

# What is happening about the Royal Oak and the shop?

Following a survey in 2018 which showed very strong support for the idea (and confirmation at a public meeting this April) plans are well advanced for raising the money to buy the Royal Oak and move the shop inside.

## How would this work?

We have set up a Community Benefit Society called **Heart of the Village** (Stoke St Gregory) Ltd (**HOTV**) to raise the money and run the combined businesses. This has to operate by strict rules which ensure that everything is managed by the community for the benefit of the community.



## Where does the money come from?

We'll need about £471,000 to cover everything, including work on the building. We hope to raise £200,000+ by selling shares in HOTV. Everyone who buys 4 shares (£100) or more becomes a Member of HOTV and can vote at meetings. If we meet our share offer target, the rest of the money will come from grants, loans and local fund-raising.

## When?

This is the timeline we are aiming for:

### **August-September 2019**

Share offer to float HOTV (+ grant applications)

### **December 2019**

Buy the Royal Oak and transfer the shop

### **New Year 2020**

Reopen under HOTV community management

This is ambitious but potentially doable. It relies on the generous cooperation of both existing owners, and a lot of preparatory work in the Royal Oak while the formalities of the handover are in progress.



**Heart of the Village  
Stoke St Gregory**

**hotvssg.org**

See more overleaf →

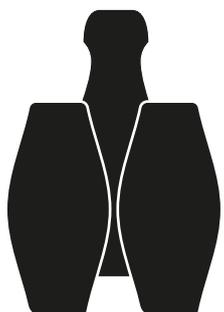
## Who is calling the shots?

You are. Right from the start we were clear that this had to be a community-led project—and that it will not work if it is not. At every stage people have been invited to join in. Many responded by coming along to HOTV meetings. Where we are now is the collective result of all those meetings.



## What can I do to help?

- Please read the information on the HOTV web page and share your thoughts and comments with us. (If you have a beef, tell us so we can do things better!)
- Please become a member by buying as many shares as you can afford, when the share offer is open during August and September.
- Let us know if you are able to offer skills helping with the building, book-keeping, fund-raising etc. or would like to join the committee.
- We will need loads of volunteers once the new shop and pub are up and running; please share your time with us to help make it all work.



## What about the Rose & Crown?

The question about a community pub in the 2018 survey was based on there being only one pub in the village. The Rose & Crown is still in business, but it is for sale with a change of use for residential, so while we will not compete with it for food, we feel that buying the Royal Oak now is the best way to ensure that Stoke keeps at least one pub well into the future.



## What makes you think this will happen?

It will be a challenge, but we have faith in the village. Community businesses have proved a huge success elsewhere. Read our Business Plan for a more detailed account of what is planned, why we think we can pull it off—and what the consequences would be if we don't.

hotv

Full info on [hotvssg.org](http://hotvssg.org)

Business Plan and Share Prospectus coming 1 August

Email [hotvssg@gmail.com](mailto:hotvssg@gmail.com) (or 01823 490407)

**Become part-owner of Heart of the Village and have your say**