

JOINT PRESS RELEASE 14th June 2010- The Bury Society and The Suffolk Preservation Society

Societies Urge council to ‘call time’ on pub proposals for the Corn Exchange, Bury

Chairman of the Bury Society, Sarah Green and Director of The Suffolk Preservation Society, Simon Cairns, are together urgently seeking a meeting with St Edmundsbury Borough Council to discuss the future of the Corn Exchange.

Both Societies strongly oppose the use of this iconic historic building in the heart of the town centre as a pub, as the council seeks to dispose of this important building via recent bids. These have left only two options open. The prime contender, Weatherspoons, is a national chain of pubs and wishes to create yet another outlet.

The Director of the SPS, Simon Cairns stated “How many more pubs can the town centre take without harming the very atmosphere that attracts people. Bury has many great pubs and it’s essential that a balance is struck between town centre residents and the nighttime economy. We believe that Bury has achieved saturation point for pubs.”

How can the Council pursue uses that their own Planning Committee have already refused as harmful? Crime and disorder plague many towns where concentrations of pubs and clubs create a heady cocktail for the local youth. Sarah Green, Chair of the Bury Society says “All things in moderation, we want all of the community to be able to enjoy this wonderful town.”

The Societies urge all those affected to make their voice heard at the ‘drop in’ public Consultation, to be held at the Corn Exchange on Tuesday 15th June from 2 until 7pm. The Societies jointly request that the Council’s Cabinet on the 23rd June delay their decision to allow all options to be fully discussed and explored.

The Societies appreciate that the Council has a responsibility to follow their Asset Management Plan Process. However, they consider that this historic building deserves a use which would better serve the wider community and its aspirations for a safe and viable town centre.