



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE BEVENDEAN COMMUNITY PUB
ON TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER 2020
FROM 7pm
TAKING PLACE ONLINE ON ZOOM**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Attendees, Apologies
2. To agree last year's Minutes
3. Chair's Report
4. Finance Report and Accounts
5. Resolution Not to Require an Audit on the Current Year's Accounts
6. Management Committee Membership Update
7. Membership and Shareholding Update
8. Questions and Answers from the floor

Please note it is a legal requirement of our constitution that only Members can attend the AGM.

Members will receive an email with the Zoom link for the meeting to access online or on the phone. If you have not received this please email secretary@thebevy.co.uk

We value ALL our customers and would love everyone to be a shareholder to ensure you have a voice

Item 2. Last Year's Minutes

Please find a draft version of last year's minutes in the separate document also downloadable from www.thebevy.co.uk . At this AGM you'll be asked if these are an accurate record of what happened last year.

Item 3. Chair's Report- Warren Carter

Like the drunk bloke not allowed to sit at the bar shouting about the 10pm curfew – *we told you we were more than just a pub.*

But this is a pub lockdown story not just about the Bevy but about how organisations and individuals moved quickly across Moulsecoomb and Bevendean to deliver meals on wheels.

It started with a meeting in the middle of March at Moulsecoomb Leisure Centre. School heads from Moulsecoomb Primary, Brighton Aldridge Community Academy (BACA), food bank organisers, Trust for Developing Communities, community development workers, church leaders, community gardens and others agreed to work together pledging facilities and people.

Even before pubs were ordered to shut, we had closed the Bevy and started working on a plan on getting food to our most vulnerable regulars. On Lock Down Friday the first meals were delivered. A few weeks later a grant from the Aldridge Foundation meant the BACA kitchens could also start distributing meals across the estates, and not just to those with a connection to the school.

Thanks to funding from numerous trusts including the Sussex Crisis Fund, National Lottery and so many generous individuals, we have now distributed more than 5500 hot meals. New food hubs popped up while a new organisation with some familiar faces Brighton Food Factory helped collect and co-ordinate fresh farm food that would have once gone to restaurants while partners like Fareshare Brighton supplied the surplus food for the meals.

Bevy Meals on Wheels is still serving around 100 meals a week– a lot less than during the height of lockdown, now many people are wanting to venture out and shop for themselves again after months of isolation. However we continue to recruit new customers as the word gets round and people who have health challenges choose to have a meal delivered to make their lives a little bit easier! We are in a position to now ramp up production quickly if a new lockdown comes in.

We have been opening our doors to those who want to have a bit of company and social contact. On Wednesdays we have launched Chatterboxes, a safe, socially-distanced lunch at the Bevy for those keen to have some company and contact with others. Many have told us it's the highlight of the week and how much they look forward to coming in, seeing and speaking to other people and having a delicious meal.

But it was never just about food. Even before the pandemic there was a massive loneliness crisis in our society. Laurie from the committee who became one of the meals on wheels drivers spelt this out in one of our regular blog updates:

“When on a delivery one day I knocked on the door of a woman who was in a lot of pain with her legs, they were in a terrible state. I spoke with her about if she had seen her doctor and she said she couldn’t get there. With her permission, I rang her doctor’s surgery and discussed the situation with them. Since then they have been visiting her regularly to dress the wounds and when I saw her about 3 weeks later she looked like a different person and was clearly receiving the treatment she desperately needed. It does make you wonder though, how many other people behind closed doors are suffering in silence.”

For others, volunteering had some lovely unintended consequences

“Seeing a team rally like this to serve the community has been inspiring. When I volunteered I didn’t realise I was actually signing up for an apprenticeship with Chef Marco! I’ve learnt so much, not just about catering with surplus food, but also about his beloved Italian food... his famous arancini are now a firm family favourite. And who knew there we so many things to make with courgettes?!”

When the pubs were allowed to re-open it was a different landscape with ever changing rules. The fact that we cannot offer any of our bread and butter activities such as our family events, darts and bar billiards teams, parkrun and free bus to watch the Albion has meant we have had to adapt and limit hours to make sure we stay financially viable.

But ironically Covid gave us a chance to catch our breath. We were going to close for a refurb and relaunch we just hadn’t banked on doing it for 4 months!

