

# Pub is the Hub Case Study

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**The Crown Inn, Church Rd, Norwich, Banningham, Norfolk NR11 7DY**



## BACKGROUND

The Crown is located a few miles from the National Trust's Blickling Hall and North Walsham in the attractive Norfolk village of Banningham. Run by the same family since 1991, and now in the capable hands of Jeanette (Jeanie) Feneron; the pub provides a traditional atmosphere with the emphasis on good quality food and drink, which are all sourced locally wherever possible.

The pub sits opposite St Botolph's Church where you can see the glorious hammer beam roof with 17 angels on each side, and there are many other historical sites in the area. The Banningham Crown is close to both the Weavers Way and the Bure Valley walks; this striking area is frequented by many walkers and cyclists, and there is also fishing lakes nearby giving plenty of leisure activities for the tourists.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Banningham and the surrounding community have an ageing population with many residents infirm and disabled. Therefore to address this Jeanie wanted to provide easier access throughout the pub so that wheelchair bound customers could get to all areas, also to provide new toilets together with disabled facilities, and in addition to this increase the size of the function room for community activities.

## OUTCOMES

'Pub is The Hub', through their Community Services Fund provided a small grant of £4,000 to help kick-start this project which commenced at the end of the summer in 2013, and was completed on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014. The Banningham Crown now boast a superb function room with new toilets (including disabled) all rooms now have slight- inclined ramps, to enable the elderly and more frail customers wheelchair access to the bar, restaurant, patio and beer garden areas. All the work has been done by local builders, plumbers, electricians etc., using home-grown materials and they can all be proud of what they have achieved. The Banningham Crown is a great asset to the village and the hub of the community.

## LESSONS TO LEARN

An excellent pro-active licensee without which none of these projects would have started.  
 Working with the local community and tradesmen.  
 Identifying the village's needs, which the pub now provides.  
 Adding to the quality of life for local people.

## PROJECT CAPITAL COSTS (EXCLUDING VAT)

Total project costs	£60,000
PITH Community Services Fund Grant	£4,000
Private funding	£56,000

## Live Theatre and Performance

Since 2016 the Crown has also played host to live theatrical performances courtesy of Creative Arts East through. Pub audiences have enjoyed **Can You Dig It?** a musical comedy about growing your own by Xylophone Productions and **Your Bard** by Nicholas Collett Productions featuring William Shakespeare as he defends his reputation – a legend in the local. With a themed pub menu and very reasonable ticket prices, it beats traveling miles to the nearest town or city for the rural culture vultures. For details on future theatrical performances go to the [Inn Crowd](http://www.inncrowd.co.uk/) website.

**Owner**  
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