

Some of the responses to the 'Save the Stars' Petition (Bishops Castle, Shropshire)

I worked in Stars News as a paper boy at 14 and then at 16 behind the counter. After a time I became the relief manager. This building holds the memory of my teenage years!

We used to live above the Stars. It breaks my heart to see any building so neglected especially on the high street. Bishops Castle needs a barbers and it could be used to help train youngsters.

This central building could be a part of a thriving community - there are a number of ideas brought forward by the community that are worthy of consideration. Local-specific research carried out by Otago Polytechnic University has identified several key issues for Bishops Castle that have impacts on the health and wellbeing of the community and this space could help to address some of these - in particular issues with mental health and social isolation, alcohol and substance abuse and youth mental health.

If the County Council support this local initiative by a tried and trusted group, Bishops Castle will benefit in a number of ways: a building within a conservation area will be saved from increasingly expensive neglect; the town's affordable housing stock will be expanded; the mixture of retail, residential and community use -the Holy Grail of all town centres- will be extended. This business failed to prosper. It's time we dealt constructively with the sad neglect which has resulted from that failure.

As a regular visitor to your town. I think this is a clever idea to offer affordable accommodation and support for the community. Clearly, an improvement to the appearance of the building can only enhance the existing charm of the town in general.

Please arrange so that it may be purchased by the town in order to save it.

Noticed how run down this was a great shame. Great news someone is doing about it.

As it's such a prominent position in the High Street it would be very beneficial to the townscape to be converted as well as providing useful accommodation. I support the campaign.

We need something done with this building.

Excellent idea, and essential for all sorts of reasons. \needed accommodation, a useful facility and would see the removal of an eyesore in the middle of lower town.

This is a brilliant initiative. Stars needs saving. In its current state it is a blot on the landscape of the town. Wishing the Land Trust every success with your campaign.

Well done to the Land Trust on taking the initiative to save this building which is currently an utter eyesore and a blight on an otherwise lovely market town. This is particularly so in view of its very central location. It is nothing short of criminal that the building has been treated with such lack of respect by the owners since it became empty. I sincerely hope your campaign is successful

A really neglected old building smack bang in the middle of a visitor town. Please help.

Perhaps four small retail units on the ground floor could be considered.

absolute eyesore! Repurpose or knock it down & build something useful!!

An absolute eyesore right in the centre of town. Good Luck!

Will bring this building back to life whilst making a real difference to the community.

Flats would be a great idea!

I wholeheartedly support the development of this building. It is an eyesore and could become an amazing hub and multi-purpose resource for the local community.

Accommodation in the form of flats would bring much needed housing for single people or couples. This cannot happen fast enough.

Great news, good luck with this 5 yr eyesore. Needs to be put to good community use.

Yes, please keep me updated. Community help to repair this place, would turn it into a more attractive option for local enterprises . It's been empty too long. Let me know if I can help with campaign.

It's a disgrace and let's down the centre of the town in its Main Street

Well done. A sensible discussion about what can be done with "the high street" can only be good for BC.

Let's hope the owners will co-operate with this initiative, and save the need for compulsion.

I think it's a wonderful idea.

Something needs to be done: the idea of accommodation and a community resource beneath sounds sensible, perhaps it could also be a repair venue.

It is an eye sore ,good for the Town to have it redeveloped .not a very good advert for Bishops Castle.

Please make this youth based. So sad to see these premises in the heart of the town so unloved.

Hope the council can compulsory purchase this property for the gain of the community.

Yes convert into something useful - as well as flats upstairs maybe something more productive on the ground floor, like 'open workshops' where tourists can visit and people can be employed producing stuff.

Living in this area all of my life, it is awful to have to see this building decay in front of my eyes. It would be the perfect community hub to meet the needs of the local community If we owned it!

It is long overdue for this building ,and its garden area need to be put to constructive community use.

Please save this building from a long period of neglect, and allow it to be given a useful future.

Excellent idea. Let's do it! The shop is a disgrace looks dirty and dangerous.

