

District Councillor Report January 2017



Early in January I had the opportunity to meet with the new owners of The Bell Hotel. They are extremely keen to begin work on the building as soon as possible with immediate importance focusing on the need to correct the structural issues, which are clearly effecting the property, before it truly starts falling apart. They also wish to re-roof the entire site to make it water tight so no further damage can be inflicted. Furthermore, they wish to clear the whole site of the mass of vegetation surrounding it as well as clear everything from the inside of the building to enable them to undertake a detailed structural survey. At the same time they will submit detailed drawings to SSDC.

Currently there is a café in the plans but they would like to request a change of use to a residential unit due to a café and pub now in business in the village which weren't in existence when the original designs were put forward. It is their intention to keep the property after the renovation so the houses and flats would be for rental and not sale. They are open to private rental but would like to discuss with SSDC the possibility of renting it to them for social housing. They stressed how they wished for the project to remain part of the community even to keeping the name, The Bell, for the new properties.

Of course, with this being a Grade II listed building it will not be an easy property to repair but it is hoped with their experience and enthusiasm and full support from SSDC our village can finally have The Bell Hotel restored once again.

If you would like any further information then the owner, Tarun Agrawal, is happy for you to contact him directly on tarun_agr@hotmail.com.

Tiffany Osborne

tiffany.osborne@southsomerset.gov.uk