



# News release

3 December 2018

## **Historic Worcestershire hotel bought in deal backed by Allied Irish Bank (GB)**

An historic Worcestershire hotel has been acquired by an experienced West Midlands' hotelier in a deal backed by Allied Irish Bank (GB)\* "**AIB (GB)**" for an undisclosed sum.

St Andrews Town Hotel in Droitwich has been bought by Khurshid Anwar, owner of Ely House Hotel in Wolverhampton. Built in the 1820s and once home to the Town Clerk, St Andrews Town Hotel has 31 bedrooms, a popular restaurant, three meeting rooms, a civil ceremony licence and an orangery which can cater for weddings and banquets for up to 150 guests.

Khurshid Anwar said: "St Andrews Town Hotel has huge capacity for growth. The building has tremendous presence and is well-located for both business and leisure. I aim to use my knowledge gained over the last 15 years in the hotel trade and work closely with the St Andrews team to put it firmly back on the map.

"Our current focus is to enhance what we have, exceed our guests' expectations and move the business forward. Longer term, there is scope to improve and extend our bedroom, dining and banqueting facilities to maximise the true potential of this lovely property."

Mark Duggan, senior relationship manager at Allied Irish Bank (GB) in Birmingham, said: "Khurshid has a very strong track record in the hospitality sector. Since buying Ely House in 2004 he's invested in a wide range of improvements at the hotel resulting in a very successful business with extremely high guest ratings. His experience and the potential at St Andrews Town Hotel combined with our specialist knowledge of the hospitality sector made backing Khurshid's plans a very strong proposition for AIB (GB). The bank has also agreed to refinance his previous loan arrangements at Ely House."

Anwar added: "I met Mark Duggan about three years ago and we clicked straight away. He continued to keep in touch with me and when this opportunity arose to expand my hotel portfolio he was very supportive. Both he and his team have been very thorough throughout the purchase process and keen to help me to get the deal over the line. I'm looking forward very much to our continued business relationship."

\*The AIB logo, Allied Irish Bank (GB) and Allied Irish Bank (GB) Savings Direct are trademarks used under licence by AIB Group (UK) p.l.c. incorporated in Northern Ireland. Registered Office: 92 Ann Street, Belfast BT1 3HH. Registered Number NI018800. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.