



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

The Community Ownership Fund  
The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Dear Team,

17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**RE: COCKFIELD VILLAGE GROUP – THE PLOUGH & FLEECE**

I am writing to support the Cockfield Village Group's (CVG) application for a grant from the Community Ownership Fund.

I understand that if successful, this grant would allow the CVG to purchase and support the running of the Plough and Fleece public house. Having corresponded with members of the CVG, I have been assured that if successful, their bid to purchase the Plough and Fleece would usher in their vision to develop the existing pub into a community-owned hub, incorporating the pub, the present shop and the post office, as well as adding a cafe.

As the longstanding centre of local activities, I understand that the Plough and Fleece building offers great potential to fulfil the CVG's endeavours, allowing the site to return as place for people to meet and socialise. It is clear that this will not only be for the benefit of those wishing to frequent the Plough and Fleece for its original function as a public house, but also to the residents of Cockfield more broadly - as well as visitors from further afield.

I have been encouraged by similar success stories of community-owned pubs in my constituency on which the CVG's model is based. I welcome the CVG's plans to run numerous and varied community activities, while also ensuring the long-term future of the existing shop and post office - currently run by hardworking volunteers.

Given the above, I believe that the CVG are a worthy recipient of this grant which will enable them to submit their bid to purchase and run the Plough and Fleece. It is clear that their plan for this site is in the best interests of the community in Cockfield moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

  
**James Cartlidge MP**  
Member of Parliament for South Suffolk