# Coventry's The Spon Gate pub to close, leaving fans disheartened



Fans of The Spon Gate pub in Coventry were left in a state of confusion and sadness after Wetherspoon announced the establishment will close its doors for the final time on Sunday, 25 May. The budget pub chain attributed the decision to commercial reasons, although specific details were not disclosed.

The announcement sparked a wave of discontent among local patrons, many of whom found it hard to reconcile the closure with the pub's apparent popularity. Elaine Cook expressed her bewilderment on Facebook, stating, "Why? Been there loads of times and every time I've been there it's been busy and struggled to get a seat sometimes. I don't get it?" Similar sentiments were echoed by Debi Scandrett-Whitlam, who remarked, "It’s always busy, I don’t get it," and Robert Weston-Bartholomew, who noted the pub was a favourable spot for a pint after ice hockey matches, often bustling with customers during weekends.

The discussion surrounding The Spon Gate's closure highlights broader challenges facing the hospitality industry, with several local residents lamenting the increasing number of pub closures across the UK. James Levett, integrating a reference to the band Queen, quipped, "Another one bites the dust." Eve Bradley highlighted the pressure of rising operating costs, saying, "Overheads have killed pubs. You need to sell a lot of alcohol to cover these extortionate bills and staff." Further echoing this sentiment, Joe Kavanagh remarked on the industry's struggles post-Covid, suggesting that changes in social habits have contributed to declining patronage.

Wetherspoon spokesman Eddie Gershon confirmed the closure decision and expressed gratitude to both staff and customers for their support over the years.

In addition to the Coventry news, Wetherspoon is reportedly set to significantly change its menu across its nationwide operations. According to a recent communication from CEO John Hutson, the chain will eliminate three of its "biggest loss-makers"—steaks, mixed grills, and gammon—in an effort to restore profit margins to pre-pandemic levels.

These menu changes, effective 14 May, prompted backlash on social media as regular patrons voiced their frustration. One user lamented that the grilled items were a staple of their dining experience at Wetherspoon, while another sarcastically suggested that if they wanted "microwaved mush," they would prefer to make it at home. A spokesperson for the pub chain, however, maintained an optimistic outlook, assuring that a new range of gourmet burgers, including The Big Smoke, Buffalo Burger, and Cheese Meltdown, along with Korean-style chicken meals, would be introduced to appeal to customers.

The Spon Gate's impending closure and the menu overhaul reflect significant challenges that Wetherspoon and the hospitality industry face in a post-pandemic environment, as they seek to adapt to changing consumer behaviours and economic pressures.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-> - This URL could potentially provide information on the broader challenges facing the hospitality industry in the UK, such as rising operating costs and changes in consumer behavior post-Covid.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/business/> - This URL might offer insights into the economic pressures affecting pubs like Wetherspoon, including the impact of rising costs and changing social habits.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/> - This URL could provide details on Wetherspoon's menu changes and how they reflect the company's efforts to adapt to post-pandemic consumer preferences.
* <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/> - This URL might discuss the commercial reasons behind Wetherspoon's decision to close certain pubs, such as The Spon Gate in Coventry.
* <https://www.morningadvertiser.co.uk/> - This URL could offer specific information on the challenges faced by pubs in the UK, including closures and menu changes in response to economic pressures.
* <https://www.cityam.com/> - This URL might provide additional context on how Wetherspoon and similar chains are navigating the post-pandemic hospitality landscape, including menu overhauls and pub closures.