

# The Threat To Rural Pubs

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## Background

- Pubs in the UK and the tie
- A Partnership
- So What changed?
- The Beer Orders 1989 2003
  - Six big brewers Allied, Bass, Courage, Grend Met, S&N,
    Whitbread
  - Limit of 2,000 in a big pub estate and guest ale in smaller
- The Growth of retail estates



## Background

- The Pubs code 2016
- Regulated pub co's Greene King, Marstons, Star Pubs and Bars, Admiral Taverns, Punch Taverns, Enterprise Inns
- The Adjudicator
- Two Key Principles
- (1) that a "tied tenant would be no worse off than a free of tie tenant" and (2) that the code would be based on "fair and lawful dealing"



#### **Actions**

- 2008 crash meant they all had huge debts and couldn't behave better if they wanted to!
- The pub co's needed time, that was the key, so they could restructure.
- 4 years of inertia around the code, Gaming by the pub co's, a weak or conflicted regulator and a distracted government!
- Many pubs closed, MRO a complete failure, new models,
  Falcon, growth of managed estates, change of use.



### The pub owners

- Punch, sold to Heineken, who overpaid for S&N
- Enterprise, rebranded as Ei Group, sold to Stonegate Pub co, carrying roughly 2 billion in debt
- Greene King, sold to Li Ka-Shing, CKA group, carrying roughly
  1.9 billion in debt
- Debt is a common feature
- Their main asset is the property, the pubs



#### **Pubs under threat**

- We have increasingly seen good pubs going to the Wall
- The pub model is OK, the big pub co model is flawed
- 72 pint as an issue
- A typical rural or semi rural pub is not worth much as a pub, but as a ......!!
- The impact on the community
- The knock on effect to other businesses



#### What Can we do

- Recognise the value of our pub heritage
- Link to CAMRA
- Information To Tenants
- Information to Communities
- Changes to planning laws
- Statutory Review of the code and adjudicator
- Hold government to account



#### Attachment 3 A

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## Making Business Better

Improving business productivity, profitability & performance



