

The Volunteer Inn

The Volunteer is a village country pub which offers a variety of food and drink at reasonable prices. With the pub employing 2 full-time staff and 8 part-time, the Volunteer also offers one of the few current opportunities for local employment.

Bed and Breakfast rooms are available (3 rooms), as is the recently refurbished non-smoking dining room (seats 26), which is frequently used for wedding parties and other small social functions.

Conscious of trying to develop a community service to its local residents, the landlord offers “cash back” services, sells stamps and honey, maintains a community notice board and promotes and supports local events in the Village. The landlord holds the licence for and manages the bar functions in the Millennium Hall.

Feedback from the consultation indicated that the vast majority of residents found The Volunteer to be a village asset, with half of respondents using it at least once or twice a month. Suggestions for change include the addition of a Post Office and shop, themed food evenings, a more varied menu, a skittle alley, a family games room and a chess club.

The Landlord has been kept fully informed of the Village Plan consultative process and interim findings. As a result, he is looking to increase use of the smaller of the two bar areas by hosting specific interest groups, which could not currently be accommodated in the Millennium Hall, such as music and foreign language sessions. Clearly, the community must recognise that such uses for village activities must have a commercial base.



Short term

Future Plans by the landlord to strengthen ties with the local community include the following:

The continuation of events such as Quiz Evenings and Wine Tasting.

Exploring the possibility of holding a coffee morning once a week.

Exploring the possibility of themed evenings,

Continue to review the food menu in general.

Building on the success of the SMEZ evenings.

In summary, most of the points and suggestions raised by the questionnaire will be met by the landlord's own plans for improvement. Some aspects however, such as increased Post Office facilities, increased parking and the addition of a skittle alley are obviously much harder to achieve and dependent on many other factors.

Longer term

The Parish Council recognises the contribution to the community made by the Volunteer Inn which forms a vital part of the social fabric of the two villages and several neighbouring hamlets. Further, it recognises the potential impact on the villages were the premises of the Volunteer to be converted to any other use than a village inn. Accordingly, the Parish Council will oppose any proposal for change of use of the premises which would remove or threaten its current role in the community.

Proposals		
No	Proposal	Proposed Actionee
L 1	Landlord to continue to work closely with the community for the benefit of everyone	Volunteer Inn, SPFA & PCSG
L 2	The Landlord works with the SPFA to provide Post Office facilities – see Proposal I 1	Volunteer Inn & SPFA
L 3	The Parish Council to oppose any proposal for change of use of the Volunteer premises which threatens its role in the community	Parish Council