become restaurants are included.
- 2.11 The closure of public houses in recent years has become a local concern. Many have subsequently been demolished and rebuilt into residential flats or student accommodation; others have been converted into residential dwellings while retaining their existing structure. A number have changed into restaurants and have lost their appearance and usage as a public house. Some have just been closed.
- 2.12 Nevertheless there is still a market for public houses given the right management and sales offer. The Carlton Arms, Cambridge Blue, Devonshire Arms and Maypole are examples of some of the successful public houses in Cambridge that offer a wide range of real ales. The Old Spring, d'Arrys Cookhouse, and St John's Chop House, are examples of pubs which have increased turnover by developing as 'gastro-pubs' with a high quality food offer and many other pubs have sought to introduce a stronger food offer, with many breweries demonstrating increased like for like sales during the recession largely based on a growth in food sales. Other pubs, such as the Emperor have successfully increase sales by putting on a variety of entertainment including comedy evenings and bands/music groups playing live in the evening. Others host dance classes, quiz nights and a meeting area for local community groups. All these activities provide opportunities for social interaction and promote social cohesion.
- 2.13 The current adopted planning policy context for Cambridge is silent regarding the redevelopment or change of use of current or former public houses. Indeed, the only policy relating to protection of community facilities is only available for those uses within the D1 Use Class (with the exception of University Teaching Accommodation) and also for certain uses within the C2 Class (hospitals, residential schools, colleges and training centres).
- 2.14 The Council has thus far in their reasons for refusal and appeal statements made reference to the draft NPPF¹ and Planning Policy Statement 4 "Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth"². The Council's position improved slightly with the

¹ Final version published on 27 March 2012

² Cancelled on 27 March 2012 due to publication of the NPPF

publication of the NPPF but there remains a clear need for local planning guidance that has been prepared with specific regard to the needs of Cambridge.

3. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PUBLIC HOUSE

3.1 The public house is more than just a retail business. It plays an important role at the heart of many local communities, providing a hub through which social networks can be maintained and extended.

3.2 According to "Pubs and Places", 2nd Edition (IPPR, Jan 2012), pubs are important for a number of reasons, including:

- They act as hubs for the development of social networks between local people;
- They contribute to the local economy and provide jobs both directly (at the pub) and indirectly (e.g. at a brewery);
- Pubs promote community cohesion by facilitating interactions between people from different backgrounds at the local level;
- Pubs provide facilities/space for recreation and leisure activities including amongst others: pub quizzes, darts competitions, pool leagues, political discussion, meetings of local interest groups and community events;
- Pubs often promote and/or provide certain additional public services; and
- Pubs are culturally important institutions and are considered to offer certain things that are becoming rare in a society being shaped by global commercial pressures.

3.3 Recent research undertaken by CAMRA as described in a press release³ announcing the first ever Community Pubs Month shows that pubs play an integral role throughout the lives of local communities. The research shows that just under 9 in 10 young pub going adults visit their local pub to meet friends and socialise. Furthermore, about a quarter of all currently married couples met their partner at a pub. Further research shows that over 1 in 3 adults use their pub for events such 'community events' such as weddings, christenings and funerals.

3.4 Moreover, pubs are an important part of the Cambridge economy, not just for the direct and indirect jobs they provide in the pub, supplier, food and brewing industries, but in supporting the City's main industries by attracting and providing a meeting place for the brightest students, academics, scientists and entrepreneurs, and in attracting young office workers, shoppers and tourists.

4. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

4.1 This guidance has been prepared to take account of three main principles:

- a) The need to preserve the important social/community function of the public house;
- b) The need to preserve the important economic function of the public house; and

³ 02 April 2012 - http://www.camra.org.uk/article.php?group_id=5675

- c) The need to allow flexibility in terms of responding to economic change.

