



RNIB volunteer, Maureen Mitchell presents her course on birdwatching in the bar

Examples of services and activities

The community-run Stoke Canon Inn at Stoke Canon in Devon now boasts pop-up cinema facilities to show films, host community meetings and present educational talks all adding to their rich calendar of community events.



Judi Newman serves a local customer

At the Oyster Inn at Butley in Suffolk, owners Judi and Andrew Newman reopened a 400-year old pub after a 5 year closure. They added a micro-brewery, community cinema and a village shop in the rear barn, restoring and adding much needed services for the area.



A local resident gets online at The Hub.

The Swan Inn at Carleton-in-Craven in North Yorkshire has created a community café called 'The Hub'. It is accessible through a separate entrance and offers hot drinks, snacks, IT equipment, a printer, tourist information and local magazines.

Find out more

Pub is The Hub has developed many schemes over the years and you can read about some of them on our website: www.pubisthehub.org.uk.

They have all contributed to building a body of best practice and are a network of contacts to help rural pub businesses and their communities improve their services and activities.



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“Malcolm from Pub is The Hub has been invaluable in helping and advising us about the café and shop and in providing the grant to make the necessary changes, for which we are enormously grateful.”

Kathryn Sharpe,
community volunteer
at The Dog Inn at
Belthorn in Lancashire.



pub is the hub

Pubs offering new services and activities





“Rural communities, and this country’s rural way of life, face unprecedented challenges.

The country pub, which has been at the heart of village life for centuries, is disappearing in many areas.

Providing services from the pub, such as a post office or a shop, keeps an essential service in the village.”

HRH The Prince Of Wales

How does Pub is The Hub help pubs and communities?

Pub is The Hub gives guidance on the potential of a project and advises on the availability of project funding. Having a thorough understanding of the pub business, our advisors are able to advise on the best way to progress with each individual project.

Pub is The Hub projects range from adding local services such as shops, Post Offices, community cafés and micro libraries through to activities such a digital training, dementia lunches, job searches and community support to combat loneliness and isolation.

Many projects go on to include more than one additional service.

Pub is The Hub Advisors

Pub is The Hub comprises experienced volunteers across a wide range of industry fields to offer assistance for projects. An initial call or email into our office will direct you to the right advisor.

- Volunteers are from the pub, property and drinks industry, together with licensees, third sector representatives, local and national authorities and trade associations.
- Volunteers work hard to help keep rural services and pubs at the heart of their communities. They help create local employment and local sourcing opportunities because they care about rural pubs and community services.



Why Pub is The Hub is Unique?

- Pub is The Hub is the only national advisory body working directly with licensees and linking up with both private and public sector partners to support rural regeneration objectives.
- At a local level, Pub is The Hub acts quickly and looks for innovative ways to ensure rural pubs remain relevant to the needs of their local communities.
- Pub is The Hub acts as a catalyst to encourage rural licensees and communities to work together in support of their local needs, retaining or returning essential services.
- Pub is The Hub also assists communities who are thinking of, or have bought their own pub to ensure it is retained as a services centre for the local area.

Pub is The Hub in Partnership

- Pub is The Hub has formed a number of successful partnerships, working with local authorities, professional bodies such as the BII and rural stakeholders.
- Pub is The Hub works closely with the Government departments, the Big Lottery, the Post Office and other private sector partners to gather reliable research and intelligence on rural pub services.
- Pub is The Hub works at a national level with pub operators and owners; consulting and advising on the needs and opportunities for rural pubs and local services within their communities.



“Our micro library scheme in pubs is an opportunity for people in rural areas to have access to a managed library stock and internet services seven days a week in a warm and welcoming environment.”

Pat Terry, Cornwall Council’s Library Services



A warm welcome.

What is Pub is The Hub?

The pub should be the centre or hub of community life and can also provide essential services beyond the usual drinks, food or entertainment.

We are a not for profit organisation of specialist advisors for communities and licensees who are thinking of offering new services and activities.

We encourage communities, licensees, pub owners, breweries and the private sector to work together to match community priority needs with additional services and activities that can be provided by the local pub and a good licensee.

How Pub is The Hub works

Pub is The Hub provides voluntary advice and guidance with administration support from many major businesses and industry associations with other in-kind support from several organisations and individuals.

Whilst it is hard work serving pints of beer and milk as well as providing groceries, postal services and more, these valuable community services do help to increase trade and create part-time jobs. In turn this also supports local suppliers, builds important social links and maintains local community spirit.