



Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP

Member of Parliament for Preseli Pembrokeshire
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
United Kingdom

26th April 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing in support of the application being made to the Community Ownership Fund by the Y Cross Caslai Community Benefit Society Ltd based in the village of Haycastle Cross in my constituency.

They are a local group who have formed to purchase the local public house which will be closing as the current owners are retiring, and they wish to ensure that this vital community amenity remains open. They are keen that Y Cross is not only a viable business, but is also able to play an important role in the lives of local residents.

Y Cross Caslai Community Benefit Society Ltd have already sold £142,000 worth of shares, held a successful auction to help raise funds, and have received a grant from the Co-op towards the purchase. The local public house, as a place where local residents can meet and socialise, is invaluable in rural communities where there is a heightened risk of being socially isolated due to very nature of our rural landscape. Social isolation is sadly common and can often lead to poor health, loss of independence and a lower quality of life particularly for those where transport links are limited and access to other facilities is poor.

This bid from Y Cross Caslai Community Benefit Society Ltd to the Community Ownership Fund would enable it to purchase Y Cross and expand the range of opportunities it can provide to local groups and individuals. They are also looking to work with the DPJ Foundation, a non-profit organisation that supports mental health in rural areas, especially among agricultural communities.

The aims of the Benefit Society align with those of the Community Ownership Fund, in particular “safeguarding the small, but much-loved local assets on which we cannot put a price,” such as this village pub.

There is a long-term trend of villages losing amenities that foster a sense of community and Y Cross Caslai Community Benefit Society Ltd have worked to bring people from across the local area together to work to purchase Y Cross, which is the heart of Haycastle Cross.

Constituency Office:

20 Upper Market Street, Haverfordwest, SA61 1QA, T: 01437 767555, E: stephen.crabb.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.stephencrabb.com



Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP

Member of Parliament for Preseli Pembrokeshire
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

The rural community of Hayscastle Cross and surrounding area has few services for local people, and I support the bid from Y Cross Caslai Community Benefit Society Ltd which will not only retain an important village asset but also promote community cohesion which focusses on sustaining a sense of place and societal well-being.

I hope their bid can be given due consideration.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Crabb." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP

Constituency Office:

20 Upper Market Street, Haverfordwest, SA61 1QA, T: 01437 767555, E: stephen.crabb.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.stephencrabb.com