

PUB CAMPAIGNERS CALL FOR BIG TURNOUT AT KEY COUNCIL MEETING

Decision day drawing near on The Cabinet at Reed

Campaigners hoping to save the 400-year-old, Grade II listed Cabinet pub in Reed from being turned permanently into a house are asking supporters to demonstrate the strength of feeling in the community by attending a key meeting of North Herts District Council on Thursday 20 July.

The Planning Control Committee will meet at 7.30 in the Icknield Centre, Letchworth, and the meeting is open to the public.

The present owner of The Cabinet, a property developer, has turned it into a house without planning permission for change of use or listed building consent. He has applied for both retrospectively, and the Committee, composed of elected councillors, will determine the applications at the meeting.

Mike Howes, Chair of the Save the Cabinet Action Group, said "The planning system was created so that building and development is managed in an orderly way, and so that this country's heritage is properly safeguarded. Communities are entitled to look to the planning authority to protect them against unauthorised development by unscrupulous speculators out to make a fortune.

"On 20 July, we will be looking to our elected councillors for that protection."

Mike added, "The evidence we have submitted shows clearly that The Cabinet was a popular and viable pub in the past and could be again. Reed needs its pub to be restored as the hub of this community. And if the developer is allowed to get away with ignoring the law in the way he has, think of the example it would set: it would be open season for developers wanting to line their pockets by closing country pubs, building houses and damaging heritage buildings, knowing that the system is too weak to provide proper democratic control."

The Save the Cabinet Action Group has generated a great deal of local support, with no less than 93 public objections now showing on NHDC's planning web site. The Action Group has submitted comprehensive, professionally-drafted objections and viability studies to NHDC.

Contact (not for publication please):

More information is available on our Facebook page: **Save The Cabinet at Reed**