

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE SAVE THE CABINET ACTION GROUP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 15 MAY 2018

Golfers chip in to help Cabinet appeal

Teams of golfers clubbed together on Friday at Barkway to help raise money for the group fighting to save The Cabinet pub in Reed being turned permanently into a house.

Fifteen teams of four players enjoyed a round of golf at the 18-hole Barkway Park course and then took part in an auction to raise money for the cause. And no less than 33 businesses took out sponsorship of individual holes.

The competition was won by the team from Clear Asset Finance – but the big winner from the day was the Save the Cabinet Fighting Fund which raised over £3,400 from the event.

The fund has been set up to enable the Save the Cabinet Action Group to be represented at the forthcoming planning appeal by the developer who owns The Cabinet. At the end of last month it was announced that this would take the form of a public inquiry. The dates have been confirmed for 6-8 November.

Mike Howes, Chair of the Save the Cabinet Action group, said

“The fact that the planning appeal will take the form of a Public Inquiry shows how significant the case is thought to be. We’re pleased that the evidence will be properly tested. But we need to raise several thousand pounds quickly to pay for representation by lawyers, so we could put forward the best possible case for retaining our lovely old pub.

“We’re delighted with how Friday’s golf event went, and hugely grateful to all the sponsors, to everyone who took part, and to Barkway Park for hosting the event.”

More information – including about how to donate to the Save the Cabinet Fighting Fund – can be found on the Action Group’s website: www.savethecabinet.uk.

PHOTOGRAPHS

A selection of photos is available here

<https://1drv.ms/f/s!AmcuvZsf9zNsgqEDAT2ObywJrUBBpA>

They include the winning team from Clear Asset Finance - Sean Amato, Mason Lunn, Simon Drew, Steve Green, holding the Howard Marshall Trophy. Howard Marshall was a former President of Reed Cricket Club, and former district councillor, who passed away last September. The Action Group were very grateful to the Marshall family for allowing us to use the trophy.

The photos also include Julian Clark conducting the fundraising auction.

More photos are available – please contact us if you require a wider selection.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Save the Cabinet Action Group was established in October 2016 to resist the application to turn The Cabinet at Reed into a house.

The Cabinet is a 400-year old building, considered a village icon – it even appears on the village sign. It is believed to be the only pub in Britain bearing the name.

The Cabinet was a thriving, popular pub, widely known as “a little gem”.

It closed in 2011 and was put up for sale. The Action Group provided evidence of several offers by financially credible parties to buy or rent the building and run it as a pub, which were refused by the then owners. It was eventually sold at auction in late 2015 to the present owner for £375,000. Documents before the Planning Control Committee suggested that the building was, as a pub, valued at no more than £250,000.

The kitchen was removed during 2015, and further works were commenced in mid-2016, without the requisite planning or listed building consents, and have been ongoing since. Despite complaints by neighbours and by Reed Parish Council, the planning authority, North Hertfordshire District Council, took no enforcement action.

Retrospective applications for planning and listed building consent were submitted in September 2016. Planning permission for change of use was refused by the members of the Planning Control Committee of NHDC in July 2017. The linked listed buildings applications have not yet been determined.

The developer has lodged an appeal against refusal of permission for change of use. The appeal will be heard by a planning inspector independent of North Herts District Council.

The Planning Inspectorate, which determines such appeals independently of planning authorities, has decided to decide this appeal by way of a public inquiry. This is a formal procedure with similarities to a court process. The Save the Cabinet Action Group has been granted “Rule 6 status”, which allows it to be represented at the appeal and have equivalent status to the principal parties – the appellant and the District Council.

According to the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), 21 pubs are closing every week – see <http://www.camra.org.uk/kc2-pub-protection> .

More information is available on the Action Group’s web site www.savethecabinet.uk.

The Action Group is also on Facebook, “Save the Cabinet at Reed”, and Twitter @SaveTheCabinet.