



The Abbots Mitre

The Abbots Mitre is due to close on 9th June 2013.

This is due to a decision made by the owners, Enterprise Inns, despite the current landlord, Tom, wishing to continue.

The suspicion is that Enterprise Inns want to re-develop this land into housing to maximize their short-term profits. This is not out-of-character, and would appear to be a deliberately engineered move.

In order to do this, they require a Change-of-Use order from Test Valley Borough Council – which they are most likely to apply for after the pub has been allowed to become a boarded-up eyesore (such as The Vine, in Stockbridge). Once this occurs, with the speed of degradation and quick population by rats, they hope the locals will then be desperate to see the site re-developed.

This will deprive Tom of his business and savings, his staff of jobs, the village of its only pub, and the Nation of its heritage. Once it has gone it will never be replaced!

We want to persuade the Parish Council and Test Valley Borough Council that this enforced closure is unfair, and that the pub is a potentially viable business. We therefore want them to refuse any future change-of-use for the foreseeable future in order to protect our heritage. We also want to make our feelings known to Enterprise Inns.

The current landlord has offered to keep the pub running until a suitable new tenant (or buyer) can be found, but has been told no – if no-one comes forward by 9th June the pub will be boarded up. (See Time Is Not On Our Side page).

The Business Secretary Vince Cable has raised his concern at the behaviour of large pub chains and how they treat their tenants. A motion to formalize the current voluntary code is underway. Click [here](#).

Prince Charles has started a campaign to save the local pub. Click [here](#).

CAMRA has a campaign to save the local pub – check out their website – and they also have concerns as to how large pub chains and corporations are operating. Click [here](#).

There are varying different stories doing the rounds about The Abbots Mitre – but they are mostly unfounded rumours. In a separate document “Time Is Not On Our Side” we have attempted to provide an accurate account of what is happening. We are also awaiting the results of some Freedom of Information requests.