

# Group presses on with plan to buy pub

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A CO-OPERATIVE is continuing its mission to take over a derelict village pub near Richmond.

The Skeeby Community Pub Society Limited, led by Marie Church, Chris Soley, Paul Bell and Adrian Bramley, met residents of Skeeby on Sunday to find out if there was still sufficient interest to carry on with the fight to buy the Travellers Rest.

The building is owned by Hartlepool property developer Jon Whitfield, who bought it in early 2010 and initially planned to turn it into a family home.

But villagers started a campaign to stop the change of use of the building.

Mr Whitfield previously refused to sell the pub, preferring to offer a lease to the co-



**STILL SHUT:** The boarded-up Travellers Rest in Skeeby

operative, but has since agreed to consider offers for a sale.

Ms Church said: "We were impressed with the continued strength of community interest and resolve in saving the pub.

"We have obtained outline costs that will return the pub to an attractive village pub

and support a sustainable business.

"We have also obtained benchmark valuations of the property in its current physical condition and the society has strong community support to confirm an offer to purchase the property."

She added: "Skeeby Parish Council has also given its

support to the project."

Residents turned out in force at the village hall and contributed to a lively debate which showed they were still committed to joining the co-operative and creating a community pub similar to the George and Dragon in Hudswell, near Richmond.

The co-operative has made an offer to Mr Whitfield to buy the building and is waiting for a response. The group said if the offer was accepted, it would also look for funding from sources outside the area.

Concerns were raised by some residents who said the Travellers Rest had not been supported by locals when it was last in business.

But Mr Soley, director of Cameron's Brewery, said that could partly be put down to a decline of standards in the period before it closed.

For more information, visit [travellersrestskeeby.webs.com](http://travellersrestskeeby.webs.com)

## Burner scheme 'a white elephant'

A CONTROVERSIAL plan to build a £1.4bn waste incinerator beside a stately home has been condemned as an "expensive white elephant", following a report by independent experts.

Campaigners fighting waste management firm Amey-Cespa's proposal to treat up to 320,000 tonnes of rubbish a year near 19th Century Allerton Park, beside the A1(M) between York and Knaresborough, said studies by consultancy Eunomia found the scheme to be flawed.

According to Eunomia, North Yorkshire County Council, which must decide whether to give the scheme the go-ahead, has over-estimated the volume of household waste that needs treatment.

Peter Topham, chairman of the parish councils' group fighting the proposal, said Eunomia's findings demolished the case for the incinerator.

He said: "The county council has got to start listening to all those people and organisations that want a much cheaper and