



Press release

1 July 2015

Bamford Community Society awarded £120,000 grant from Power to Change

A community hub incorporating a pub, café and post office, has been awarded a grant that will help secure its long-term future.

The £120,000 grant from the Power to Change, a charity that provides support and funding for community businesses in England, will be used to refurbish and modernise the Anglers Rest, a community owned hub in Bamford, the Peak District.

The hub opened in 2013, when over 300 members of Bamford Community Society clubbed together to buy the local pub to prevent its closure. The pub has become a key community asset, providing a wide variety of services for local people, including hosting local groups, events and other activities.

Speaking about the grant award, Rebecca McIntyre, a director of Bamford Community Society, said:

“The building we bought nearly two years ago was very neglected. Our initial priority was to get the business up and running to generate some income, but now we can secure the fabric of the building, carrying out some urgent repairs.

“The grant will make sure that the Anglers Rest continues to offer important services and facilities to the village for many years to come. We announced the grant to members at a recent meeting and there were audible gasps around the room – everyone is delighted by the award.”

Vidhya Alakeson, chief executive, Power to Change said:

“This is a great example of local people using creativity, knowledge and hard work to make their community a better place to live. Through our grants and support programmes, the Power to Change is helping to protect and develop these important, locally led ventures and encouraging more people to set up community businesses that address local needs.”

The grant will allow running and energy costs to be reduced and new sources of income to be explored, enabling the hub to become sustainable in the long term.

Over the next decade, the Power to Change will use £150 million provided by the Big Lottery Fund to support, develop and grow community business across England.

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Notes to Editors:

1. Photos are available: use to following link to download:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/44wtb05smp80n7z/AABkrmb8ulO8leF8dcWFXjuga?dl=0>

2. **Community businesses** are about people coming together to tackle a local need and making their community a better place to live. It's about creating something that makes a positive difference to the local community and can stand on its own two feet in the long run. It could mean setting up new businesses that improve opportunities for local people and re-invests profits back into the community. Or it could mean stopping a local library, community centre, pub or shop from closing by taking over responsibility for running it.

3. **About Power to Change:** Set up in 2015, The Power to Change provides funding and support to community businesses in England. It is the largest charitable trust of its kind in Europe and over the next decade will provide £150 million of funding and practical support to encourage new community businesses to start and enable existing ones to grow and becoming more self-sustaining.

4. **About Bamford Community Society:** Bamford Community Society was formed in August 2012 after the last remaining pub in Bamford, the Anglers Rest, was placed at risk of closure. The Society raised funds from over 300 local people via a community share offer and, in October 2013, purchased the Anglers Rest. The site now hosts the Anglers Pub, The Rest Cafe and the village Post Office. The Anglers Rest is open from 8am – 11pm and serves hot and cold food and drinks throughout the day. The Society also operates a monthly Farmers Market, and offers secure cycle parking, accessible toilets, wifi and disabled parking on site.

5. **About the Big Lottery Fund**

- The Big Lottery Fund supports the aspirations of people who want to make life better for their communities across the UK. We are responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by the National Lottery and invest over £650 million a year in projects big and small in health, education, environment and charitable purposes.
- Since June 2004 we have awarded over £6.5billion to projects that make a difference to people and communities in need, from early years intervention to commemorative travel funding for World War Two veterans.
- Since the National Lottery began in 1994, £33 billion has been raised and more than 450,000 grants awarded.