



**Protect Pubs Campaign And The British Pub Confederation Welcome Change In Planning Law, Offering Pubs Greater Protection From Predatory Developers and Supermarkets**

**The Protect Pubs Campaign, together with the British Pub Confederation, following their work together to call on the Government to change planning law, have today welcomed the news that from 23rd May 2017, it will no longer be possible to demolish or change the use of a pub without planning consent.**

The Protect Pubs Campaign and the British Pub Confederation have campaigned vigorously for this change in the law for a considerable time as, until now, pubs did not have a fair and level playing field within the planning system. Until this change to the law, it has been possible to convert a pub into a supermarket or shop without permission, and even in some cases to demolish it altogether. The new legislation will give communities the chance to have a say in the future of treasured local pubs.

The campaign in Parliament for this important change has been led by Greg Mulholland, who is Chair of the British Pub Confederation, together with Charlotte Leslie and Lord Roy Kennedy who worked co-operatively across party divides to make these changes happen.

Protect Pubs and the British Pub Confederation express gratitude to Gavin Barwell, Planning Minister, who, unlike his predecessors, listened to the powerful arguments of people who love pubs and campaigners who have first-hand experience of battling to save them. Having listened, Mr Barwell recognised the fairness and reasonable nature of this change and agreed to back the change . This important change will help to save pubs from predatory purchasing over the coming years.

**Commenting, British Pub Confederation Chair and author of the original amendment in the Neighbourhood Planning Bill Greg Mulholland MP said:**

“I am delighted that finally, after years of campaigning, we will at last see this long overdue and vital change that will end the nonsense of viable pubs being converted to supermarkets without communities having any say. Many communities have lost pubs through the cynical predatory purchasing of pubs by supermarkets who have colluded with the large indebted pubcos to target pubs precisely because of the loophole that thankfully is at last being closed. This is a victory for pubs but also for localism.

“This change has been long fought for and it’s been a pleasure to work with Charlotte Leslie and Lord Roy Kennedy and I also want to thank Ministers, especially Gavin Barwell, for listening and acting.

“This is another big campaign success for the British Pub Confederation and the Protect Pubs campaign and I look forward to us carrying on being the real voice of pubs and publicans in Britain protecting and promoting the Great British Pub”.

**Commenting, James Watson, Coordinator of the Protect Pubs campaign and a British Pub Confederation Steering Group member said:**

“This is such brilliant news and we encourage you all to get together with your neighbours down the local tonight, safe in the knowledge that its future as a pub is more secure now than it was before. Protect Pubs wants to thank and pay tribute to Greg Mulholland, Charlotte Leslie and Lord Roy Kennedy who have been the driving force in getting these changes through in Parliament. We also thank Minister Gavin Barwell for listening and acting and showing he backs pubs and communities”.

“Protect Pubs acknowledges that pubs cannot be kept open artificially by governments or by legislation and that they need to be relevant to their communities in order to thrive, yet without this change viable and profitable pubs would carry on being converted and demolished without communities having any say. At Protect Pubs we continually help and encourage communities to engage with publicans and to support and patronise their local pubs and make the facility their own”.