



Petersham Environment Trust

Graham Ball
Chair, Petersham Environment Trust
Rosebank
River Lane
Richmond TW10 7AG

Licensee/Lease Holder
Fox & Duck Public House
Petersham
Richmond TW10 7AG

21st March 2019

Asset of Community Value Nomination

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Petersham Environment Trust is a long-established local charity whose aim is to protect, conserve and maintain the natural environment and other amenities in Petersham and its surroundings.

The charity recently applied to have the Fox & Duck Public House listed as an Asset of Community Value and we have just been notified by the council that the application has been successful.

This is a courtesy letter to explain what this means in practice and what motivated the application. The listing should in no way affect you the landlord/licensee or the operation of the pub.

As you are no doubt aware, more than 25% of UK pubs have closed since 2001 and continue to do so at rate of 18 a week. They are frequently sold by their owners for conversion to homes, shops or other uses, often at a great a loss to the people they employ and the communities they serve.

The Fox & Duck is a long-established public house located at the heart of the village serving the local community and its heritage forms an important part of the community's historic and cultural identity. There has in fact been a public house on the site since around 1700, and we feel it should have every opportunity to continue for many years to come.



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To be clear, we know of no plans for the current owner of the Fox & Duck to sell the pub. In fact, as recently as last summer Enterprise Inns confirmed “The Fox and Duck continues to be part of our long-term plans and we will not be disposing of the site.” Therefore, there appears to be no immediate concern re sale or change of use. This listing is therefore very much a protection for the future.

Asset of Community Value

The legislation is designed to inform the local community when an asset of importance is being sold. Should the owner wish to sell the premises they need to inform the local council. The local community then has six weeks to register their interest in making a bid for the premises. Should they wish to do so, they will have six months to make an offer to the owner. The owner cannot sell the premises to anyone else during this period but can do so after it has expired.

Of course, the members of the community may not want to purchase the pub, in which case the owner has the right to sell to whom they wish and for what purpose, subject to planning permission.

I hope this letter clarifies the situation. We hope the Fox & Duck continues to serve its patrons well for many years to come.

Yours Faithfully,

Graham Ball, Chair
Petersham Environment Trust

p.s. Links below provide further information in case helpful.

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/voluntary_and_community_sector/community_right_to_bid
https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/voluntary_and_community_sector/community_right_to_bid/nominate_an_asset_of_community_value
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asset_of_community_value