

From: -
Sent: 11 June 2013 21:43
To: Pubs Consultation Responses
Subject: A Fair Deal For My Locals

- I am a local pubgoer.
- I was the editor of the local CAMRA magazine in my area for 52 editions and have watched pubs in my area struggling or closing because of exploitation of pubco licensees. So often I have met new licensees taking on a pub, so bright-eyed, bushy-tailed and full of hope, then met them again a few months later, utterly ground down by the terms of their agreement.
- I am not asking the Government to abolish the tie for pub licensees, just asking for it to work fairly. Pubcos have had almost 10 years to get their house in order but it seems that self regulation has failed so I believe it is time for a statutory (legally binding) Code of Practice for pubcos
- Something which appears to apply particularly to the pub companies is that they take more than is fair or sustainable from pub profits so our licensees are struggling to make a fair living. To stop the large pubcos charging excessive rents and high beer prices, I would urge that all pubco licensees should be offered a choice between a tied option and a Market Rent Only option. For those who choose to remain tied, a Guest Beer Option should be offered. Such fair deal could, I am informed, result in the average tied pub being £4000 better off annually.
- Such a system will need teeth to ensure pubcos stick to these new rules – so the Code should be underpinned with a powerful new independent adjudicator that should have the power to arbitrate disputes, investigate breaches and impose financial penalties on pubcos that attempt to ride roughshod over the rules.
- Family Brewers, both traditional and, I am pleased to note, recently emerged, such as Old Mill Brewery at Snaith and Ossett Brewery near Wakefield in West Yorkshire, by and large operate a different model of the tie – so companies with under 500 pubs should be exempt but must nevertheless abide by a separate voluntary code.
- At the heart of the code should be fairness and ensuring tied licensees are no worse off than free-of-tie licensees.

In case they are required my personal details are these:

name:

address: 1

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04/12/2013