So it has been great to welcome so many of you back to our newly refurbished pub. I know that we have had so many positive comments on the new look Bevy, the food and especially the Eat Out to Help Out scheme which we have continued after the end of government support cos we’re nice like that. I’ve got to say a massive thank you to our staff and volunteers for always going that extra mile and not killing each other during lockdown.

We have also launched new activities, including the world’s first online deaf-friendly pub quiz and a socially distanced family fun day!

We were nominated for the Great British Pub Awards again – but didn’t win, again.

Dave, Jonathan and Shirley worked their green fingers to the bone to make the garden bloom like never before. It was just a shame no one could and enjoy it during summer with a beer in hand; but fresh produce from the Bevy garden and Moulsecoomb Forest Garden were distributed to local people.

We became part of the Fabrica art trail – we hope you like our snazzy front door!

We are working with VYD, a Community Interest Company that aims to improve lives through football with a 10 week football training course. Some of our regulars including half the men’s darts team have signed up and we hope a Bevy veteran’s team will come out of this.

We’ve working on some exciting proposals with St. Johns a college for adults with learning disabilities to run the meals on wheels service in partnership with us.

We are planning with Rivers Birtwell more outside spacing for the winter months so people can enjoy the Bevy in their own private heated cabin.

It's been a strange, surreal time but also a time when people across the country have come together to make a difference. It's estimated at least a third of pubs stepped up and helped their communities when the corona chips were down. The Bevy is proud to be one of those and to show once again that we are more than just a pub.

ITEM 4 Finance Report and Accounts- Bob Thust (Treasurer)

Attached to this pack are the draft annual financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2020. These will be referred to throughout and will be formally approved by the Committee after the conclusion of this AGM.

Profit and loss

As you can see on Page 3 we made an overall profit of £15,864 compared with a loss in the previous year of £16,263. To understand this it's best to take a look at pages 11 and 12 where there is a little bit more detail. This table summarises things quickly (numbers in brackets are negative i.e. costs or losses):

	Year ended 30 April 2019	Year ended 30 April 2020	Difference
Sales	321,713	241,990	(79,723)
Cost of sales	(130,899)	(102,207)	28,692
Gross profit	190,814	139,783	(51,031)
Wages & Salaries	(128,447)	(126,011)	2,436
Other admin expenses	(81,513)	(75,675)	5,838
Total admin expenses	(209,960)	(201,686)	8,274
Profit from trading	(19,146)	(61,903)	(42,757)
Grant income	32,020	116,051	84,031
Grant spend	(29,137)	(38,284)	(9,147)
Net grants	2,883	77,767	74,884
Total profit	(16,263)	15,864	32,127

- This shows £61,903 loss on trading, compared with £19,146 the previous year.
- This has been a very challenging year for the pub on the trading side. Even before COVID-19 and lockdown sales were much lower than in previous years, and of course in March we had to close the pub completely.
- We managed to control costs to some extent but have really relied on grant funding to support our community activity to maintain the pub as a going concern.

So, why did we make a loss on trading?

As we've always said it's really hard to make a community pub on a housing estate work financially:

- We try to keep prices low
- We will never make a lot of money on food – but it is still important to provide decent, healthy food at a good price
- We are not a destination venue for e.g. room hire for events: and we don't want to charge local community groups for room hire as that's just passing the costs onto the community
- We have made important commitments to not overworking our staff, paying them the Brighton Living Wage and not putting people on things like zero-hour contracts unless that specifically suits them and they've asked for it
- We have invested in some more staff time on supporting us to manage the finances, policies and procedures: we have got to stay on top of this stuff or it will come back to bite us
- We have also invested some additional time for a community manager to start to build local and national partnerships, as well as increase our grant income and reconnect more closely to local people and what they want from the pub – this adds costs but as you can see has had significant benefits in bringing in additional grant income to support our community activity

The great news is that we have been really successful in bringing in grants to support our core community work. This, coupled with donations and support for our Bevy meals on wheels operations throughout the pandemic, and government furlough schemes has meant that as at end September 2020 the pub has actually never been in a more healthy financial position and has really delivered on its community engagement and support – the fundamental ethos of the pub in the first place. More on all that below...

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet tells us what the assets and liabilities of the pub are at any given time. The number at the bottom basically describes how much we would have or would owe if we were to close immediately.

