

Dear Bradley Sargeson (Barnsley Council Planning Officer),

I have been asked by the new owners and developers of the Hoyland Nether WMC, 2 Broad Street, Barnsley, S74 9DY, to provide some background information in support of their application. Please find the details below.

The club closed on 31/10/2022, with our final event and live performer taking place on Sunday 30th October 2022. After that date, the building never reopened. The closure was due to ongoing financial difficulties; despite numerous efforts and strategies, the club was no longer sustainable. On the advice of our accountant, we sold off remaining assets such as the snooker tables to clear outstanding debts. Over the following year, the consortium members met regularly to discuss the future of the building, and ultimately agreed that selling was the only viable option.

Once the decision was made, the property was placed on the market through Wilby's Chartered Surveyors. For many months, there was extremely limited interest. With several other pubs and WMCs still operating locally, there was no demand for it as a club, and the lack of parking and outdoor space deterred most potential developers. The building remained vacant throughout this entire period.

It wasn't until early 2025 that we received any meaningful interest, when Continental Gold Limited approached us. Initially, we were unable to agree on a price, and during this time the club continued to incur unavoidable costs such as electricity and insurance—expenses we were struggling to meet. It had become clear that reopening the club was not financially possible, and with no other interest in the property, we had to carefully consider our options once again. To avoid losing what was the only serious enquiry we had received since the closure, the consortium agreed to proceed with the sale to Continental Gold Limited in April 2025.

We are confident that they will deliver a high-quality development and breathe new life into a building that has stood empty since late 2022.

If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards,

