

Stephen Scott, resident of Selborne for 10 years, brewer for GW museum brewery and bartender of its associated tap room, the Jubilee tap, housed in the former Queens building.

In that capacity, I'm sure that Selborne, a village of less than 500 adults and with very limited public transport access, can not possibly support two full time licenced premises which both serve food. We have the Selborne arms, which does that; if another bar were to open with a similar offering, one or other would be forced to close very quickly – which is exactly what we saw with the closure of the Queens in 2016.

The current Jubilee Tap is viable, and is a net contributor to GW museum funds, for the following reasons:

1. We do not serve ^{hot} food, and therefore do not compete with the Selborne Arms. Rather, we work with it, by appealing to a separate demographic of people looking for good beer and wine in a small, intimate environment.
2. We open three evenings per week, and therefore are not chasing sparse footfall at other times.
3. One important reason for our existence is to showcase GW beer – to that extent we have been particularly successful. The brewery has made it into CAMRA GBG for 2025, where reference to the tap room is made, and we have been told that the Tap Room itself is due for inclusion in the 2026 guide. This entry has brought many visitors into our village, having a positive impact on the finances of both the village and the museum.
4. All brewery staff, and most tap room staff, are volunteers. It is fanciful to believe that enough trade could be generated to finance two full-time public houses in the village with paid staff.

To me, the choice is clear – either accept that the development as proposed is good for the village (as evidenced by the success of the Jubilee tap), or ~~or~~ return to the situation that pertained ^{NINE} eight years ago where one, or maybe both, licenced premises, are at severe risk of closure.