

Asset of Community Value and Right to Bid

Are you concerned about the loss of services in the village?

Do you want to do something but don't think you can?

At the Village Parish Meeting held on 2nd May 2018 there was a discussion that the village was potentially losing all its remaining retail services over the next few months (shop, pub, post office). It was clear that attempting to maintain all these services as separate commercial entities was unlikely to be successful. Colin Metcalfe outlined a possible alternative to save these services.

In 2012 the government put the Localism Act 2012 into effect which was intended to enable communities take more control of their local planning and development. A team is pursuing one aspect of this in the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. One of the other key provisions in the Act is the “**Right to Bid**” which allows for **COMMUNITY GROUPS** to nominate “**Assets of Community Value**”.

These ACVs as they are known are held on a register by WLDC and mean that should the asset be put up for sale the community is informed and a moratorium on the sale put in place for 6 months to allow the community to prepare a bid for the asset. There is no guarantee the bid would be successful nor does the vendor have to sell to the community. It is simply a mechanism to ensure the opportunity is there.

The Parish Council was asked to nominate the Marquis of Granby site as an ACV and on 18th June 2018 WLDC accepted the nomination and put the Marquis of Granby site on the ACV register. Whilst we cannot get a grant to buy the site we can get grants to help prepare the bid, a business plan and look at what legal options exist for holding and managing the site.

Acquiring the Marquis of Granby site would provide an opportunity to consolidate our disappearing services into a single location, provide centrally located land to support other facilities, e.g. playground, allotments, drop-in centre/café, support visiting shops (butcher, baker etc) and a whole range of other things. In effect effectively creating an informally run village centre hub. **Community participation and support is vital however to get this off the ground and make it a success. Your involvement however small is needed.**

To kick this off the Chairman of the Waddingham Parish Council is using her prerogative to call a Parish Meeting to let the community find out more, develop options, generate ideas and suggestions, volunteer assistance etc.

So that everyone has the best chance to attend we will hold two identical meetings.

The dates and times are

Saturday 8th September 10:00am – 12:00am and Wednesday 12th September 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Both are at the village hall.

We shall prepare a website where you can ask questions, share answers and generally discuss ideas.

<https://npdblog.ddns.net>