

# WHITE LION ALDERSHOT

## Community Pub

*Newsletter No 1 14 February 2020*

**Let's buy our pub and keep it open – action has started!**  
But time is very short and we need you too!

*If you're on our mailing list, you will have been sent a questionnaire.  
Please take a few minutes to answer the 6 questions as soon as possible.*

Have your say now and add your weight to the evidence that there's a real demand to keep this pub open. You don't have to be a White Lion customer already or even a regular pub-goer. Tell us what extra community benefits you think the pub could offer and say how you might be prepared to contribute your time, skills or money.

### **What's going to happen to our pub? How can we keep it open?**

The **White Lion** is a thriving local pub and many people are concerned about losing it. The building is up for sale so it will only stay open if it can be bought by people who want to keep it running as a pub.

Already, over the last few years, we've lost all these locals just in this part of town: *The Heron, The Queens Head, The Heroes of Lucknow, The Beehive & the La Fontaine* and before that *The Prince of Wales, The Lord Clyde...* etc. These are all now shops, houses or flats. Oh yes, and then there's *The Red Lion*, whose future, like *The White Lion*, hangs in the balance.

Enough is enough! At this rate, we'll have nowhere left to meet within walking distance of our homes and it will soon be too late to do anything about it.

We know you agree because you're reading this and many of you took the trouble to pack the pub to bursting at the *Public Meeting on Thursday 23 January* to show your support and find out what can be done to keep our lovely, friendly **White Lion** open.

## What progress has been made since the first public meeting?

Quite a lot already! A follow-up meeting at 7pm on *Tuesday 28 January* in the snug formed an ad hoc group of supporters to elect a small Steering Group and start sharing ideas and relevant knowledge. At 8pm the Steering Group (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 others initially), not wanting to waste precious time, held its first meeting and started investigating the possibilities. Detailed research then began in earnest and a second meeting was held on *Tuesday 4 February*, with the Steering Group now expanded to 10.

The questionnaire was drafted and a lot of work got underway to start setting up a formal Community Benefit Society ('*Aldershot Community Pub Ltd*') to be registered with the FCA and known as the 'White Lion Aldershot Community Pub'. We have now joined The Plunkett Foundation (see [plunkett.co.uk/more-than-a-pub](http://plunkett.co.uk/more-than-a-pub)), which has already helped other Community Pub groups to success. They will supply ongoing advice and money too if we can raise a good amount locally. We also have enthusiastic local support from The Aldershot Civic Society, local councillors, The West End Centre, CAMRA and others.

## Why is the questionnaire so important?

To succeed, we need as **many people** as possible to get involved and **raise a lot of money** quite quickly. But first we have to prove there is plenty of support from local people to keep the White Lion going as a traditional English local pub and develop it into 'More Than a Pub', offering other community activities outside pub opening hours. The questionnaire is designed to provide the evidence we need.

So please **complete the questionnaire** as soon as possible and **keep spreading the word** as widely as you can, the more the merrier! Thank you.

**If you haven't had a questionnaire yet, you can pick one up from the pub or send an email to [savethewhitelionaldershot@gmail.com](mailto:savethewhitelionaldershot@gmail.com)**

*[Coming soon: WLACP website & Facebook page & launch of Fundraising campaign]*

Published by the **White Lion Aldershot Community Pub (WLACP)** Steering group

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