# St David's Hospice Care withdraws plan to purchase The Hardwick restaurant following financial fraud scandal



St David's Hospice Care has withdrawn its plan to purchase The Hardwick, a renowned restaurant near Abergavenny, Wales. The Hardwick, formerly known as the Horse and Jockey, closed suddenly in October last year following a financial fraud case involving its office administrator Nicola Nightingale and her husband Simon Nightingale, which cost the business £150,000.

The hospice had intended to convert the building into a day hospice and community-focused cafe, creating nine jobs on-site. This proposal included retaining the self-catering holiday accommodation and using shared kitchen facilities. St David’s submitted a change of use planning application to Monmouthshire County Council but has now retracted it.

Stephen Terry, the restaurant's owner and former head chef known for his appearances on BBC's Great British Menu and his association with Gordon Ramsay, had listed the business for sale at £825,000. Under Terry's management, The Hardwick earned significant accolades, including a Bib Gourmand in the Michelin Guide and ranking as the 19th best gastropub in the Estrella Damm 50 Best Gastropubs list in 2020.

St David's Hospice Care declined to comment further on the matter.