

# Debenham Angel Community Limited

## Newsletter 4

### Autumn 2024



Hello all,

This is my first newsletter, having taken over the chair from Alan Cushion after DACL's first AGM. I'm excited to be taking the helm given how we've evolved over the past year or so into a formally constituted community benefit society, geared up for making an offer for the property.

Alan's shoes are big ones to fill, even though he'll still be heavily involved on the committee. He's been a tireless campaigner as one of the founders of the Save The Angel group, which worked successfully to preserve the pub in various shapes and sizes until 2019 when the owners pulled up the drawbridge. Since then, Alan has been at the forefront of campaigning to retain the vacant pub's use in the face of planning applications and appeals to have it redeveloped as a residence.

This neatly brings us to an update on the most recent planning application for a change of use to a house. Mid Suffolk planning authority have, in the past month, given their delayed decision – they have refused the application. By their reasoning, they don't believe that there is a material difference to the reasons for previous refusal and the owners have not put forward any compelling or substantive new evidence to the contrary.

In the meantime, because the decision was delayed, the owners were able to make an application for planning appeal because the statutory timescale for determining an application had passed. We submitted robust

arguments to the planning inspector last month and the period for comment and consultation is now closed. Given current timelines for planning appeals, we suspect that we may get a decision in January or February next year.

Whether the owners are successful or not at getting the planning decision overturned, the property is likely to go on the market again in the spring or summer, which will be with or without planning permission to turn it into a house. Either way, we are gearing up for this. We have our business plan and share prospectus ready to dust off for publishing and we know that we'll have to make an offer for the property backed up with relevant finances to purchase.

We'll be ready. 2025 looks like some hard work for the committee, but potentially the time in which we can secure the building for everyone in Debenham!

We have a number of events coming up. We've had tremendous support so far as DACL and we do need to raise funds to keep the formalities of the Community Benefit Society running. We have some day-to-day running costs like insurance and membership of the advice and support networks. It's not a fortune but we should easily be able to raise this with three or four events a year - plus, the events give everyone a chance to keep the Angel community together!

Yours 'Angelically', Simon Kelly.

## DECEMBER 12

**Join us for pre-Christmas drinks.** We have a committee meeting scheduled for the evening (it's a Thursday) but we will be hurrying through proceedings to finish by **7.45 pm** so that as many of you can join us for a glass of whatever-you-fancy. We'll be in the **upstairs room at the Lion**, with plenty of room for all.

We'll have use of the bar in the upstairs function room which will be a pay bar on the night. The management of The Lion are showing their support by allowing DACL the use of The Long Room at a much reduced rate. We are very grateful for their generosity. We invite you to join us to catch up with some friends and find out more about how you can support us at this crucial stage of achieving our aim, buying The Angel. Bring your friends and other halves – as long as they are 'Angel supporters'!



## DECEMBER 7



We have a stall at the St Mary's Christmas Fair, Saturday 7th from **1pm—4pm**. Since our raffle for a hamper was so successful at the Debenham Day in the summer, our elves are busy putting together a mega Christmas hamper. Come along and say hello and buy your raffle tickets - you've got to be in it to win it!

**We're yet to set the date but once all our new year fitness resolutions have gone out of the window we're planning to create a pop up pub. Pub games or a pub quiz are the first ideas for a fun night out 'down the Angel'. But we'd welcome any other suggestions of what you think would go down well (and would sell tickets!).**

**FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR  
POP-UP 'ANGEL' PUB NIGHT**

