

Muker Community Benefit Society Ltd



Registered Office: Usha Gap Farm and Campsite, Long Close House, Muker, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 6DW

NEWSLETTER – 02 – JANUARY 2024

Welcome to the latest update for the Muker Community Pub project. We can now introduce you to the first members of the Board who are currently meeting weekly to get through the long and detailed process to establish the governance arrangements and funding requirements to give us the best chance of successfully purchasing the Farmers Arms.

The Board is being chaired by Professor Sir Mike Richards, a resident in Muker, who has a wealth of experience at senior levels within Government and is currently an advisor for the Department of Health and Social Care. He is joined by other Muker residents, Justin Jupp and Christine Clarkson. Usha Gap Campsite owners Philip Metcalfe and Louise Metcalfe are also part of the team and their campers will also have a keen interest in the pub. Representing the Upper Dale is Chris Hopwood from Keld, Richard Walls has a local business interest running The Old School Art Gallery in Muker and we also have the finance experience of Ian Evans from Gunnerside who has a long relationship with the Swaledale Festival.

An application has been made to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to register as the Muker Community Benefit Society. This will provide the governance and framework to issue a Community Share Offer when the time comes later in the year. It also ensures that the work of the Society is for the benefit of the community. The Rules of the Society are included within the application and are aligned with models accepted by the FCA.

The Expression of Interest in the Community Ownership Fund has been approved and we are now able to progress to the next stage that will probably result with a formal full bid application around Easter 2024. To continue the process we are grateful for everyone that has offered support and particularly the financial donors that will enable us to complete the pre-application requirements including business planning, finance modelling, surveys and valuation.

Our next update will probably coincide with a public meeting to present the findings from the questionnaire (which remains live and has received over 200 responses) and promoting Share Pledges. The information will also be shared electronically and so don't worry about not being able to attend the meeting in person – we appreciate that the level of support for the project extends to North America and New Zealand.

Regards,

Christine and Justin

Muker Community Pub Project