Proposals affecting properties currently or previously used as a Class A4 public house

- 4.2 This section of the IPPG sets out the principles for development affecting public house sites in Cambridge. Applicants should justify their proposals for change of use/conversion/redevelopment (where planning permission is required) against the principles and criteria in this section.
- 4.3 Following an audit of Cambridge's pubs, these have been assessed as meeting a local suburban community need, or a broader city wide and local community need within an important cluster of related pub types, or a city/village centre economic and tourist need. These are listed in Section 5 of this IPPG.
- 4.4 The following criteria should be used in the assessment of the application for development proposals affecting the loss of a public house (as listed in Section 5).
- 4.5 Development will only be permitted where evidence has been provided to satisfy the following criteria:
 - (a) The pub has been marketed for 12 months as a public house free of tie and restrictive covenant and for alternative local commercial or community facility, at a price agreed with the Council following an independent professional valuation (paid for by the developer) and there has been no interest in either the free- or lease-hold either as a public house, restaurant or other use falling within the 'A' use classes or as a community facility falling with 'D1' use class; and
 - (b) All reasonable efforts⁴ have been made to preserve the facility (including all diversification options explored – and evidence supplied to illustrate this) but it has been proven that it would not be economically viable to retain the building or site for its existing or any other 'A' or 'D1' class use; and
 - (c) Adequate alternative pub provision exists, or replacement provision is made available, in an equally or more accessible location within 400 metres walking distance⁵ to provide one pub per 750 working age adults; and
 - (d) It has been otherwise demonstrated⁶ that the local community no longer needs the public house or any alternative 'A' or 'D1' class use and its loss would not damage the availability of local commercial or community facilities that provide day-to-day needs in the local area.
- 4.6 In order to demonstrate that the site has been adequately marketed in accordance with criteria (a) the marketing exercise should be carried out in accordance with the guidance given in Annex A to this IPPG.

⁴ See Annex B

⁵ The Cambridge Public House Study contains a constraints map illustrating the 400 metres catchment areas

⁶ See Annex C

- 4.7 In order to demonstrate that the operation is no longer economically financially viable in accordance with (b) the Council will expect to see full financial evidence to substantiate the claim in accordance with Annex B to this IPPG.
- 4.8 In order to demonstrate that there will be adequate alternative provision of commercial community facilities to serve the needs of the local population in accordance with criteria (c) and (d) the applicant will need to address the guidance in Annex C of this IPPG.

Proposals affecting other Class A uses which were previously in a Class A4 pub use

- 4.9 Cambridge City Council recognises that it is possible to use permitted development rights contained in the Use Classes Order to change the use of a pub to a restaurant/café (Class A3), financial or professional services office (Class A2) or retail shop (Class A1).
- 4.10 In the last ten or so years, 6 pubs have been lost to restaurant uses. The council considers it is important to allow the flexibility for pubs to pass in and out of pub use according to market conditions; although, no permission is required to change use from a pub to a restaurant, A2 office or shop, permission is still required to change back to a public house.
- 4.11 Therefore, the above criteria allow flexibility in the re-use of pubs for alternative commercial community leisure, retail and business uses falling within 'A' use classes as market circumstances dictate or as a community facility⁷. In addition, the City Council will consider applications on their merits for the reinstatement of a former public house use from an A1, A2, A3, A5, or D1 use (subject to highway and amenity considerations and normal conditions).
- 4.12 Any proposals to convert or redevelop a former public house (as listed in Section 5 of this IPPG) since converted to a different 'A' use to a non-A use, will still be subject to the above development management principles.
- 4.13 Any proposals for a former public house (not listed in Section 5) that is subject to a planning application for conversion to a non-A use will also be subject to the above development management principles where the vitality and, or vibrancy of the local neighbourhood would be adversely affected.

⁷ defined under Policy 5/11 Community Facilities: Protection of Existing Facilities

5. LIST OF SAFEGUARDED PUB SITES

- 5.1 The following is a list of all of those existing and former public houses to which the IPPG relates.

Pub Sites providing an important Local Community Facility in Suburban Areas

Red Bull	11 Barton Road
Six Bells	11 Covent Garden
Dobblers Inn	184 Sturton Street
Earl of Beaconsfield	133 Mill Road
The Corner House	231 Newmarket Road
Green Dragon	5 Water Street
Portland Arms	129 Chesterton Road
The Tivoli	16 Chesterton Road
Robin Hood	1 Fulbourn Road
The Rock	200 Cherry Hinton Road
Milton Arms	205 Milton Road
Jenny Wren	80 Campkin Road
Carlton Arms	Carlton Way
The Med	Perne Road
Seven Stars	249 Newmarket Road
The Tally Ho	77 High Street
The Ship	Northfield Avenue
Golden Hind	355 Milton Road
Panton Arms	43 Panton Street
The Alma	26 Russell Court
The Brook	25 Brookfields
The Ranch	100 Histon Road
The Unicorn	15 High Street, Cherry Hinton
Royal Standard	292 Mill Road
Haymakers	54 High Street, Chesterton
Queen Edith	Wulfstan Way
Golden Pheasant	169 High Street, Chesterton
The Grove	Arbury Court
Rose & Crown	110 Newmarket Road
Five Bells	126 – 128 Newmarket Road

