

Muker Community Benefit Society Ltd



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

NEWSLETTER – 07 – MAY 2024

On behalf of the Muker Community Benefit Society committee we would like to say a massive thank you to the 470 people who have provided funds to buy shares as part of the ambition to bring The Farmers Arms into community ownership. In total £342,000 has been committed which represents a significant proportion of the overall funds. The initiative has support from those in the Upper Dales, across the UK and Europe and further afield in South Africa, Canada, New Zealand and the USA.

Unfortunately, we have also just received notification from the Government that due to the pre-election period “there will be no further Community Ownership Fund announcements at this time.” This is a disappointment as only last week we were informed that all the applications had been assessed and were going through due diligence. We knew that the pre-election period would result in the cancellation of the final application window but are surprised that the current applications, including ours, could not be cleared following our submission on 8th April. There will be no guarantee that a new Government will pick up the programme from where it was stopped but we have made a personal approach to the Prime Minister as our constituency MP.

The committee remain positive for the project, and we have a back-up plan that we believe is viable. Although some of the committee are on holiday in June and others working on the Swaledale Festival, the rest of the committee will be revising business plans and working on other potential funding streams. An update will be provided later in June. In the meantime, existing funds in the bank will be held in a Co-op deposit account and cheques will be retained. The vendor is aware of the situation and remains supportive of the community purchase.

Thank you all for your continued support. We consider this development as an obstacle for us to clear and certainly not the end of the project. All being well this should not entail too much of a delay beyond the original plans.

Regards,

Mike Richards
Chair, Muker Community Benefit Society