

# Development threat to historic town pub

**AN HISTORIC piece of Nuneaton could potentially be lost forever if developers are given the go-ahead to tear it down.**

by RYAN MERRIMAN

An application has been submitted for permission to demolish the former Fox and Crane pub, known to many as the old Grove building in Weddington, to make way for new flats.

Cartwright Homes Ltd is looking for the green light from Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council to undertake the work on the 'Grove Park' site.

It is an amendment to the original plans and asks for permission to knock down the building, which is listed and steeped in local history, and create a brand new block of flats.

Outraged community action group, Save Weddington: Oppose the Residential Development, (SWORD), claim developers have made a U-turn after originally saying they would retain the former pub and transform it into luxury apartments.

Angry members feel that if the Grove was bulldozed it would be another sad loss for the town and dubbed it 'cultural vandalism'.

A spokesperson for the group said: "If

the demolition was to be allowed this would be just another example of our council effectively condoning cultural vandalism.

"The original site application was justified by saving a building of historic interest. Why did the council not secure appropriate planning conditions that sought to have the Fox and Crane redeveloped first before the housing was built? If they had we would not be in the position we are in now.

"The council should be now be actively seeking to list this building and live up to the principle of safeguarding our cultural heritage for future generations."

Original planning permission was given for the land back in 2008 and then work on the site began late in December 2009.

**GOING?... the former Fox and Crane pub in Weddington which developers are seeking to demolish and make way for new apartments.**



## Residents urged to 'have a heart' in aid of charity

COUNCILLORS are appealing to residents to 'have a heart' and donate their unwanted goods to charity.

They are asking people to show their support and help fight heart disease as part of Nuneaton and Bedworth's Heart Town initiative.

As featured in the News, the borough is one of just a handful of areas across the UK to be given 'Heart Town' status, which is a scheme run by British Heart Foundation (BHF) to help reduce heart disease by fundraising and raising awareness.

To help bring in much-needed funds to the charity, the council has set-up BHF donation bins in the reception area at the Town Hall in Nuneaton and at

the Civic Hall in Bedworth.

Councillor Chris Watkins, who is championing the Heart Town scheme, said: "Now that we are in autumn and heading into winter I would urge everyone who may be updating their wardrobe to pass their old stuff on to the British Heart Foundation and help make a difference to people who suffer with heart disease. I have already started the ball rolling and put a bag into the collection myself and I would like to see as many people as possible doing the same."

Donna Stokes, volunteer fundraising manager at the BHF, explained "As a Heart Town, we're hoping

that the whole community gets behind the initiative and has at clear out of their wardrobe - I'm sure everyone has something that is in good condition, which they no longer wear.

"Donating clothes, toys and books to the BHF is just one of the many ways the community can get involved in fundraising. There is a range of events and activities to take part in and there is the opportunity to create your very own One Day event by inviting family, friends, colleagues and neighbours to sponsor you to do something and help raise vital funds - more info can be found at [bhf.org.uk/hearttowns](http://bhf.org.uk/hearttowns)."

Councillor Bill Sheppard, cabinet member for health and environment at the Town Hall, added: "As a council we are committed to promoting healthy living among all of our residents and the Heart Town status can only benefit the work we are already doing to raise awareness and, ultimately, improve the health of our residents. I would urge the people of Nuneaton and Bedworth to support this worthy cause and work with us to make the initiative a success."

Anyone who would like to volunteer, fundraise or get more information about the borough's 'Heart Town' status should Surinder Jassi on 024 7637 6423 or visit [www.bhf.org.uk/hearttowns](http://www.bhf.org.uk/hearttowns)

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