Pub Sites within edge of city clusters providing an important city wide economic and local community function

Maypole	20A Portugal Place
County Arms	43 Castle Street
The Emperor	21 Hills Road
Castle Inn	36-38 Castle Street
St Radegund	129 King Street
Baron of Beef	19 Bridge Street
Champion of the Thames	68 King Street
King Street Run	88 King Street
The Flying Pig	106 Hills Road
Osbourne Arms	108 Hills Road
Burleigh Arms	9-11 Newmarket Road
The Bakers	176 East Road
The Snug	170 East Road
The First & Last	18 Melbourne Place
The Empress	72 Thoday Street

Live & Let Live	40 Mawson Road
Sir Issac Newton	84 Castle Street
The White Swan	109 Mill Road
Hopbine	11-12 Fair Street
The Old Spring	1 Ferry Path
The Gelhart	1 Ainsworth Street
Devonshire Arms	1 Devonshire Road
Cambridge Blue	85-87 Gwydir Street
Kingston Arms	33 Kingston Street
Tram Depot	5 Dover Street
Alexandra Arms	22-24 Gwydir Street
The Punter	3 Pound Hill
The Mitre	17-18 Bridge Street
Elm Tree	Orchard Street
Salisbury Arms	76 Tenison Road
Waterman	32 Chesterton Road
The Grapes	Northfield Avenue
Panton Arms	43 Panton Street
The Alma	26 Russell Court
The Brook	25 Brookfields
The Ranch	100 Histon Road
The Free Press	7 Prospect Row
Zebra	80 Maids Causeway
Carpenters Arms	182 Victoria Road
St Johns Chophouse	21-24 Northampton Street
Meghana (former Blackamoors Head)	205 Victoria Road
Tang (former Ancient Druids)	Napier Street

City centre, riverside or village pubs and bars providing an important economic and tourist function

The Bath House	3 Benedict Street
The Mill	14 Mill Lane
Baroosh	8 Market Passage
Earl of Derby	129 Hills Road
Prince Regent	19 Regent Street
The Fountain	12 Regent Street
The Snug	67 Lensfield Road
All Bar One	36 St Andrews Street
Boathouse	14 Chesterton Road
The Cow	Corn Exchange Street
Eagle	Benedict Street
The Castle	37 St Andrews Street
The Jolly Scholar	1 King Street
The Regal	38-39 St Andrews Street
The Anchor	Silver Street
Great Northern	1-3 Station Road
Fort St George	Victoria Avenue
The Avery	69-73 Regent Street
The Granta	14 Newnham Terrace
Pickerill Inn	30 Magdalene Street
Revolution Bar	3-8 Downing Street
Slug & Lettuce	34-35 Green Street
d'Arry's Cookhouse	2-4 King Street
Japas (former Cross Keys)	9 Saxon Street
Henry's	Quayside
Old Orleans	Mill Lane
The Unicorn	22 Church Lane, Trumpington

Red Lion
Green Man
Travellers Rest

20 Mill End Road
55 High Street
Huntington Road

Pubs not included within the above and why

Penny Ferry	110 Water Street	- appeal allowed for redevelopment
Greyhound	93 Coldhams Lane	- severed from local catchment
Rosemary Branch	503 Coldhams Lane	- small local catchment
Fleur de Lys	73 Humberstone Road	- permission for redevelopment
Hat & Feathers	35 Barton Road	- redeveloped
Jubilee	73 Catharine Street	- redeveloped
Cow & Calf	Pound Hill	- redeveloped
Duke of Argyle	90 Argyle Street	- redeveloped
Five Bells	143 High Street, Cherry Hinton	- permission for redevelopment

6. GLOSSARY

District Centres - will usually comprise groups of shops often containing at least one supermarket or superstore, and a range of non-retail services, such as banks, building societies and restaurants, as well as local public facilities such as a library.