If you look at Page 4 you can see that we would have £32,091 had we closed on 30 April 2019. However, that would rely on us being able to sell all of our stock and some of the fixed assets like the fixtures and fittings, etc which is not a given. The figure that really matters day to day is our net current assets or liabilities. That shows we would have £11,109 if we'd closed on 30 April 2019.

Right now, at the end of September 2019 that same figure is much higher around £50,000. However, we also have a long-term loan of £8k which we are due to repay and a deferred VAT bill of around £8k. So that would make it around £34k which we would have left over if we closed today. As the pub is community owned and not for profit if we were to close any assets remaining would be used for local community use. Much of these funds are also 'restricted' for specific community purposes e.g. to support Meals on Wheels, so can't easily be used to pay for things like e.g. rent, rates, utilities, etc.

What's happened since 31 April 2019 – and what's the plan for the future?

Since April the pub has been mostly shut and has only until recently been slowly re-opening. We have managed to bring in further grant support for our work and to continue the Bevy Meals on Wheels activity for a further 6-9 months.

The lockdown has also provided us with a great opportunity to rethink the commercial and trading arm of the business, as well as our community ethos, and take a look at staffing and governance. Key things that have been put in place as a result of extremely hard work over the last few months from the staff, committee and the wonderful army of customers and volunteers:

- **Refurb.** The pub has had a long overdue refurbishment which makes it much better for events, for hiring, for eating, and for day to day atmosphere. We're also investing in creating some outdoor, heated booths for the Autumn and Winter months. COVID-19 has obviously limited the impact of these changes on the finances but we're confident this investment will pay off long-term.
- **Food deliveries and take-aways.** As well as the Meals on Wheels work, we have been also able to offer deliveries and take-aways for all customers which is an ever-growing side of the business and one we will continue to develop.
- **Develop consultancy offer.** More and more people are interested in pubs and the role they play in communities – and we continue to be invited to various discussions to support other areas to have places like the Bevy. Our advice and support have brought in further money already, and we still think we have some more opportunities to grow this over the coming year as we emerge from the height of the pandemic.
- **Online donations and shop.** Our website has been redeveloped and very soon we will be able to offer annual subscriptions for membership, in addition to being able to take donations for the community work we do which we have already put in place. Next steps are to further develop the online shop to sell some beer and food directly and more widely.
- **Continue to seek grant income for specific pieces of work that can also contribute to our core operating costs.** As noted above we're having some excellent success with this at the moment and will continue to grow our grant and community work. It helps sustain the pub and focus our work on our community which after all is what we are all about. A real opportunity for growth and long-term sustainability.
- **Opening hours.** COVID-19 has given us the chance to rethink carefully our opening hours and gradually reintroduce shifts that are financially sustainable. This means we are more closely monitoring the income and costs, as well as the community benefit for every hour we are opening in order to make sure we only open when we can make it work. This will be critical as the furlough scheme comes to an end.
- **Staffing and governance.** Unfortunately we had to let all casual staff and our bar manager go as a result of the pandemic. Whilst we have surplus funds at present, they are mostly restricted for community activity and we couldn't spend much of them on general pub staff. Also we need to keep some in reserve to ensure the long-term sustainability of the pub during these very uncertain times. We have now got a smaller but more close-knit team and have reorganised our various committees and groups to include both staff and committee members, and to allow us to invite our members and customers to join in as well where they want to. Get in touch if you think you'd like to get more involved!

- **Other cost controls.** We are very grateful that our landlord, East Brighton Trust continue to allow us to use the Bevy rent free, and that we continue to get a business rates reduction from the council. Without this support we would likely have had to close the pub before now. We have also taken more of the accounting and admin in house, as well as reduced a wide range of utility and other costs through re-negotiating contracts during the period of closure in lockdown. All of this has saved us significant costs for the coming months.

We are working really, really hard to keep the pub afloat and delivering against its community mission –after 6 years of forging a completely new type of business that’s not been done for a pub on a council estate anywhere else in the country, and in the midst of a global pandemic which is forcing many pubs to close, we’re doing pretty well!

We still need your help to make this work...

