

Community Presentation and Vote Results November 21st, 2023

On November 21st, 2023, Tanya Bowen, Programme lead for grant and loan, presented The Crown Inn vision, business plan including opportunities, risks, budgets, and contingencies. The presentation also covered the necessity to increase the precept for the purpose of building an emergency fund, necessary for grant risk mitigation and evidence of financial sustainability. Please refer to the presentation deck.

Throughout the presentation, there were pauses such that questions could be asked. Topics were discussed around the budget figures, precept, building and garden plans, costs, survey, marketing, tenant selection, likelihood of loan and grant acceptance, and timelines.

The attendance was high with 200 votes including proxies. Several votes were given to the Parish Councillors the day after the presentation, as some people could not attend due to last minute work commitments. These counts are included in the data below, and verified against the list of households that had already voted, to ensure no duplication of count.

Note that on the night, there were 135 votes from Newcastle parishioners, and 67 households; this increased with Wednesday submissions which the Parish Council accepted; total numbers provided below..

From the Newcastle Parish there were 139 individual votes:

- All of these supported the purchase of the pub.
- 137 votes supported the purchase of the pub and the precept increase for the emergency fund of £80.84 until 2026/27.
- **98.5% of Newcastle Parishioners who voted, agreed to the precept**
- 2 voted for the purchase and against the precept

In terms of Electorate, the latest roll indicates 261 electorate. Based on this:

- 139 turned out; this represents 53% of electorate
- **137 voted for the purchase and precept increase; 52.5% of electorate, and 98.5% of the voters**

In terms of households:

- A Count of 71 households was taken. ***All house numbers/names were listed to ensure no duplicates were counted. This was checked three times.***
- 70 Newcastle Parish households were in favour of the precept
- **99% of the households who voted, did so in favour of the precept increase.**
- 1 household was not in favour.

- This represents <1%.

The Parish Council has the latest 2021 Census data which details 131 households in the Newcastle Parish.

- **A turnout of 71 households represents a turnout of 54% of the households in the community; with 99% of the households who voted, agreeing to the purchase and precept**

Additionally, there were 61 votes from the wider community, representing in the main, local parishes without a pub, and all of these were in favour of the purchase of the pub. Note that these votes did not count toward the precept question.

It was mentioned at the meeting that the community had been involved significantly, over a 4 month period, with several consultations, and in all of these, there was a majority support for the purchase of The Crown Inn by the Parish Council.

Peter Yeoward, Parish Council Chair announced the results on the night.

At the meeting, given the voting results, Peter Yeoward announced the Parish Council's intention to proceed with the purchase of the pub, and the applications of the loan and grant. This would however have to be ratified by the Full Council following the loan application procedure.

The announcement was met with applause.

Note: On Wednesday, November 22nd, at the Report to Council, the Parish Clerk, and Responsible Finance Officer, stated that a Public Consultation with a response of more than 27% is considered very good.