



SBPA MANIFESTO 2021



SUPPORT THE SCOTTISH BEER & PUB SECTOR AND CHAMPION OUR COMMUNITIES

While 2020 saw unprecedented damage inflicted on Scotland's pubs and brewers, if the sector is to survive, 2021 must become a year of recovery.

Recovery for the sector is far from assured, political and policy support will be critical to get pubs and brewers back on their feet.

When firing on all cylinders, the Scottish beer & pubs sector is both a national economic powerhouse, and a bedrock of local communities across the country. Before the Covid-19 crisis hit, our pubs and brewers employed 67,000 people across Scotland. The periods of lockdown and restrictions placed on our sector mean many businesses are largely or completely

closed, with staff being made redundant or placed on furlough and their future remains highly uncertain.

Having borne the brunt of the economic impact from a year of tough measures introduced to curb the spread of the virus, Scottish pubs and brewers face another year of uncertainty. Even within the recently announced timetable for easing restrictions, there remains many restrictions that will undermine viable trading and no clarity as to when the on-trade will be able to fully re-open with restriction-free trading. The support of policymakers has never been more urgently required.

**Scottish Pubs
& Brewing support**

**67,000
Jobs**



**1/2
of Scots say their pub brings
the community together**

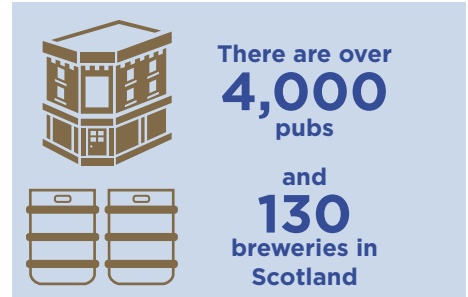


As we approach the Holyrood 2021 elections, Scotland's pubs and brewers call on policymakers to place Scotland's brewing and pub sector

at the heart of their plans for a sustainable, green and jobs-focussed recovery by pledging to:

CHAMPION AND BACK SCOTLAND'S PUBS AND BREWERS

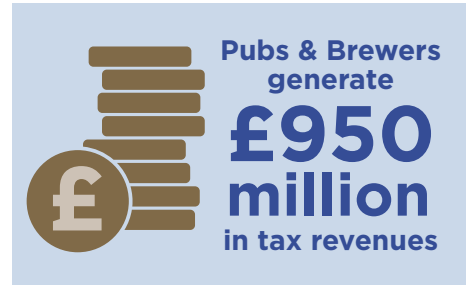
- Develop a dedicated **Scottish Pubs sector strategy and recovery plan** which recognises the importance of pubs and brewers to communities, town centres, the tourism industry, and the wider economy.
- Create a dedicated **Covid-19 recovery fund** for the sector, focussed on protecting and creating jobs and ensuring environmental sustainability sits at the heart of the sector's rebuild.
- Appoint a **dedicated Scottish Pubs Minister** to take ownership of, and provide direction for, the pubs and brewing sector.





COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND SECTOR REGULATION

- Undertake **regular and science-based reviews of Scotland's coronavirus restrictions** to ensure that no Scottish pub is forced to remain closed, or limited in its operation, unless a clear, data-led public health imperative demands it.
- Continue **high-level engagement with the industry for the duration of both the pandemic and recovery phase** to ensure the voice of the sector is heard within government, and government support is focused where it is needed most.
- Provide **legal assurance that Covid-19 restrictions on the sector will ultimately be lifted in full**, in line with the relaxation of social-distancing measures in other settings, as the vaccine rollout takes effect. No “long tail” restrictions can be allowed to linger, unless there is an explicit scientific basis for this, and only if any such restrictions apply to any and all indoor settings.
- Ensure the **Tied Pubs (Scotland) Act** encourages continued investment by pub companies in their tenanted pubs in Scotland, does not lead to undue costs on businesses or undermine the future viability of the model itself.





COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND SECTOR REGULATION CONT...

- Introduce a moratorium on new legislation or regulation which would place further cost or logistical burdens on Scotland's hard-pressed breweries and pubs throughout the Covid-19 recovery. Consider all new legislative or regulatory proposals in the **context of the cumulative regulatory burden** on the sector and where appropriate, accelerate the de-regulation agenda.
- Ensure a **robust and timely evaluation of minimum unit pricing policy**.
- Adopt and promote **Primary Authority status** as the default across key legislative areas and including the activity of enforcement agencies.
- **Assist in lowering the disproportionate tax burden** on pubs and brewers by supporting a cut in beer duty, wider reform of the business rates regime and a permanent reduction in VAT for all food and drink sales in the on-trade.



