

Report to: Council



Date of Meeting 6 December 2023

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Petition – The George Inn, Chardstock

Report summary:

1. To inform Council that a petition has been received in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme. The petition was submitted to the Council on 6 November 2023 from Cllr Mackinder. The petition is from The George Inn Continuity Group and the petition states:

Due to a lack of investment over many years we believe the condition of this 16th century grade 2 star listed building, located in a conservation area, has entered a downward spiral towards dereliction.

Section 48 of the Listed Buildings Act 1990 enables local authorities to serve a Repairs Notice(s) on the owner(s) of a listed building specifying those works it considers reasonably necessary for the proper preservations of the building.

We the undersigned petition East Devon District Council to gain access to The George Inn and to carry out a full independent inspection of the property in order to facilitate the following:

- *Assess and report the extent of deterioration and damage*
- *Assess and report the scope of works needed to remedy the deterioration and damage*
- *Issue statutory notices, as required, to the property owners and oversee the satisfactory completion of the required repairs needed to safeguard this historic community asset*

2. The petition has 1,048 verified signatures

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That Council note the petition submitted and request that it is sent to xx to respond.

Reason for recommendation:

To respond to the petition in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme. As the petition contains 1,048 signatures it is a requirement that the petition is submitted to the relevant decision maker to respond to the petition.

Officer: Andrew Melhuish, Democratic Services Manager (andrew.melhuish@eastdevon.gov.uk)

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Communications and Democracy
- Economy
- Finance and Assets
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

Petition submitted in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk; Click here to enter text on risk considerations relating to your report.

Links to background information Click here to enter links to background information; appendices online; and previous reports. These must link to an electronic document. Do not include any confidential or exempt information.

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
- A greener East Devon
- A resilient economy

Report in full

1. To inform Council that a petition has been received in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme. The petition was submitted to the Council on 6 November 2023 from Cllr Mackinder. The petition is from The George Inn Continuity Group and the petition states:
Due to a lack of investment over many years we believe the condition of this 16th century grade 2 star listed building, located in a conservation area, has entered a downward spiral towards dereliction.
Section 48 of the Listed Buildings Act 1990 enables local authorities to serve a Repairs Notice(s) on the owner(s) of a listed building specifying those works it considers reasonably necessary for the proper preservations of the building.
We the undersigned petition East Devon District Council to gain access to The George Inn and to carry out a full independent inspection of the property in order to facilitate the following:
 - *Assess and report the extent of deterioration and damage*
 - *Assess and report the scope of works needed to remedy the deterioration and damage*
 - *Issue statutory notices, as required, to the property owners and oversee the satisfactory completion of the required repairs needed to safeguard this historic community asset*
2. The petition has 1,048 verified signatures

Recommendation:

To note the petition submitted and request that it is sent to the Assistant Director – Planning Strategy to respond.

Reason for recommendation:

To respond to the petition in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme. As the petition contains 1,048 signatures it is a requirement that the petition is submitted to the relevant decision maker to respond to the petition.

Purpose of Report

To consider a petition from The George Inn Continuity Group.

Council Constitution Petition Scheme

In line with the Council's Constitution this is an Ordinary Petition and the process is set out below.

Council's petition scheme Part 5.5

Part 5.5 – 3. What are the different types of petition? An ordinary petition: Petitions containing at least 25 signatures. The petition organiser can present their petition to a meeting of the Council who will, without discussion, refer the petition to the relevant decision maker (this could be an officer of the Council or one of the Council's committees) OR the petition organiser (with two other people who signed the petition) can meet with the relevant decision maker direct to present their petition.

Part 5.5 – 4 Who can organise and sign a petition? Anyone who, lives works or studies in East Devon, including under 18's, can sign or organise a petition.

Part 5 What must a petition include?

Petitions must include all of the following:

- at least 25 signatories
- a clear and concise statement covering the subject of the petition and which petition type it is. It should state what action the petitioners wish the Council to take
- where it is a physical petition the subject matter of the petition on each page
- Sufficient information to be able to identify that the organiser and/or any signatories live, work or study in East Devon
- Physical or verified virtual signature of any person supporting the petition and contact details, including a phone number and address for the petition organiser – this will be the person who we will contact to explain how we will respond to the petition

Part 8 What will the Council do when it receives my petition?

All petitions sent or presented to the Council will receive an acknowledgement within 10 working days of receipt. The acknowledgement will be sent to the petition organiser and will explain what we plan to do with the petition and when you can expect to hear from us again. Details of your petition will be provided to the Chair of the Council, the political party group leaders, the Monitoring Office and the Chief Executive so they are informed of the details of the petition.

If we can do what your petition asks for, the acknowledgement may confirm that we have taken the action requested and the petition will be closed. If the petition has enough signature to trigger a Council meeting debate, or a Senior Officer giving evidence, then the acknowledgement will confirm this and tell you when and where the meeting will take place. If the petition needs more investigation, we will tell you the steps we plan to take.

If you submit an 'ordinary' petition the Democratic Services Manager will contact the petition organiser and inform them which body/decision maker will respond to the petition and invite them to choose whether they wish to make a presentation at a Council meeting or for the petition to be referred direct to the body/decision maker concerned. However, if the subject of the petition is due to be considered by the decision maker before the next meeting of the Council it will be referred to the decision maker and you will not, therefore, have the opportunity to present your petition at a Council meeting. If you choose to submit your petition directly to the decision maker you will be informed who makes the decision and who will be contacting you to make arrangements for you to meet with the decision maker.

Financial implications:

None arising from the submission of the petition.

Legal implications:

Legal implications set out in the body of the report.