

From:
Sent: 14 May 2013 17:48
To: Pubs Consultation Responses
Subject: Fair Deal For Our Local

468.

Hi

I am a CAMRA and SPBW member and visit many real ale pubs, hotels etc

I visit several Enterprise Inns pubs and have just heard that one of my local is to shut at the end of the month. It is not just a pub, but it is a meeting place at the heart of the community and will be missed by many, including W.I. who congregate on a monthly basis, tea is provided for the cricket club after their home games and it serves as a club house for a local reformed rugby team. I will miss the live music, the themed nights, the beer festival it holds with a neighboring pub raising money for local charities. Most of all I will miss the family that currently runs it. I have noticed that real ale pubs seem to be popping up here and there, while other pubs have been closing their doors, but this local is a real ale pub, who offer ales from local micro breweries. Its closing will be affected by many.

I have been following the stories about the Pub Cos with great interest and felt it is time to act.

Enterprise Inns self regulation is failing so many of its pubs that I feel it is time for the government to step in and set statutory (legally binding) Code of Practice for Pub Cos.

Large pub companies take more than is seen fair or even sustainable from pub profits, its as if they are being penalised for doing a good job, in any other industry they would be awarded with a bonus. These penalties are making pubs struggle to make a fair living.

It is from my own observations that I have noticed that pubs that are putting in the extra effort and doing well are being charged excessive rents and higher beer prices than pubs under the same Pub Cos in neighboring areas who are not doing quite as well.

All Pub Co licensees should be offered a choice between a tied and a market rent only option. Those choosing to remain tied should be able to offer guest beers and wines, giving both licensees and customers more choice. I have often asked if certain new beers will be available in the future to be told, sorry it is not on our list and therefore not able to be supplied, this does not give fair competition and affects profits.

There should be a system in place to enforce these new rules with a powerful new independent adjudicator that should have the power to arbitrate disputes, investigate breaches and impose financial penalties on Pub Cos or pubs that break the rules.

The code should not apply to Britain's family brewers who operate a different model of the tie, s companies with under 500 pubs should be exempt but mus abide by a separate voluntary code.

fairness and ensuring tied licensees are no worse off than free of tie licensees should be at the heart of the code.

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