

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

11<sup>th</sup> February 2019

*New Castletown,*

**RE: CAMRA's SAVE OUR PUBS CAMPAIGN.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of Camra's 'Save Our Pubs' campaign; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

I recognise the crucial role that pubs play in the social and economic life of our nation, as well as in helping to promote responsible drinking, which is why I am encouraged by the support which the Government has made available to pubs.

Through the 'Assets of Community Value' scheme, communities can list facilities of local importance, including pubs. This means that if a pub owner wishes to sell, the community has six months to come up with a plan and funding in order to try to save it. I am glad that there are now around 2,000 pubs across England listed as 'Assets of Community Value'.

I am pleased that the £3.6 million 'More than a Pub: The Community Business Support Programme', launched in 2016, is helping to support communities across England to own their local pub. On top of this, the Government continues to support the work of the 'Pub is The Hub' initiative to help landlords diversify and provide essential services, such as village shops and post offices, in order to improve the sustainability of their pub.

To further support pubs, the Chancellor announced in the Autumn Budget 2018, a freeze on beer, cider, and spirit duties: a decision which I welcome. The Spring Budget 2017 also provided a £1,000 discount on business rates bills in 2017 for pubs with a rateable value of less than £100,000 – 90 percent of pubs in England – and I was pleased to see this extended in the Autumn Budget 2017 for a further year, through to March 2019. In addition, a one-third discount to business rates for pubs and bars with a rateable value below £51,000 was introduced in 2018.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**