Local Centres - include a range of small shops of a local nature, serving a small catchment. Typically, local centres might include, amongst other shops, a small supermarket, a newsagent, a sub-post office and a pharmacy. Other facilities could include a hot-food takeaway and laundrette.

Use Classes - The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended 2005) established Use Classes, which is a system of categories of different types of uses.

Use Class A1 - Shops where the sale, display or service is to visiting members of the public (shops, hairdressers).

Use Class A2 - Financial and professional services where the services are provided principally to visiting members of the public (banks, estate agents).

Use Class A3 - Restaurants & cafés - places where the primary purpose is the sale and consumption of food and light refreshment on the premises.

Use Class A4 - Public houses, wine bars or other drinking establishments - premises where the primary purpose is the sale and consumption of alcoholic drinks on the premises.

Use Class A5 - Take-aways - premises where the primary purpose is the sale of hot food to take-away.

Use Class C2 - Hospitals, Nursing Homes or Residential Schools, Colleges or Training Centres where they provide residential accommodation and care to people in need of care (other than those within C3 Dwelling Houses).

Use Class D1 - Non-Residential Institutions - Clinics, health centres, crèches, day nurseries, day centres, schools, art galleries (other than for sale or hire), museums, libraries, halls, places of worship, church halls, law court. Non residential education and training centres.

Use Class D2 - Cinemas, music and concert halls, bingo and dance halls (but not night clubs), swimming baths, skating rinks, gymnasiums or area for indoor or outdoor sports and recreations (except for motor sports, or where firearms are used).

Sui Generis - Where uses do not fall within the four main use classes. Examples include Theatres, Nightclubs and Casinos.

NPPF – The National Planning Policy Framework (as published 27 March 2012)

7. EVIDENCE BASE & DEVELOPMENT OF IPPG

Cambridge Public House Survey & Interim Planning Policy Guidance (GVA Humberts Leisure, May 2012)

Mintel Impact of the Recession on Consumers Leisure Habits May 2010

UK Trade and Investment 21 June 2011

Zolfo Cooper Leisure Wallet Report Winter 2011/2012

Financial Times 6 February 2012

University of Warwick, Profile of Black and Minority Ethnic Groups in the UK

Oxford Economics, Beer and Pubs – Local Data (published 24th February 2012)

Office for National Statistics, 2010 mid-year working age population estimates (16 to 64 years).

Norwich City Council Draft Development Management Policies Document

Peterborough City Council adopted Core Strategy Document

London Borough of Merton Unitary Development Plan October 2003

London Borough of Merton Draft Policies and Sites Development Management Document

West Berkshire Council – Supplementary Planning Guidance “No.19 Public Houses”

Ribble Valley Borough Council – Supplementary Planning Guidance “The Retention of Public Houses in Rural Areas”

Huntingdonshire District Council – Supplementary Planning Guidance “Retention of Shops, Post Offices and Public Houses in Villages”

Mid Suffolk District Council – Supplementary Planning Guidance “Retention of Shops, Post Offices and Public Houses in Villages”

Institute for Public Policy Research “Pubs and Places” (2nd Edition), January 2012

Dft & DCLG Manual for Streets, 2007

Various Planning Appeal Decisions

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Cambridge Local Plan, Cambridge City Council, 2006

National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012)

ANNEX A – MARKETING STRATEGIES

With respect to the Policy contained within this IPPG, developers should note the following in terms of marketing a current or former public house listed in section 6:

- Details shall be provided of the company/person who carried out the marketing exercise.
- The Marketing process should last for 12 months, unless a focussed marketing strategy has been pre-agreed in writing with the local planning authority, in which case only 6 months is required.
- The asking price⁸ should be pre-agreed in writing with the local planning authority following independent valuation (funded by the developer) by a professional RICS valuer with expertise in the licensed leisure sector and who is not engaged to market the property.
- The marketing exercise should be sufficiently thorough and utilise all available forms of advertising media and therefore include as a minimum:
 - A For Sale/For Rent Signboard;
 - Adverts⁹ in the Local Press;
 - Adverts⁹ in appropriate trade magazines/journals;
 - Adverts⁹ on appropriate trade websites;
 - Adverts⁹ through both national and local estate agents (including their websites); and
 - A targeted mail shot or email to an agreed list of potential purchasers.

Copies of all sales literature (and in the case of a signboard, dated photographs) will be required.

