

CAMRA'S MANIFESTO FOR PUBS AND REAL ALE IN SCOTLAND



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CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

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The Campaign for Real Ale in Scotland

CAMRA has been campaigning for over 40 years in Scotland for quality real ale, community pubs and the rights of pub-goers and real ale drinkers.

Scotland has:

- 5,000 CAMRA members
- 4,600 pubs
- 120 Breweries, with another 10 in the pipeline

Beer and pubs are close to the hearts of many voters in Scotland. CAMRA is asking election candidates to pledge their support for Scotland's pub-goers and beer drinkers by committing to do the following if elected:

- Back action to support Scotland's pubs
- Celebrate and promote Scottish breweries

Pubco Reform

Many pubs in Scotland are struggling because pub companies are taking more than is fair or sustainable from pub profits. Licensees are being forced to buy the beer they sell from the company they are tied to rather than on the open market. This means they are paying at least 50% more for beer and often paying above market value for rents. As a result, many licensees are struggling to make a living and pubs are closing.

CAMRA would like to see the introduction of a Statutory Code of Practice and an Adjudicator for all tied pubs. In addition, we would like to see a Market Rent Only option and Guest Beer Rights for tenants that are tied to pub companies that own 100 pubs or more in Scotland.

Planning – Demolition

While planning permission is required to change the use of a pub, it is possible for developers to demolish freestanding pubs without planning permission provided the pub in question is outside a conservation area and not listed as a heritage site. **The planning rules need to be strengthened so that planning permission is always required before a pub can be demolished.**

Community Ownership

Community pubs are a great Scottish institution and play an integral role in community life across the country. When a much-loved pub closes the community can be a powerful force in pulling together to take over its ownership. CAMRA believes that where pubs are struggling financially there should be Government support to help local people revitalise and run pubs on behalf of the wider community. **CAMRA would like to see the Community Empowerment Act supported by an advisory service, along with the provision of grants and loans to help people taking over their local pub to keep it at the heart of the community.**

Small Business Bonus Scheme

Business Rates represent a significant cost for the 4,600 pubs across Scotland with many pubs paying in excess of £10,000 a year and some paying considerably more. The Small Business Bonus Scheme must be maintained to alleviate the pressure of these costs and support small struggling pubs. **CAMRA would like to see the current scheme retained and for the Scottish Government to investigate ways to extend it so that more pubs can benefit.**



Drink Driving Policy Impact

Since Scotland's new drink-driving law was brought into force in December 2014, reducing the alcohol limit for drivers from 80 to 50 milligrams of alcohol in every 100 millilitres of blood, early indications have shown that it has contributed to a change in people's drinking habits. Many people are now opting to drink at home rather than going out, which is having a significant impact on pubs - particularly in rural areas. Pubs play a crucial role in fostering social cohesion and provide a supervised environment that encourages moderate drinking. **CAMRA would like to see the Scottish Government launch a review into the impact of the drink driving policy on the pub sector in order to develop proposals to help support affected pubs and support public transport in rural areas.**



CAMRA's takeaway initiative to support rural pubs

Beer Industry Support

The brewing and pubs industry contributes £1.6 billion to the Scottish economy and supports the employment of 60,000 people in Scotland. With the number of breweries in the country now 120, it is a burgeoning industry that should be promoted. **We would like to see the Scottish Government work more closely with brewers to promote real ale, which should include serving locally brewed real ales at prestigious events.**



Support beer drinkers and pub-goers by signing up to CAMRA's Manifesto for Scotland at

www.camra.org.uk/campaigningscotland
or email campaigns@camra.org.uk