

Why The Punch Bowl is an Asset of Community Value

The Punch Bowl is making a tangible contribution to the local community, providing a valuable venue for leisure and entertainment and fulfilling a social sustainability role.

Such was its importance to the local community, it was granted an immediate Article 4 Direction on 24th December 2014 by City of York Council. This has now elapsed, hence this ACV application which will grant it protection against development without a planning application first being submitted.

The Punch Bowl is also on the York Open Planning Forum's "Local List" - a community-created register of buildings and structures that are of importance and interest to local communities because of their historic or architectural interest.

The Punch Bowl is an excellent example of a community pub serving a wide customer demographic. It is able to appeal to many different social groups. This is not something that can be replicated in nearby facilities.

Patrons of The Punch Bowl have said that it is not just a case of there being equivalent facilities nearby - they value the unique atmosphere of this particular public house.

Pensioners: It is popular with an eclectic mixture of senior citizens for whom it is an escape from loneliness and living on their own. There is even a specially priced low cost Sunday Lunch (£4.50) aimed at attracting those with limited financial means into a relaxed social environment conducive to social interaction.

Families: It is a family friendly venue serving coffee and cold soft drinks and benefits from the availability of a pool table in a separate area away from the public bar.

Disabled clientele: It is the only public house with free entry in the immediate area (the clubs opposite charge for membership) that offers easy wheelchair access and this is popular with local people and their carers or friends who frequent the pub on a weekly basis. Neither The Castle Howard Ox nor Brigadier Gerard is wheelchair friendly.

Vulnerable clientele: There have been testimonies from several customers who say they find The Punch Bowl a place of refuge. It is somewhere that they feel safe and don't fear intimidation or prejudice as a result of their disability. One customer spoke of not fearing bumping into people because of his blindness and causing a disturbance due to lack of understanding. The Gravers specialist mental health residential service use The Punch Bowl as part of their individual recovery programme as they say that it is a safe environment for their residents that they can trust.

It provides facilities for Sports Teams

The pub has its own Darts team; Pool team; Dominoes Team and Golf Society. In addition it provides facilities for meetings and socials for teams from St John's University - specifically the football team and netball team. It has sponsored St Johns Rugby team in previous seasons. It has made a special difference in the integration of "town and gown" with students and Groves residents drinking and socialising side by side.

- Due to the high standard of darts facilities - inter-county darts competitions are being planned for the forthcoming season. The bowls club opposite use the pub for refreshment after their bowls sessions due to its proximity and large size.
- The large function rooms upstairs has been used for Karate instruction classes for local youths - providing them with a positive outlet and use of their time and combatting boredom and anti-social behaviour.
- The large function room upstairs is regularly used by University of St John student groups for society meetings and sports club social events with them publicly stating that this was the only external venue within a reasonable distance of the University that offered a room that could accommodate the numbers that turn up to these events - usually around 50 - 60 persons.

An asset for local charities - fundraising

The Punch Bowl holds monthly charity events and concentrates on 2 nominated charities: St Martins Hospice and McMillan Cancer. It has raised significant amounts of money for each charity and will continue to do so. It has recently established strong links with York Partially Sited group as well. They would all lose out financially with the demise of The Punch Bowl.