The former Star newsagents premises are at a key location in Bishop's Castle town centre - directly opposite the busiest shop in town - the Co-op Foodstore, - where it is a constant eyesore for both locals and visitors with its message of neglect and dereliction. Its location, which in its current state is detrimental to the town, is potentially what could make it a thriving Community Hub, an idea proposed over a year ago (though, at that stage, without a location in mind). It is central, very visible and does not require patrons to climb our very steep hill, which makes it accessible to all ages, especially as it has public parking space at the rear.

Repair shop with volunteer experts + affordable housing. Great, at last!

Yes let's make use of this space at the heart of the town.

At a time when there is already a national excess of retail space and a chronic shortage of affordable rental housing, having the old Stars Newshop standing empty, slowly decaying, is almost offensive to residents and visitors alike. But we can change that if you let us...

A great idea which I wholeheartedly support. In particular I am pleased with the idea of providing some very much needed local housing.

As a resident of one of the villages served by bishops castle, i believe it would be highly beneficial to the town for this building to be saved and put to constructive, local use.

It would be great if this building could be used by the community.

Love the idea for accommodation but enterprise house is just round corner surely something to employ people, e.g. a barbers.

It is awful that this building currently stands empty and decaying within a community that could do so much with it!

I would love to see this building developed, it has been an eyesore which has blighted this town for too long. Good luck.

I think this is an excellent idea. Accommodation above and workspace below.

The neglected state of the Stars newsagents premises lets down all the other buildings in the shopping area of Bishops Castle. When everybody has worked so hard to keep their businesses afloat throughout the uncertainty of Brexit and then hit by the impact of coronavirus.

I support the idea of saving the stars news shop I worked there many years ago it needed updating then but was a very busy newsagents in those days, it's really an eyesore now.

Would be good to see this property as a community owned asset and another strand of building community wealth locally.

It has been looking awful for ages, and spoil the townscape. I will support any. Campaign to purchase the building before it falls down.

We have that service with Enterprise House and the library. 🤖 Any chance we can do something useful with it that isn't a duplication of service? We haven't got much in BC, seems crazy to duplicate what little we have.

I fully endorse the campaign to Save the Stars shop and the plan to create flats and a community resource in what is not just an eyesore a but a terrible waste of a resource in the town. The plan to develop it by the Community Land Trust will create a valuable asset and address several problems. A Compulsory Purchase Order should be instigated as soon as possible.

I ask the council to compulsory purchase the Stars building on bishops castle in conjunction with the land trust and I want the land trust to repair and develop it for the community.

Having grown up in Bishops Castle, but having to move away for work I feel that any support is needed for affordable accommodation for local people, but also upskilling people for future employment. This shop used to be the Heart of the town and needs to be supported.

This centrally-located location has been an eye-sore for too long. The BC Town Plan contains an aspiration for a Community Cafe/Hub for which this site would be a perfect setting.

Please focus on the young people of Bishops Castle in any future use of this currently shabby building .

Really need something doing with this building as it really looks a mess.
Would be lovely to see it used for the community.

This eyesore destroys the ambience of the centre of our beautiful historic town. It is also a terrible waste of a property with great potential. Bishop's Castle Community Land Trust are the ideal people to put this building to good use.

We live very close to the ex Star shop and would very much support any initiative to help maintain and create a usable space , rather than see it's further decline.

This is such good news .. fingers & toes crossed.

It's appalling how the owners closed a thriving and actively growing business, and then have just left then already poorly maintained building, to rot. It would be amazing to see the building in use again.

Good luck with the campaign - let's reinvigorate the lower part of town.

Utilizing this space would be greatly beneficial to the town and community as a whole. It has become an eyesore and has clearly been neglected.

I feel that an evening youth service drop in would be a great idea. Just once a week where they can meet friends, maybe have people come in to teach short classes like DJ skills or

graffiti. I currently volunteer at bishop's castle guides and they love going I feel it could be a great opportunity to provide more services for the local teenagers.

I think this is an excellent idea. Some kind of social enterprise of maybe rotating pop-up businesses would be great.

Certainly flats on the first floor is a good idea. Not sure about IT on the ground floor as we already have Enterprise House - but, if complementary, would be good.

We believe it is important for BC to restore the Star shop to full use. A proper newsagent would be a great asset to the town.

