

# Calling all Ley Hill Residents

## Help to Save Our Swan



Joe, Gareth & Emily at the 2019 Ley Hill Beer Festival

Dear Resident,

**What is more important – a 500 year old pub, cherished and loved by the community, or one new home?** It would seem to residents that the answer is an obvious one, but that is the question that members of Buckinghamshire Council's Area Planning Committee will be asked in just a few weeks' time.

There is more to this, of course, but that basic choice remains. As most residents will know, the Grade-II listed Swan pub in Ley Hill - which is believed to be one of the oldest in Buckinghamshire – has been under threat from development since 2018. Two previous planning applications have either been thrown out by the Council's Officer team or withdrawn and the latest application (reference PL/20/3086/FA) is now under consideration.

Built in around 1520, The Swan's history as an ale house and latterly as a pub can be traced back to the 1600s. During World War II Clark Gable, James Stewart and Glenn Miller were all frequent visitors, according to a dedicated community group that has been set up to save the pub – Save Our Swan. But the latest plans could see all of that put at risk – turning the quaint pub into one house with parking if they are given the go-ahead.

**The Swan has a history, and a legacy, worth preserving.** That is not just our own personal view as local Councillors, but it is the view of hundreds of your neighbours, some of whom make up the backbone of the Save Our Swan group. These hardworking volunteers are campaigning hard to see off this application and they need your help. Comments can still be submitted to the Council - if you have not done so already, I would encourage you to visit the website (using the reference details above) and make your voice heard. We will be speaking in favour of saving the pub at the planning committee and would love your support.

**This isn't just about the loss of a historic building open to the public.** As anyone who has been to the annual Ley Hill Beer Festival will know - this is about the loss of a community asset. According to real estate adviser, the Altus Group, in 2020 alone more than 2,000 pubs were lost to closure or conversion, which is more than double the number in previous years. Clearly Covid-19 has had an impact and all pubs should be supported during these difficult times. But, with that support, and when we emerge out of these dark times, there is no reason why Ley Hill cannot reclaim its heritage, with the pub as a hub of village life and an attraction for years to come.



**Please help to Save Our Swan – there are three things you can do :**

- 1) Submit your comments to Buckinghamshire Council planning website for the Chiltern and South Bucks area, reference PL/20/3086/FA before it is too late.**
- 2) Check out the Save our Swan website [www.leyhillcommunitypub.co.uk](http://www.leyhillcommunitypub.co.uk) for the latest news and the soon to be launched prospectus.**
- 3) Consider joining the group and contributing financially to help save our local pub.**

If you would like to be kept informed on developments or have an issue you want us to consider, drop us an email (addresses below) or register on the Save our Swan website.

Best wishes,

*Joseph Baum    Emily Culverhouse    Gareth Williams*

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**Joseph Baum**

A Town Councillor in Chesham (including part of Botley Road) and a Conservative candidate for Chess Valley

**Emily Culverhouse**

A Town Councillor in Chesham (including part of Botley Road), a Buckinghamshire Councillor and a Conservative candidate for Chess Valley

**Gareth Williams**

A resident of Ley Hill, a member of the Save Our Swan committee, a Buckinghamshire Councillor and Cabinet member and a Conservative candidate for Chess Valley

**P.S. if you have any other local issues, then we would be happy to help.**

Email Joseph at [josephbaum4chesham@gmail.com](mailto:josephbaum4chesham@gmail.com)

Email Emily at [culverhousecdc@gmail.com](mailto:culverhousecdc@gmail.com)

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