

MINUTES for “Save the Glamorgan” Meeting held on Thursday 3rd March 2022 at 7:30pm

Present: Roger Wagner\; Sean Fitzsimons\; Ron Appleby\; Jonathan Leslie\; Tomas Howard-Jones\; Tony Skrzypczyp\; Deborah Daintith\; Cathy Bone\; Rodger Molyneux\; Andrew Phillips\; Jerry Fitzpatrick\; Ian Woodard\;

Apologies: Steve Thompson; Tony Carter; **registered but unable to attend** Shaneen Salmon; Patrick Towers; Olivia McDonald; Thomas Boeke;

1. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 8th December 2021 \ approved

2. Update on Action Points from last meeting

2.1 What can we do to deter potential buyers of Glamorgan freehold from paying £2m+ to owners?

- Having identified **Croydon Council’s Local Plan** as the best defence against development of the pub site, how can this Plan best be used to deter future buyers of the freehold?

Ron Appleby: Only one website still lists The Glamorgan - Monarch (for sale). Dorking/Campaign is still offering £1m conditional on survey. The View (also owned by Butler Walsall) has been sold & work has commenced on office/accommodation - refurbishment of roof (observed by Deborah Daintith).

Jerry Fitzpatrick: It is unlikely a developer will take a risk at present. The Croydon Plan is being ‘beefed up’ to take into account area designations & this will include the designation of The Glamorgan.

Tomas Howard-Jones: Unfortunately opposition to the current Croydon Plan has been expressed by all mayoral candidates! Jerry Fitzpatrick: The current Croydon Plan however, cannot be changed by candidates for mayor; this would require approval by representatives, so the protective pub plan is for the moment intact. Timetable would require a decision on the Plan after consideration by the new council and by the planning officer. The provisions for pubs will NOT be removed from the Plan.

Tomas Howard-Jones: The controversy anyway, is about character of the East Croydon area rather than specifically the pub policy. Jerry Fitzgerald: 25 Mar is the only Council Meeting before Local Elections in May and is unlikely to change the current Plan. We can’t speculate on the future complexion of Croydon Council and its attitude to the current Croydon Plan.

2.2 What publicity should the Campaign generate to further deter potential buyers from buying?

- Rundown of publicity achieved since last meeting and discussion of other options available to the Campaign. Agree an action plan of what to say and who will contact each outlet.

Ron Appleby: Some publicity is already out there on the net, such as articles in the web pages for “Inside Croydon”, “Croydon Advertiser” and “My London”. Ron has done a summary of The Glamorgan’s history and events since Butler Walsall bought it - Tara O’Connor may be one contact for using this.

Rodger Molyneux: SaveTheGlam needs to get to major news sites such as Reuters etc. The Population of London has dropped by 600,000 since 2019 and this has impacted on community cohesion!.

Sean Fitzsimons: London local news ideally will welcome local stories such as ours. Looking into The Glamorgan while passing by tonight, it seems a ceiling has collapsed and SF has photo of this.

Jerry Fitzgerald: The owner has been economical with the truth about sale - this should be emphasised in any publicity. Sean Fitzsimons: Companies House would be updated if the pub has been sold. Rodger Molyneux: There is currently no record at Companies House of a change of ownership.

Roger Wagner: The historic circumstances in the 1830s - beside the East India Company’s Academy at Addiscombe House - of the founding of The Horse & Groom (the original name of The Glamorgan) suggests it had an important role in the development of the popular beer style India Pale Ale (IPA). This may be a promising handle for publicity.

Rodger Molyneux: There have been no company accounts since 2019, so The Glamorgan is in danger of being struck out of the Companies House register - it would normally be de-registered by now, but there has been 'an objection' to de-registration. The owners are in effect 'hiding' but Rodger Molyneux will 'keep digging', and will see if there is any way of "nudging" them to make a submission, which could tell us if the asset had been moved to a new company.

3. Action Plan for further campaigning activities

Sean Fitzsimons: Local election campaigns in run up to 5 May provide a campaigning opportunity. We can pose Questions to Candidates, particularly candidates for mayor. Also we should prepare a written and verbal presentation to the new mayor to get their support for our campaign.

Rodger Molyneux: We should prepare a document for new Council after 5 May - and check the double rate of Council Tax is being applied for a vacant building through councillors' inquiry (this can be done through members Jerry Fitzpatrick/Sean Fitzsimons) - meanwhile we need to 'keep our powder dry'.

4. Any other business - none

5. Date of Next Meeting

*Rodger Molyneux proposes some time in early May after election, say in the period Tue 10 May - Thu 12 May. Ron Appleby suggests **Thu 19 May** is better because parties will have met post-election. Sean Fitzsimons proposes possibly in-person in the Town Hall, as we used to do?*

Andrew Phillips asked if Dorking Brewery is still on board - Ron Appleby confirms we have not lost our brewery sponsors.