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Sidmouth Herald

Save pub bid wins grant aid

THE defenders of Sidbury's last pub are £10,000 closer to putting together a takeover bid after receiving a government grant.

Save the Red Lion campaigners can now have the building surveyed to assess its market value and the cost of repairs and upgrades.

The pre-feasibility grant from the Social Investment Board, the maximum it issues, marks a milestone in the campaign and means the business plan can advance.

Campaign chairman Fred Burnett said: "Receiving this significant grant comes just at the right time for the campaign.

"We have recently opened

up a dialogue with the pub's owner, Punch Taveris, and work is progressing well on developing a business plan for a future Red Lion business.

"However, to complete this, we need to know what the pub is realistically worth, as opposed to what the owner wants for it, as well as how much money would need to be spent on repairing and upgrading the building."

He added that receiving the maximum grant reflects the strength of their case and will allow them to 'work up a gear or two'. The grant will also allow the group to register as a limited company to purchase the pub - previously listed for £360,000.