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New CAMRA figures show decline in pub closure rate

By Adam Pescod, 30-Apr-2012

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The rate of pub closures in the UK is down to 12 per week up until the end of March 2012, according to new research from the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

The figures show rural pubs are closing at a net rate of four per week, and suburban at eight per week. The closure rate is down from 16 per week, as reported in the six-month period up until September last year.

The news comes as over 33,000 consumers have signed a national e-petition in recent weeks to bring an end to above inflation beer tax increases. CAMRA's research shows 73% of regular pub goers support a freeze in beer duty.

Mike Benner, CAMRA chief executive, said: "Whether situated in a small village, city high street, or on the edge of a housing estate, pubs are so central to our society that whole communities can grow around a particular pub.

"A threat to the future of traditional pubs is therefore also a threat to countless social groups within Britain that thrive because of their local. Unsustainable beer tax increases by the Government are ripping the heart out of community centres, but with over 33,000 consumers having recently signed the beer tax e-petition, beer drinkers and pub goers are actively voicing their discontent.

"CAMRA is now campaigning to secure 100,000 signatures, which would force Parliament to debate above inflation rises in beer duty."

CAMRA has also today released new figures showing the worst hit areas of Britain for pub closures. A full breakdown of the number of pubs lost in the last six months – county by county – can be viewed at www.camra.org.uk/countypubclosures.

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