

From:
Sent: 18 May 2013 16:56
To: Pubs Consultation Responses
Subject: experience as a consumer of Pubco practices

Dear Sir/Madam

I thought it important that I write an individual account of my experiences as a consumer of the effects of a Pubco (in this case Punch Taverns) on a local Pub (The Greyhound Inn, Penkhull).

The Greyhound Inn, Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent is a popular local pub owned by Punch Taverns. The building dates back to the 16th Century and was once used as the Manorial Court. It still has many original historical features, including wood panelling in the judges robe room and historical fireplace. The Greyhound is a popular local with a wide spectrum of clientele, rarely empty and often full, it is central to many local events such as music festivals, Mystery plays, carol singing and is often the preferred venue for committee meetings. It should, by all that is right and good, be making money hand over fist and yet every 12 months or so, regular as clockwork, tenants fall by the wayside. I asked the latest tenant (who is soon to leave) what the problem was and they confided in me that they could not afford the business rates and that their whole lifesavings had gone, swallowed up by the pub, a Pub I must emphasize again that is busy most nights of the week and certainly busy at weekends.

I can appreciate that some people are not cut out to run a pub and that it is not an easy way to make a living these days and yet something here does not stack up. How can it be that seemingly thriving pub, run by keen entrepreneurial people, can have 5 tenants in as many years who all seem to fail to make even a basic living while customers are queuing up at the bar?

To me it is clearly time that the government looked hard at the practices of the Pubcos before they decimate our pub heritage in what are difficult enough times as it is.

Best regards

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