What a wonderful project. Excellent idea!

The building is a disgrace to the main street and has been empty for far too long. I fully support the plan to issue a CPO.

I agree that the building is an eyesore and your plan would be good for the local people.

Hugely support the proposals for this building. It is such an eyesore in BC.

This building would make a fabulous work hub. We fully support the above campaign

The building is beginning to destroy the image of BC, and it provides space which could both provide much needed accommodation and working space.

Being right in the middle of town, the building could make a significant contribution towards a sense of community identity under the proposed plans. A Compulsory Purchase Order would seem the appropriate way ahead.

Save this building. It's at the heart of our town. We are proud of our town and 68-70 Church St makes us sad.

Shropshire Council have a duty to help us move this project forward without further delay . The building has scarred the town's High Street for too long and now there is an opportunity to put the site to good use.

This is an eyesore. Shropshire Council please compulsorily purchase it, so that it can be converted into something useful.

Please save the building for housing or other good use. I totally support the campaign

Please don't let this valuable resource go to waste. Assisting the BCCLT to acquire and convert the building for community purposes would be a real boost to the town of Bishops Castle and provide much needed affordable housing

Yes please this would be of great benefit to the town. Time for a new lease of life for these premises.

Regeneration for this derelict site! This has been an eyesore far too long.

I think it is an excellent idea to force a compulsory purchase on the building at 68 to 70 Church Street Bishop's Castle. It is an eyesore as it is. It contributes to making the town look a shabbier place.

Save the stars newsagents please. * Please help preserve the local heritage.

This would be wonderful for our community. Much needed!

This premises has been abandoned by its owners and allowed to deteriorate into a wasteful eyesore. I fully support the Community Land Trust's request for compulsory purchase so that the property can be renovated and put to uses which will benefit local people.

It has been in a terrible state for a long time now and really spoils the look of the town.

Small units, for business, need to bring life back into town

Unoccupied historic buildings which are becoming derelict should not be left to rot.

What great use this could be for an unused property.

Fantastic idea to rid us of an eyesore. Great to hear it. Long overdue.

I would like to support the campaign and help with the project if possible

This building has been much neglected and getting more so month on month. It also does not give a good impression of our very busy and bustling community. I think the proposal to give it a new lease of life as a community resource is an excellent one and has my wholehearted support

Pleased to support the campaign to save the old star shop for use by the Bishops Castle Land Trust.

This building needs using for something that will benefit the whole community.

Something has to be done about this eyesore. It brings unwelcome comments from visitors to the town and being in a prime position must be sympathetically updated.

Fabulous opportunity, right behind you! Please do all you can to develop this precious asset.

I support this initiative wholeheartedly. Something needs to be done, this is the perfect solution and will add significantly to the people of Bishops Castle.

I fully support the campaign led by the Bishop's Castle Community Land Trust to acquire this property. In it's current dilapidated state it is an eyesore and detracts from what is otherwise an attractive street scene. Additional rented accommodation is badly needed in the town and it would be good to have the ground floor made available as a community resource.

Yes. The premises need to be used before it is beyond repair. It is an eyesore on the Main Street of the town.

Great idea , I hope it succeeds! I have good faith in the Bishop's Castle community to know that the Stars will be in good hands.

It would be of great benefit to Bishops Castle to convert this building to affordable housing and a community resource. Such facilities are needed more than ever in these strange and difficult times.

Such a pity to see the building blighting the High Street. As a retired Conservation Architect I am very saddened by the neglect. I do hope the plans are widely supported.

The Stars has been an eyesore on our high street for many years in a community that relies on tourism. It is also a community that needs affordable housing so please take out a compulsory purchase and put this neglected building to good use.

This building needs to be acquired for the benefit of the people of Bishops Castle

Used to be a valuable asset and a well-run shop, now a total disgrace.

Very interested in supporting the creation of a community asset in this building.

Local people need affordable housing.

Please let this property be put to better use for the community.

Not so much retail space is not required in the new world. The landlord has held out for massively uneconomic rent so was never going to get occupancy. Better occupied, useful and paying taxes than empty and an eyesore. The town economy is fragile. This self-help should be supported.

