

Sir Walter Raleigh

It is heartening to see the pub operating again and we all hope that the pandemic does not intervene once more.

Thank you for returning the community pub questionnaire. There were 214 responses, which at 43% is higher than average and certainly enough to ensure that the results are statistically valid.

Summary of responses

Need a pub in the village	100%
Would use a community pub	97%
Co-operative pub a good idea	94%
Interested in becoming shareholder	68%
Interested in volunteering	28%

It is clear, therefore, that there is very positive support for the concept of a co-operatively managed community pub. There is clear support for a traditional village pub environment supplemented by some community focussed facilities to enable everyone to pop in for a friendly chat and refreshments. There is also a clear wish for the various community groups in East Budleigh to work together harmoniously to achieve the optimum use of facilities and avoid duplication.

The valuation has now been undertaken by a firm that is very experienced in the field of community pub valuations. The report has been received and financial information is currently awaited. These components, together with the survey results, enable the initial feasibility appraisal to be carried out and allow negotiations to commence, if appropriate.

We are now approaching a key stage in the project and, if successful, community engagement would be stepped up with full explanation and presentation of the next phases, including business plan and share prospectus. A meeting would be held in the Village Hall for this purpose (Covid notwithstanding). Feedback from the community would be most welcome throughout. The community's requirements would be paramount, as the success of the venture would be dependent on community involvement now and in the future.

Derek Wensley – Chair Founders Group
enquiries@ebcommunitypub.co.uk