

If your pub is under threat

Get your mind thinking, and make a list of as many of the following details as soon as you can, adding more as further ideas or information becomes available:

Has a planning application been submitted for a change of any sort? (Tell Bristol Pubs Group asap, quoting its reference.) Has the Council / applicant dropped letters / leaflets through the letterboxes of the pub's neighbours?

When did the pub cease trading (or is it still trading?)

List the names and street names / postcodes of the nearest others within 400 metres radius of the pub under threat. Which are trading?

What the surrounding environment is like eg, residential / shopping / industrial / residential and shopping. Is the pub in a backstreet / busy high street / country road or what?

If in a busy high street, what is the night life like? List other cafes / pizza houses / restaurants / supermarkets / bookmakers etc trading into the evening / night. Active? Noisy? Quiet?

Note each pub's themes for variation. Is a pub sports-orientated with pool tables, darts board, skittle alley and big TV screens? Does it support any special interest groups / charities / particular sports team? Is it food-driven / a quiet one for just putting your feet up, reading & crosswords, quiet chat with friends / live entertainment of bands, singers, karaoke, comedians, quizzes? Strongly real ale or more keg-orientated? Does a particular generation of people use it as the main core of frequent / regular customers? Is it family-orientated with play area(s) for children? Beer garden? Is the pub a rowdy one with drug addicts and drunkards? (Consider in defence of such challenges.)

Is the pub open-plan in layout, loads of 'snugs' or maybe 'half and half'?

Is there any strong history acquainted with the pub? (Not behaviour - famous people / events.) When was it built? When was it established as a pub? Was this ever a brewery / beer house (maybe with an off-sales area)? Is the surrounding area famous for anything in particular (such as industry), which this pub had connection with? Is this why the pub was built? (The Palace Hotel in Old Market, Bristol was built in expectation of a railway line ending nearby.) Take photos of all answers if practical - long-shots and close-ups of specific features.

Is the pub listed under English Heritage, or possibly on a 'local list' held by your Local Authority?

What style of building is this? Any distinct features on the outside of the building eg, leaded windows, etched or stained glass, patterned stonework / brickwork, timber, distinct roof tiling (or thatched?), signage, plaques, etc. "Ales, porters and stouts", "Lounge", "Saloon", "Bar"? Is the pub dominant in its size compared to neighbouring buildings or similar size?

Any special features inside, eg, original / very old screens, bar back, bar counter, spittoons, wall panelling, bell pushes, numbering on doors? Photos!

If photos cannot be taken, do you know of any recent ones someone may have? Have you tried the internet / library / records office?

What is public transport like to and from the area?