I wholeheartedly support the plan to convert the building to residential accommodation with the ground floor as a community resource.

Please help and put back in useful order this dilapidated building in the middle of our town.

Great Idea ! Do something with it please. This eyesore must be saved for community use.

Please lets help build up Bishops Castle again instead of seeing it fade into a high street of empty closed down shops.

Great proposal for the building.

I approve of the idea of affordable housing and community resource ... perhaps for small businesses to flourish.

I support the councils purchase of the Stars & conversion of upstairs for local accommodation and downstairs for small units for local traders.

I vote for the council to compulsory purchase the property & convert upstairs to accommodation for local people and downstairs into small units for independent traders or craft studios. Or cafe.

What an excellent idea and I do hope the building can be taken into use for the benefit of the local community.

A wonderful idea by a community led organisation. Local activism at its best.

Glad to help build community capacity locally

It would be great to see the building and occupants thriving again.

Good to see something hopefully happening with the building

The building can't be left to deteriorate any longer. It has a negative impact on the town and its neighbours. If a suitable retailer can't be attracted then it should be converted into affordable housing

Please allow this building which has been an eyesore in our Main Street for the last five years to be compulsory purchased so that it can be improved and used. Affordable housing is required in town as well as facilities that town residents can benefit from.

Please support this application. It will prove to be a much needed lifeline for our town.

This has been serving no purpose for too long. Let's give a chance to people in need of accommodation..

It is certainly high time that this ugly example of urban decay was transformed into something pleasant-looking, useful, and of civic significance and/or usefulness.

This is a 'no brainer' and clearly a worthwhile cause.

Currently a blight on Bishops Castle, these premises need to become an asset to the town.

It's a very prominent building in a central location in the town. It needs to be brought back into a viable use in order to save the building, improve the appearance of the area and bring life into part of Bishop's Castle.

Such a useful shop, don't let it fall into waste. Make use of this valuable space in the centre of the town.

A very worthwhile campaign! An excellent idea! The sooner the better.

Brilliant idea and absolutely necessary. Count me in!

This sounds good though almost anything would be an improvement on 'demolition by neglect'!

I fully support the campaign to get Shropshire Council to 'Save the Stars' by compulsory purchase and turn this eye sore into something much needed for the town.

We need to maintain the high street for the local community.

Converting this building into much-needed affordable accommodation and a resource centre on the ground floor would be an ideal solution to restoring this dilapidated building into something we could be proud of in Bishop's Castle.

This building has been crying out to be used for years. I'd like to be involved in finding and maintaining a solution.

The building is an eyesore and a danger to the public in its present state. To turn it into affordable housing and community resource is the perfect solution and will benefit those people who have possibly suffered from suitable support such as this for far too long.

Brilliant idea. What a great way to re-purpose a neglected eyesore. Hope you succeed.

A great way to both address the housing crisis and preserve a building .

I do wish more could be done to square the circle of 'oh we've got too many empty retail spaces' and 'oh we need to destroy more green habitat to build houses'. I bet we could house a good chunk of those who need it with creative use of empty upper storeys of shops alone.

We need to keep this, and transform it into a tidy place that can be used by the community. It is an eye sore at the moment.

I would like to see the old news agent changed in to a use full community building which serves the whole town. How will it be financed?

Very sad to see this building empty and unused.

Hugely in favour of anything to bring Stars back to life, it has been an eyesore since we moved here four years ago!

Happy to help with strategy. Great plan, much needed.

Good luck, this is something we should possibly try to do in Clun and would love to know about your progress.

Keep this village beautiful and special. Don't let it turn into a standard town.

It is very sad what's happened to this building. Please save it from further disrepair.

i agree that a compulsory purchase order should be placed on the Stars newsagents. It is in a prominent part of town, in a state of ugly disrepair, is an eyesore to residents and may suggest to visitors that this is a run-down town where nobody cares.

Hope the campaign is going well. It is a shame for a property like this go to waste.

Community projects are essential for our society's health, democracy and future.

I would like to see the old news agent changed in to a use full community building which serves the whole town.

This building has been crying out to be used for years. I'd like to be involved in finding and maintaining a solution.