

Appendix 2 Mrs Wyatt Statement

2 January 2020: Received from Mrs Julie Wyatt, Landlady of the Red Lion, Ermin Street, Baydon, SN8 2JP

Read out by the Sarah Chidgey, Chairman of Baydon Parish Council at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 6 January 2020.

Notice of Closure

The Red Lion will be closing on 31st December 2019 and will cease trading as public house as of this date.

I have been landlady here for nearly seven years and throughout that time it has been a financial struggle to keep the Lion trading. The Lion is not financially viable in its current configuration and I have ceased trading to seek paid employment.

I have made my decision with regret and sadness. I would like to give special thanks to my small band of loyal customers who have kept me going as long as I have. I will miss you all.

Subject to planning permission it is possible that the Lion could re-open at some point in the future probably under new management.

One of the biggest ironies of my time in charge of the Red Lion was the counter-intuitive impact of designating the Red Lion as a community asset. Prior to this designation the number of people using the pub was higher as individuals bought into a “use it or lose it” view that the pub would only survive if sufficient people actively supported it.

Once designated a community asset the number of people using the Red Lion reduced, presumably because they assumed it was now safe and they didn’t need to actively support it.

The designation as a community asset doesn’t suspend the operation of normal economics. If an asset is to be retained in the long term it has to be used by a sufficient percentage of the local community.

Baydon likes the idea of having a local pub but too few of the community actually want to use it themselves for it to be economically viable.

Julie

Landlady.