

Mr. F Patton
Punch Taverns
Jubilee House
Second Avenue
Burton-on-Trent
Staffs.
DE14 2WF

31 July 2006.

Dear Mr. Patton

Re: The Catherine Wheel - Albury.

Thank you for your letter of the 6 July 2006.

Your letter emphasised the point that the Catherine Wheel committee could help the approval process by devoting some of it's time to 'canvassing the relevant authorities to fast track the application'.

I am delighted to be able to report that largely as a result of the efforts of the Catherine Wheel committee significant progress has been made over the last month.

Firstly, we have been in discussion with English Heritage over the delisting process. On or about 18 July Sarah Gibson at English Heritage's Cambridge office confirmed that the Cambridge office was yet to receive the file from the London office regarding the delisting of the site. However an internal deadline of the 29th August had been set by the Cambridge office, by which time they hoped to have the report prepared for the Secretary of State. They would then expect a decision from the Secretary of State within a few weeks.

Since our initial conversation with English Heritage we have continued our dialogue with them and we were concerned to be told last week that they may have lost some of the documents relating to the Catherine Wheel!

We have persuaded them to make a start using photographic evidence in order to try to keep to the end of August deadline and this evidence has now been sent to English Heritage.

Secondly and in addition to our dealings with English Heritage we have been in discussion with East Herts District Council.

Stuart Downs, Planning Officer responsible at EHDC, confirms that he has received your letter accepting his final comments on the plans. However of significance is Stuart's confirmation to us that with regard to the delisting process there is nothing in this process to stop Punch submitting the formal planning application immediately and for the assessment/approval process to be ongoing in parallel with the delisting application. Stuart will, as part of the planning process, consult English Heritage once the formal application has been received and if English Heritage say they are intending to de-list

(even if the process is not complete), then that will be sufficient for him to proceed with the approval process for the planning application.

As you can imagine receiving confirmation from East Herts Council that there is nothing in the delisting process that prevents Punch Taverns from submitting the formal application for planning permission for the rebuilding of The Catherine Wheel is hugely encouraging to the committee and villagers alike.

We look forward to receiving your early confirmation the Punch will now go forward with the application and that this will be made in the very near future.

Yours sincerely

Tim Sargisson.

Cc Michael Taylor