

# Call for Grove to be listed

by LISA BUCKLEY



A CALL to arms is being made to help safeguard a former public house and site of local interest which is earmarked for development.

Nuneaton resident Phil Cookes is appealing for members of the public to help make the former Fox and Crane pub a listed building.

As revealed in the Evening News, what was The Grove closed for business on January 15, with AR Cartwright buying the property. Andrew Cartwright has since

confirmed that, although it was still early days, he has no plans to demolish it, but instead transform it into a number of apartments.

Mr Cookes, who lives in Weddington and who grew up opposite the pub, wants to ensure it is indeed safe from demolition and kept in keeping with its current form. He says he has found out about a loop hole which could see the entire building raised to the ground.

"I am a local resident of Weddington and am very sad concerning the closure of the Fox and Crane," said Mr Cookes, a stalwart of the local branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

"I have been reading with interest the history of it and when I heard a rumour that it could be bulldozed, I thought I could do something to stop it happening."

Having contacted Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Mr Cookes was informed that there were no plans so far submitted about the development.

"I also asked if the building itself was a Grade 2 listed building - which a lot of residents in Weddington thought," said Mr Cookes.

"However, I have discovered the building is only locally listed in connection with local historical significance therefore although the council would ask the builder to be sympathetic to the aesthetics of their new buildings and surroundings, a loop hole in the law does not require them to ask for permission to demolish the whole building.

"With this information I spoke further to Richard Preston, the council's conservation and protection officer, and he stated that because the building is not of quality historical significance in accordance to English Heritage and that the council would not proceed to save this building. However should a member of the public wish to do so they can submit details to English Heritage."

Anyone wishing to submit a request for listed building status is asked to contact English Heritage with reasons why it should be saved and any contributing facts about the building.

These can be submitted to: The Heritage Operations Department, 1 Waterhouse Square, 138-149 Holborn, London, EC2 ST.

Mr Cookes added: "Until the building can be Spot Listed, an Emergency Protection Order can not be issued. So if you want to save this build or the frontage start writing and sending in your information, or it will be lost forever."

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