

Help us save Dunford House the birthplace and home of Richard Cobden from developers



Who is he?

Richard Cobden – the most highly referenced politician in the current climate, successful career in Manchester, MP for Stockport and Rochdale, repealer of the Corn Laws, apostle of Free Trade, advocate of peace and goodwill to all, promoter of international peace, ardent reformer dedicated to raising the poor and vulnerable out of poverty.

The background

Dunford House and Estate, located in Midhurst, West Sussex was altruistically gifted to the YMCA in 1952 as a perpetual, permanent endowment to enable them to use it for general educational purposes. What remains of the Estate is the Grade 2 Listed House and surrounding land, the essence of Richard Cobden's home. Fast forward to 2019 and the YMCA have closed Dunford with a view to wanting to dispose of it.

The YMCA have been custodians of Dunford honouring the original Trust deed and now the Cobden family together with a number of friends have put an offer to the YMCA to buy it back enabling the YMCA to be released from their stewardship.

Why is it important to save Dunford?

It is the last remaining example of a Victorian middle class Liberal politician home which still contains a number of Cobden family artefacts including the Seal of the Corn Laws and a gift from Napoleon III as gratitude for negotiating a peace treaty with France. The House is of architectural significance with part of it built in the Italianate style fashionable in the 1850's. Many distinguished guests have visited Dunford over the years including Ghandi, playwright George Bernard Shaw and Beveridge, pioneer and co-creator of the welfare state and in later years Dunford played a significant role in hosting international conferences. Through Cobden's suffragette and suffragist daughters the House became known as a beacon for feminism in particular for women's right to vote.

Our plan

A compelling business plan has been created which would ensure the original intent of the Cobden family continues to be respected. This will involve preserving and modernising Dunford and re-creating a conference centre and also a Museum so the public can see, enjoy and learn about the history of Dunford – Liberalism, internationalism and women's rights amongst other things. But as importantly the plan is also to service less fortunate groups of society and embed a Community spirit of wellbeing and togetherness which isn't always prevalent in today's society. We would reach out to young people, the elderly and low income groups and help alleviate social concerns such as wellbeing, mental health and loneliness.

We now need your help to complete this short survey

- to test our assumptions and validate our business plan
- to enable us to submit aggregated reports to grant foundations as they need to see market research findings in order to allocate grants

You can find out more about their support and our campaign updates on The Cobden Foundation website www.cobdenfoundation.org

Thank you for your time to complete our survey. It is very much appreciated.

Nick Cobden Wright (Richard Cobden's great, great, great grandson and campaign co-lead) on behalf of the Cobden family

Chris Boxley (Campaign co-lead)

Saving Dunford House - our survey

Age profile up to 44 years..... 45-64 years..... 65 years+.....

1/ In your view you what do you see the need for Dunford House to be:

a Bed & Breakfast(Y/N) a conferencing and education centre(Y/N)
a museum.....(Y/N) a tearoom/cafe(Y/N)
a combination of the above.....(Y/N) other (please state)

2/ For B&B overnight stays (inc breakfast next day) how much do you think is a fair price?

single occupancy double occupancy

How many nights do you see people staying?

one night.....

two nights (eg Fri and Sat nights)

more than 3 nights ? (please state)

Do you see people staying at all times during the year or at peak times (if so state when)

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3/ For conferencing day rates (inc 2 course light lunch) how much is a fair price?

single occupancy

For conferencing overnight rates (inc 2 course light lunch on days 1 and 2, a 2 course evening meal on day 1, breakfast on day 2) how much is a fair price?

single occupancy

4/ Which events do you see the need for at Dunford?

private parties community events

weddings other (please state)

5/ Would you be able to volunteer and help out at Dunford?(Y/N)

how many hours per week (please state)

where can you help us? (museum, tearoom/cafe, gardening, maintenance, other) (please state)

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6/ What is the greatest gap in the market you believe Dunford can fill and is there anything else you would like to add?

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Please take a photo of your completed survey (or ask someone to do it for you) and email nickcobdenwright@icloud.com by 31 May 2019. Thank you for taking the time to do this.