

## **Cross Party Group on Beer & Pubs - Welsh Assembly**

**6pm Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018**

### **Minutes**

Attendees: Simon Thomas AM (Chair), Stuart Donaldson (Secretary), David Rowland AM, Gareth Bennett AM, Chris Charters (CAMRA), James Calder (SIBA), Ioan Bellin (Office of Simon Thomas AM)

Apologies: None received

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

- The chair welcomed everyone and noted that the late vote may disrupt attendance.

#### 2. MUP

- The Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing was not able to attend.
- There was a general discussion around MUP including the current situation in Scotland and different views within the brewing industry.

#### 3. Planning Policy

- There was discussion around the introduction of Assets of Community Value (ACV) in England and the impact it has had on saving pubs, recognising there are no community asset regulations in Wales.
- There was a discussion around Use Classes and the promised consultation has not yet been published. It was agreed the CPG would write to the Cabinet Secretary in regard to the consultation.
- It was recognised that that influencing the National Development Framework would be difficult.
- Concerns were expressed about how some local planning officers deal with planning issues.
- Introduction of "Agent of Change" principle was welcomed.

#### 4. General discussion on challenges and opportunities for the industry

- There was a discussion on community pubs including proposals to meet and visit pubs where the local community has or is in the process of buying out their local pub or a local pub that is closing.
- There was a brief discussion and explanation of Small Brewers Relief.
- It was proposed the CPG facilitate networking between community pubs to share best practice. This could then be used to promote the value of community pubs more widely within the Assembly.
- It was proposed the CPG write to Lesley Griffiths to promote Welsh beer and cider makers.
- Business rates on pubs were raised as a factor affecting pubs and there was discussion around rate relief.
- The contribution of pubs to the tourism industry was discussed and it was suggested there may be scope for joint working with the CPG on Tourism.
- The price of Sky television paid by pubs was discussed.

#### 5. Upcoming events and meetings

- It was decided that the CPG should try and meet in community pubs.
- CPG Secretary to look at organising brewery tours and visits in Cardiff and across Wales.

#### 6. AOCB

- Issues affecting cider were raised.
- It was proposed that the CPG change its name to include cider at the next AGM.