Together we’re making this work... huge thanks to you all for your support of the pub over the past years. If we are going to make this pub sustainable in the long-term we are really going to need you – so here’s what you can do now and will be able to do even more in the future (if you aren’t already of course):

- **Volunteer for the Bevy.** Any kind of help with general maintenance, with marketing & delivering leaflets, etc. makes a huge difference and saves us vital £. There are also spots on various groups and committees if you would like to get involved. We’ve had some fabulous volunteers over the past year and we are always on the lookout for more. Get in touch at the AGM or through the website ☺
- **Book us for parties or use us for any kind of event.** Having parties and events at the pub really helps – we can now offer bespoke arrangements including food, music, etc.
- **Pop in – bring your friends – have some fabulous food.** Don’t underestimate how much difference it makes just to pop in with a friend or two every now and again. Keep looking at our website for all the amazing events, quiz nights, music nights, food offers and community activities that go on every week at the Bevy. There is something for everyone.
- **Give us your ideas?** Have you got some great ideas, something you’d like to put on at the pub or make happen? We’d love to hear from you – get in touch.

RESOLUTIONS - FINANCE

In order to save the Bevy significant costs of an annual audit we also propose the following is approved:

That under Rule 6.2 of the society’s rules, the society would not require the next year’s accounts to be audited and did not appoint an auditor, subject to the requirements of the Act.

Item 6. Management Committee Membership

The Management Committee has recently introduced a set of sub-committees with specific areas of responsibility, these include: Volunteering (including Friends of the Bevy), Food, Finance and Risk, Marketing and Buildings. People who are not on the full Management Committee but who have relevant experience in the area are very welcome to sit on these, so if you were interested please contact secretary@thebevy.co.uk for more information.

Some other changes to the Management Committee are proposed for this AGM to ratify. Members of the Management Committee are obliged to stand down after 3 AGMs. Warren Carter, Laurie McMillan and Chris Llewellyn are due to resign at this Meeting and would like to reapply for the committee.

Neil Hinton was co-opted to the committee during the year so he is standing to be ratified at this AGM.

Biographies of Board members standing for election at this AGM:

Warren Carter: *I have been the chair of the Bevy since the beginning of time and I blame Father John for everything. I'm project manager of Moulsecomb Forest Garden a community garden which supplied fruit and veg for the Bevy meals on wheels throughout lockdown and offers opportunities for local pupils and adults with learning disabilities. I am a school governor at Moulsecomb Primary and help look after their stunning school grounds and parent governor at BACA. I help with the Bevy garden (as in - I take instructions from Dave and Jonathan on what they want doing) and marketing. You might occasionally find me having a drink in the pub getting earache from someone of what we should do better. But as we a community pub that's fine.*

Laurie McMillan: *I have been involved with The Bevy for a few years now. I ran the dementia café for 18 months until it sadly had to shut due to the lockdown. I recently oversaw the refurb of the Bevy which I hope has made it a more welcoming place to come and eat, drink and join in our community events. The Bevy is a very special place which does amazing work for local people and I would still like to be involved so am standing again for re-election to the committee.*

Chris Llewellyn: *I am a bit of a newbie and have only been involved with the Bevy for four years now. My day job is as the Director of a grant-making Charity and I have led on a lot of the fund-raising since we've been disrupted by Covid. There is a going to be a real need for the Bevy to carry on getting grants for the brilliant work helping the community with ideas like Bevy Meals on Wheels and I would be very keen to keep on helping with that.*

Neil Hinton: *I've lived in in the area for nearly 5 years and am currently a minister for Good News Brighton (which is involved in Chomp Moulsecomb, facilitating Carols at the Bevy, and other local projects). I also lead the Good News Shed, befriends isolated and elderly people in the area and play for the Bevy Darts Team. I am currently the "pub chaplain" and am really proud to help support people in the area in so many ways.*

RESOLUTIONS - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We propose that all the management committee members standing for election are voted onto the management committee.

Any additional committee members added during the year will be ratified through an election at next year's AGM.

Item 7. Shareholding and Membership Update

At the 2017 AGM it was agreed that we would be moving to a system whereby to be a Member of the Bevy, people would either have to volunteer their time each year or pay a levy of £10. The launch of this was delayed from early 2020 because of the impact of the Covid Crisis.

We are now really pleased that Sam Pettit has almost completed the technical online mechanisms and we will be opening up the new system for Members very shortly. Existing Members will be contacted and will be either be able to submit their payment online or they will be able to contact secretary@thebevy.co.uk to claim their membership via volunteering. This will be open for anyone who has either contributed more than 10 hours of volunteer work over the past year or who has contributed more than 100 hours in total volunteer time.