

The Power of Community business



KEY POINTS

Support Received

- Access to grant funding and government support
- Ongoing adviser support

Outcome

- Cashflow support to ease strain on the enterprise during the Covid-19 lockdown

In 2013, the Anglers Rest became the first community pub in Derbyshire when it was purchased collectively by over 300 people. It is now run for the benefit of the community by the Bamford Community Society offering a pub, café and post office service to residents and the many tourists visiting the village of Bamford in the Hope Valley.

When Covid-19 struck the pub and café were required to close to the public. After negotiations the post office was given permission to operate a limited service opening two mornings a week to serve the most vulnerable in the community providing vital services such as pension collection, bill payment, gas/electric top ups and essential cash withdrawals for residents without electronic banking.

The Enterprise was already in contact with the Growth Hub in regard to business development and funding, however, during the lockdown period this support was adapted. The Growth Hub adviser was able to signpost the enterprise to the application process for the High Peak Council Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund and provide more information on the Coronavirus Job Retention scheme (furlough), as well as signposting to other charitable funding.

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The advice from D2N2 enabled us to access the hospitality grant from our local authority quickly and easily. We had been told that the council would contact us so we were waiting patiently for that to happen. Then Lisa signposted us to an online form to claim the grant and within a matter of days the money was in our account. This has helped enormously with cashflow whilst most of our business is closed and our staff furloughed.

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