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CCTV appeal



Police want to speak to this man about the theft. Pictures: HERTS POLICE

Police have released CCTV images after a Poppy Appeal charity box was stolen from a Tesco store in Royston at the weekend.

At 4.07pm on Saturday a man entered Tesco Express in Market Hill and asked a staff member for cigarettes.

When the worker turned around, the offender concealed the charity box in his coat and left the store.

Officers would like to speak to the man pictured above as he may have

information about the theft that could prove useful to the investigation.

Anyone who recognises him or has any other information that could assist the investigation is asked to contact PCSO Ashley Armstrong by emailing ashley.armstrong@herts.pnn.police.uk.

You can also call Herts police on the non-emergency number 101, quoting crime reference 41/54895/18 or report information online at www.herts.police.uk/Report.

Both sides reflect on hearing after inquiry to determine the future of pub concludes

The public inquiry into whether Reed's only pub should be turned permanently into a house concluded on Wednesday last week, and now pub supporters and the current owner have reflected on the three-day hearing.

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Thursday last week at the North Herts District Council offices in Letchworth, and was attended by Save the Cabinet Action Group and The Cabinet's owner, property developer Richard Newman, among others.

Speaking after the inquiry, group chair Mike Howes said: "We think our lawyers, experts and witnesses all did a good job and made a strong case – but we're not going to tempt fate by predicting the result."

"If the appeal is dismissed, as we hope it will be, we'll be looking to North Herts District Council to take immediate and effective enforcement action – as local authorities around the country have done in similar cases – to protect the property

from further damage and enable it to be restored as a pub for the benefit of the community."

When asked about how he thought the inquiry went, current owner Mr Newman told the Crow: "I haven't got a clue how it went."

"I attended for the three days and you listen to the solicitor and the planners and the policy makers – it's all about policy now, it's about the government and the legislation they set out."

"I thought everything was above board because I got recommendations from planning at NHDC, but it's for the planning inspector to make the decision on now."

"I've made it my home and I hope to carry on there. If the appeal is dismissed do I stay or open it as a pub? I don't know."

The target date for the decision to be made by the inspector is December 21.

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