

Development is needed to save old hotel from becoming a derelict eyesore

# Concern for future of village landmark

By RACHEL OWEN

A LOCAL councillor has argued for the development of a closed-down public house.

Cllr Dyfed Edwards wants the Victoria Hotel, a large building located in a key area of Penygroes, to be developed.

Cllr Edwards said: "It is extremely important for the image of the village that we do not leave the building to remain vacant for a long period, as there is a danger that it will become run-down and prove an eyesore."

The Victoria Hotel has changed ownership a number of times in the past and is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Penygroes.

Cllr Edwards added: "It is possible that the hotel may no longer be an attractive business investment in its present format. The problem has been that this is a huge building and it is difficult for just one person to take in its present form."

"I believe that we need to consider new ideas regarding the ownership of the hotel that could lead to a new venture."

Cllr Edwards hopes to see the development of community-based ownership of the hotel that might lead to investment from both the private and public sector.

He explained: "There are many possibilities for the building, but I believe we need to develop new means of ownership before we see any plans implemented."

With the help of local enterprise agency



Antur Nantlle, he hopes those involved will look at the business case for the premises for the benefit of the people of Penygroes.

Dafydd Glyn Owen of Antur Nantlle said: "The Vic is a local landmark. The village pub has changed dramatically over the years and the turnover of tenants has been very high, which is a great cause for concern for locals."

"The long-term future of the building seems unsecured and rather than seeing it stand empty, Antur Nantlle would welcome the opportunity to meet with the owners to discuss its future."

Cllr Edwards has contacted the owners of the Victoria Hotel, Punch Taverns and their chief executive Giles Thorley, who have agreed to make arrangements to meet to consider the possibilities and

plan to update the residents of the village.

Cllr Edwards added: "It is vital that early consideration is given to this matter; otherwise we may see a situation where the building remains empty for a long period and has a negative visual and social impact on the village."

## DEVELOPMENT HOPES:

Cllr Dyfed Edwards will begin talks with the owners of the Victoria Hotel in Penygroes about developing a business enterprise to benefit the community.

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