

Why The Deramore Arms is an Asset of Community Value

The Deramore Arms is a village community pub serving a varied customer demographic in an area that much needs facilities, given that when open it is one of only two public houses that serve a significant immediate population in the Heslington area which is home to the vast York University campus.

It is currently shut but the owners Greene King, one of the largest pub companies in the UK, has indicated in the local press that it is actively seeking a new licensee with a view to opening it as soon as possible.

When it is open, the pub appeals to different social groups by offering an alternative to other amenities in the area that appeal to other demographics. The nearest and only other public house in the village is the Charles XII – which is deliberately student orientated with cheap drinks deals and a jukebox, whereas The Deramore is designed to appeal to local residents and diners as well as students by offering a different ambience. The village benefits from having these 2 distinct offerings that caters for all tastes.

There are not replicated by nearby community facilities or any other local public house within 1.2 miles – i.e. reasonable walking distance.

Patrons of The Deramore Arms say that they value the unique atmosphere and social network of this particular public house which is not replicated elsewhere nearby.

When open, The Deramore makes a tangible contribution within local community which will be detailed below.

1. During term time it has laid on free food to sports teams competing on the local playing fields in return for them using the pub as their clubhouse for post-match socialising with visiting teams.
2. It had a thriving local community of patrons that used it not only for socialising but formed domino and darts teams (including ladies) which actively participated in local leagues.
3. Over previous Christmas periods the pub hosted the local church carol singing evening which proved popular with residents in the local village.
4. The pub looked after the key and managed bookings of the Village Meeting Room which houses meetings for instance of the local parish council who used to use the pub post-meetings to socialise.
5. It hosted events for York University Roses matches (against Lancaster University) – providing post-match entertainment and space for teams to eat and drink.
6. There is a huge car park and gardens at the rear of the pub that hosted small-market events for local residents such as garden plants sales and car boot sales.
7. The pub was a popular venue for “occasions” such as weddings or birthday receptions as well as hosting wakes after funerals – given it was able to provide a high standard of catering in spacious surrounding plus it has copious parking facilities and is easy to get to from the A64 and Fulford.
8. It provided a distinct alternative to the Charles II as a dining facility for families and friends of local residents and indeed visitors to the area. The ambience was different in that it didn’t include music and relied on the hum of good conversation and socialising.
9. It had a wide appeal to all social groups and attracted local families; tourists from York in the car; local students as well as single residents (young and old) in the village who used it as a social meeting point and a refuge from isolation.

In Summary

In an area only now served by a single pub, the local community feels keenly the temporary loss of The Deramore public house which is a social facility that they want to protect and cherish - not just for the pub's patrons today, but as a public house with the right investment from the pub company, that will serve future residents of this friendly village with a very large transitory population on its doorstep.

The Deramore Arms - boundary outlined on