Beer is the number one pub drink, more than three times more popular than any other drink



1 in every 3 pounds spent in the pub goes to the tax man

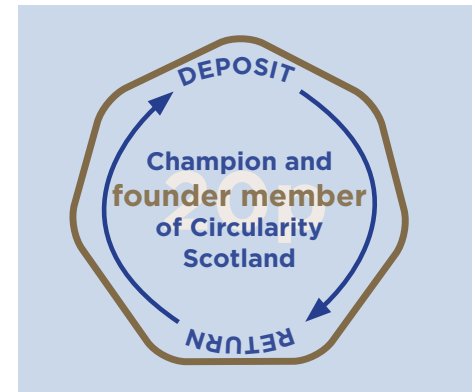


JOBS AND SKILLS

- Support a new **industry-led apprenticeship scheme** to run in conjunction with the Apprenticeship Levy which will serve to address specific staff shortages (i.e. pub chefs) created by Covid-19 and Brexit and promote high-level brewing apprenticeships.

ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN RECOVERY

- In the year of COP26, provide a **dedicated, funded Green beer and pubs plan**, through a package of support to help enable pubs and breweries to become carbon-neutral businesses, increase energy efficiency and promote renewable energy options.
- Provide funding for pubs to install **electric vehicle charging infrastructure** in pub car parks, demonstrating the importance of pubs to communities.
- Ensure that the Scottish **deposit return scheme** is implemented in a coordinated manner with the support of the beer and pub industry, minimising the burden on brewers and pubs in recognition of the huge economic challenges the sector is currently facing.



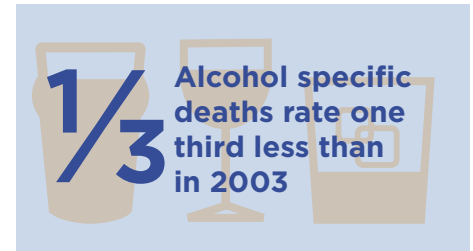


ENVIRONMENT & GREEN RECOVERY CONT...

- Introduce a **rates relief for breweries that demonstrate** they operate in an environmentally friendly manner.

ALCOHOL / RESPONSIBLE DRINKING

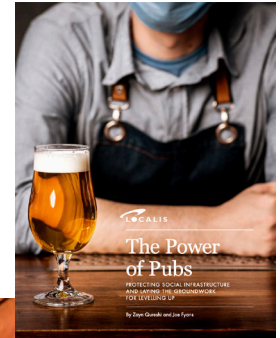
- Recognise the role that pubs and brewers can play in **encouraging responsible drinking and, through investment in lower and non-alcohol products**, the positive role they can play in moderating consumption.
- Commit to work with the industry through the Scottish Alcohol Industry Partnership and schemes such as Pub Watch, Best Bar None, and Community Alcohol Partnerships alongside **targeted interventions aimed at those drinking at harmful levels.**
- **Support policy changes to stimulate growth in lower-strength drinks**, such as changes to Advertising Standards Authority codes to enable greater promotion of these drinks.





COMMUNITIES

- Recognise **pubs are the largest community outreach network in the country** helping to tackle loneliness and social isolation and support this accordingly, as high streets continue to suffer through the loss of other institutions and meeting places.
- Ensure that planning policy recognises the role of pubs as community hubs by ensuring that new developments do not threaten their closure and ensure new developments provide land to enable the opening of new pubs where possible. **Place pubs at the heart of community and town centre regeneration planning.**
- Create a **pilot fund to improve connectivity and public transport** in rural communities to support rural pubs and clubs and the communities they serve.
- Provide **targeted support to Scotland's rural breweries**, which are integral to remote communities as employers, magnets for tourism, and local delivery of national sustainability priorities.
- Where pubs have been utilised for new community purposes during the pandemic, a **diversification grant to pubs** looking to retain or expand the services they provided during lockdown.



Open Arms:
The Role of Pubs in
Tackling Loneliness

By Zoya Qureshi and Joel Lynn



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Scottish Beer & Pub Association, C/O BBPA, Ground Floor, 61 Queen Street, London EC4R 1EB

