

KIPPAX TRADERS ASSOCIATION

**Next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th September 2013,
6.00pm at Black and Cream**

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Minutes of meeting on Wed. 17th July

Present:- Pat (Pats Sweets), Christine (Goodalls), Jayne & Jude (Dodgson's), Nikki (Newsagents), Karen (Black & Cream) Paul (Co-op elected representative), Kevin & Sam (Blades hairdressers) , Mary & Vic (Ann Marie), Pete Mudge (LCC - from 6.45pm)

Kevin & Sam were welcomed to their first meeting. Kevin voiced his concerns about the amount of dog fouling and general litter on the High Street. This is a point that has been brought up in previous meetings and it was noted that dog patrols have now been seen in the village.

Sam has volunteered to take on the task of developing the proposed Traders' Web Site. It was agreed that he would put together some design ideas and possibly bring his laptop to the next meeting.

The Commercial Inn has had an all-round facelift and The Charity Shop front and Kevin's Barbers have also been re-decorated. Simons Costumes now has a new shop front and other traders have shop front refurbishment planned ... all enthusiastically received ... and all adding to the appearance of the High Street.

Paul attended the meeting to keep us up to date with Kippax developments at the Co-op and in particular Co-op Bank. Because of national developments involving Lloyds Bank, and the Co-op itself, it appears that the Co-op strategy is to be redefined, and although it may not happen this year a firm commitment to open a branch in 2014 is a distinct possibility.

It was hoped that the unused space within the Co-op would be used for a bank however Paul confirmed Peacocks will take this space later this year. At the same time the inside of the Co-op store will undergo a facelift.

A further petition, particularly from the businesses in Kippax would encourage the Co-op to realise Kippax still needed a bank in the village. Paul suggested that later this year would be a good time for this and said he would keep us informed of any future developments. It was also agreed that a letter should be sent to Co-op Banking stating we realise it would be unhelpful to them if we push for a bank while they are rearranging their systems, but that we remain hopeful of getting one and will be back

in touch later in the year and welcome any advice from them on what would help our case.

Royal Oak Site:- It appears that work has resumed on site, though the rubble tipped over the boundary wall has not been removed.

Barclays:- Pete has been told by the property agents that they are waiting feedback from signage contractors with regard to window murals.

Old School site:- Pete reported that he understood this has now gone out to tender.

Alldays:- The damaged wall to the rear (which is owned by the Church) has now been inspected by the Health & Safety executive and had been reported as 'not a danger'

Hermitage:- It was again stressed that the situation with the Hermitage site was a major concern, not only to the Traders but,(as was obvious from numerous comments made,) to the village as a whole. Pete reported that the Leader of the Council is adamant that the site should undergo development even if it meant the almost unprecedented step of Compulsory Purchase proceedings.

A senior officer is having a second meeting with a developer.

It is hoped the owner will agree to sell and deals can be done with existing tenants.

Pete explained that the reason previous 'patching up' works had not been carried out was that this would only prolong the situation. The overall mood of the meeting was that at last something was going to happen.

CIS Security:- It was noted that the shop shutters are closed all through the day, giving the appearance of another closed up unit and it was agreed to speak to Mark or Paul to get the unit opened up.

Pete confirmed that he had spoken to Simon Norman (Locality Working Officer) with regards to dog fouling and litter and that visits were being made twice weekly. It was agreed to accept Simon's offer to attend the next meeting so that we could further voice our concerns.

Pete presented a DIY healthcheck for Kippax (along with a complete list of all 63 businesses on and around the High Street) and this prompted numerous points to arise:-

The lack of signage for Kippax, the High Street and car parking were noted. As an example, Co-op delivery wagons turning into the wrong access and struggling to get out again. It was suggested Highways be asked to provide appropriate signage.

It was suggested that some form of statue in the village centre would be appropriate and Paul said the Co-op may have some funding to help promote this idea.

With regard to the Neighbourhood Plan, details of the proposed future Housing development areas can be viewed in the Co-op on Friday & Saturday (19/20th July).

Some discussion took place on ways to promote the village through advertising and Jayne agreed to approach various publications with a view to this end.

It was agreed to try give Sam as much help and information as he feels he needs to develop a web site for Kippax businesses.

After what felt like a most productive evening, the meeting closed at 8.00pm and the next meeting was fixed for Wed. 4th September, 6.00pm at Black and Cream