



# Campaign for Pubs

Promote, Support and Protect Pubs

Tom Stainer and Nik Antona  
Chief Executive and Chair  
Campaign for Real Ale  
230 Hatfield Rd  
St Albans  
AL1 4LW

17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Tom and Nik,

We hope you are both well in these challenging times.

We are writing to you to let you know about the launch of the new Campaign for Pubs. An experienced group of publicans, pub campaigners, pub suppliers and pub enthusiasts have come together to form the Campaign for Pubs, a new grassroots campaign group to fight for a better, freer and fairer and more sustainable future for pubs. As you may have noticed, we launched the Campaign for Pubs last Friday (11th June) and were fortunate enough to get a fair bit of media coverage over the weekend. So I thought you might appreciate knowing a little bit about us, as we clearly share some very important common campaigning objectives.

The Campaign for Pubs has been formed alongside the British Pub Confederation, which as you know was established in 2015, to give those representing pubs and publicans a stronger and more united voice, following the success of the Fair Deal for Your Local campaign. The Confederation is a confederation of organisations, not a membership campaign group, so the decision was taken to form a new constituted membership body, partly due to the acute need for urgent action to support and advocate directly for pubs during the Covid-19 crisis. From mid-March, when pubs closed, the Confederation has had many enquiries from licensees and pub campaigners wishing to join, but as a Confederation that was not possible, so we have established the Campaign for Pubs as new dedicated membership group, allowing everyone who shares our vision to get involved in our campaigning and our work.

There is clearly some overlap between the two organisations and our objectives, and there are some key differences too. CAMRA is a consumer organisation (and over time has been a highly successful one). The Campaign for Pubs brings together and unites publicans/licensees (who have for a long time been under-represented), pub campaigners, independent brewers and suppliers and all who love pubs - and share our specific objectives as laid out in our mission statement.

We are a membership organisation, but unlike CAMRA we do not have a consumer remit or an emphasis on a particular product/drink style and have originated largely from within 'the trade'. As such our emphasis will largely be on campaigning for wider public awareness and policy reform aimed at achieving real change for pubs in line with the objectives laid out in our mission statement, for the benefit of publicans, their suppliers, their customers and indeed all who genuinely love pubs.

Our vision is for a fairer, freer, more sustainable and independent pub industry, in which pubs will be able to more directly reflect and serve the needs and character of their community. This will clearly involve challenging some of the ingrained problems which beset the pub sector, on which we do intend to be outspoken. For this reason we also will not accept sponsorship from any large pub-owning companies or national breweries, or indeed any other companies that stifle competition, restrict access

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for independent suppliers to pubs, or in any way conflict with our vision for a more sustainable future for pubs and publicans and independent producers and suppliers.

Our [mission statement](#) is on our website, so you can see it and understand exactly what we stand for. On our website you will also see the members of our [National Executive Committee](#), with a link to a profile for each individual. Several members of our National Executive Committee are CAMRA members and activists and we absolutely welcome people being members of both the Campaign for Pubs and CAMRA, if they so wish. We hugely value the wonderful contribution to supporting pubs made by CAMRA branches, and our members (whether they be CAMRA members or not) will work with them on the ground to protect and promote pubs.

We look forward to working with CAMRA nationally on the many common causes that we evidently both support. This will give a better chance of success, as shown in the past with the example of the Fair Deal for Your Local campaign. We would be very happy to co-host pub focused events in future, including in Parliament, if you would also be willing to do that, to demonstrate a joint commitment to key issues for pubs, publicans and pub customers. We will also work with other appropriate pub sector organisations (and wider organisations) as you do, when issues and objectives overlap.

Where we do agree on issues, we sincerely hope we can campaign together completely amicably, and help each other to achieve our shared aims. Where our views differ, due to our different remits, approaches or our overall visions, we are absolutely sure we can still remain entirely respectful and constructive.

We greatly look forward to a positive and cordial relationship going forward, to the ultimate benefit of our nation's pubs.

Best wishes to you and all CAMRA members and campaigners, we look forward to working with them and with you.

Yours sincerely,



Greg Mulholland  
Campaign Director, Campaign for Pubs



Paul Crossman  
Chair, Campaign for Pubs