- Both freehold and leasehold options should be made available without a 'tie' requiring the purchase of drinks through the vendor and without restrictive covenants that would otherwise prevent re-use as a public house such that other pub operators, breweries, local businesses or community groups wishing to take over the premises and trade it as a pub are not excluded.
- Copies of all details of approaches and offers should be provided together with full reasons as to why any offer has not been accepted.

⁸ The asking price(s) should be based on the valuation of the site as a trading pub without tie. Although the pub site should be marketed as a site for a pub, or alternative A and D1 class uses, it is considered unreasonable to ask for a valuation to agree a price for such a wide range of uses.

⁹ Adverts should contain a similar amount of detail as a property listing in an estate agents

- As part of the community consultation exercise (refer to Annex C), the public are to be informed about the marketing strategy and allowed the opportunity to put together their own bid.
- Any attempts to sell the business at a price which reflects its current use should relate to the business in its entirety, and not to parts of it, for example the buildings without the accompanying garden or car park.

ANNEX B - VIABILITY APPRAISALS

With respect to the Policy contained within this IPPG, developers should note the following in terms of the provision of data to help the local authority determine whether the public house is no longer economically viable as a commercial community facility:

- A commercial viability study should accompany any application for redevelopment or change of use.
- As a part of this study, evidence is required in the form of at least the last three trading years of audited accounts.
- All reasonable efforts have been made to preserve the public house (including all diversification options explored) and evidence supplied to illustrate that it would not be economically viable to retain the building or site for its existing or any other 'A' use class. Examples of the initiatives or proposals that could be explored are as follows:
 - Adding a kitchen and serving food, or improving the existing food offer;
 - Making the pub, garden, food offer more 'family-friendly';
 - Providing events and entertainment such as quiz nights, amplified or non-amplified live music, comedy/cabaret nights;
 - Hiring rooms out or otherwise providing a venue for local meetings, community groups, businesses, youth groups, children's day nurseries;
 - Offering take-away food and off-licence services;
 - Provision of bed & breakfast or other guest accommodation;
 - The setting up of micro-brewery;
 - Sharing the premises with other businesses;
 - Providing a local shop in part or all of the premises; and
 - Altering opening hours.

Note that this list is not exhaustive and not all ideas will apply to every public house.

- Details should also be provided of any changes to the public house in the period that corresponds with the trading information plus 1 year beforehand (so 4 years in total) that may have impacted on the business. For example:
 - Did the opening hours alter so that the pub opened less often or less frequently?
 - Were any facilities (e.g. kitchen, darts board, pool table etc) removed or regular events (e.g. quiz) cancelled?

- o Was space for meetings redeveloped or were any local groups told they could no longer use the space?

Note that this list is not exhaustive and the local planning authority may seek evidence through standard community consultation procedures.

- The local planning authority will require evidence that demonstrates that the public house has been operated positively i.e. that it has not been run poorly in order to smooth the way for redevelopment. Applicants should be aware that local people/customers will provide anecdotal evidence in response to neighbourhood consultations on any planning application submission.

ANNEX C - COMMUNITY CATCHMENTS AND CONSULTATION

With respect to the guidance contained within this IPPG, and for local community pubs in particular, applicants should note the following in terms of carrying out community consultation:

- A consultation exercise of all residents and businesses (in order to take account of employees who might visit the pub) within a 400m radius of the public house site shall be carried out in two stages:
 - Firstly, in advance of the marketing period as set out in the IPPG and in Annex A, the local community (residents/businesses within 400m as per above) shall be afforded the opportunity in writing to comment on the proposed marketing strategy and pre-agreed asking prices¹⁰. Their comments shall be forwarded to the local planning authority for the pre-agreement set out in Annex A; and
 - Secondly, at least 6 months before the planning application, residents and businesses within the 400m radius shall be notified again in writing and asked for their opinions on the loss of the existing or former public house facility. The results of this exercise shall be submitted to the local planning authority as part of the application submission.
- Developers may also carry out an assessment of the needs of the local community for community facilities to show that the existing or former public house no longer needed and that alternative provision is available in the area. This is not a requirement but submission of such additional evidence may improve the case for the application.
- The Council may also consider adding certain public houses to the Community Assets Register if the community support for their retention is significant.

¹⁰ Criterion 3 of Annex A