

The future of the Plough and Fleece – update April 2022

Since our last update we have been busy behind the scenes and would like to share with you where we are up to.

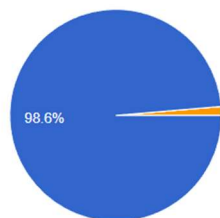
Community engagement

We have continued to hand deliver the community engagement questionnaire and nearly all properties in Cockfield have received a copy. Most responses have been electronic and we have received an additional one hundred responses since our last update.

There continues to be an **overwhelming support** for a community owned facility, confirming that there is a real appetite for reopening the pub. We would like to thank those of you who have provided details of services that could be volunteered. If you stated that you could potentially offer professional support but have yet to respond, then we would love to hear from you. We are particularly looking for anyone that can help us in planning and legal aspects.

1. Do you support the vision of a community owned facility?

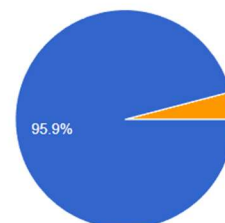
296 responses



2. Would you use it?

296 responses

● Yes
● No
● Don't know



● Yes
● No
● Don't know

Plunkett Foundation

The Plunkett Foundation is a charity that supports rural communities to create and run community-owned businesses; it is therefore vital that we secure their support. Having applied, which included a summary of the results received from the community engagement questionnaire, we are delighted to confirm that our application was approved.

We have met with our allocated adviser and were provided with much useful information to really move the project forward. It was reassuring to learn of numerous success stories that the Plunkett Foundation have supported and, with their expertise, we are in the process of drafting a business plan.

Plough and Fleece advertisement

You may be aware that Merrifields Estate agents have listed the pub for sale and Sheridans have been separately appointed to sell the land behind the pub. The advert for the pub can be viewed by following this link: <https://bit.ly/pubadvert>.

The next steps

We are in the process of creating a Community Benefit Society, which is the recommended model to operate for this venture. In accordance with model rules for community ownership, we have formed the following interim management committee which will operate to move the project to the next phase:

David Lewsey
Sarah Fletcher
Allan Ramsay
David Marshall
Vincent Scholier
Tony Turner
Jeremy Gardiner

The next phase will involve seeking financial support. We have launched a GoFundMe Page, which is designed to cover the initial costs required to register the Community Benefit Society and the associated professional fees that are required to enable the company to acquire the pub for the community. The link to this page can be found by clicking here: <https://gofund.me/50f91825>. Any donations will be gratefully received.

Once the company is registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) we can then proceed to finalise the business plan to support a share offer and also obtain grants and loans (if required) to enable the purchase of the pub. To facilitate this, we will advertise a drop-in meeting so that you can meet with the Cockfield Village Group committee and ask questions about the share offer, pub purchase and future plans.

If you have any questions or comments at this stage, then please do not hesitate to email us.

Your continued support is much appreciated.

Cockfield Village Group