

Minutes Halton and Area Traders Group-14th May 2014

Venue BeadshopLeeds-Selby Rd

Present.

Peter Mudge-Town Centre Manager

Jill Austin-The Flower Factor

Phil Batley-Mills and Spenceley Ltd

Yvonne and Malcolm Gott-BeadshopLeeds

Apologies.

Claire Deacon-Post Office

Jo -Sweetz

Ben Jacobs-Stoneacre Properties

Anita Halliwell-Eyesite

Peter Whelan-County Carpets

Cllr Judith Cummins

Welcome and introductions.

Since the last meeting the council have done a land registry search, they and Matalan have met to agree who owns which bits of land around the car park. The council's Locality Working team have agreed to do a deep clean of the area as a one off project.

It has been agreed Peter will contact Matalan and ask for a representative to meet with the group to look at maintaining the area and also to sort out the drain in the walkway and get rid of the 'cover'.

Peter advised that Halton in Bloom is working well, they have planned projects for the coming months and many businesses have agreed to water hanging baskets. Stoneacre has kindly sponsored a new floral display near their premises A website has been launched at Halton in Bloom.com

Jill (Flower Factor) has offered to supply plants at wholesale prices to them. Jill also said she hoped the sponsorship boards with the businesses names on could be redesigned to stand out.

It is also hoped that a Christmas tree will be on display at Lidl this year.

Lidl now has a new manager who is open to suggestions on their participation.

Discussion turned to the area itself and what was needed to draw people into the area.

- A) Ask highways to replace bent posts.
- B) Highways should be contacted to see if they will repair the broken paving around Delilicious side of Selby Rd.
- C) See if Matalan will consider a car park directional sign for traffic island on Selby Rd.
- D) Get some advertising of all the town has to offer, small supermarkets, clothes, conveyancing, sewing/bead supplies, financial services, sweets,

post office, coffee shops, car servicing, opticians/dentist, upholstery, restaurants, library, haircuts/nailcare, newsagents, charity shops, models etc.

- E) Investigate why the vacant shops are vacant and what type of business you would like there. (Then contact ones that you can discover contact details for.)

Yvonne (BeadshopLeeds) said that we need more shops where people come 'to look around' and it would be beneficial if one of the cafes stayed open later for shoppers as they all open very early so are shut by 2-3pm.

Yvonne also said she'd spoken to John and Ali who produce the East Leeds Magazine and they could do a double page spread on the area, what we have to offer etc, they would do a write up and businesses share the cost, businesses would also be listed on the page. They would be happy to come to a meeting to talk us through it.

Details of the next meeting were discussed and it was agreed to change it to a Tuesday for the next meeting which made it easier for Peter to attend. The time will stay the same 5.30pm, a venue needs to be agreed.

Yvonne and Peter had delivered an invite to all (hopefully) businesses for this meeting and the leaflet did ask businesses to let Yvonne have their e-mail addresses so that minutes and future meeting, dates etc could be sent, thank you to those who have.

Peter suggested that doing a personal visit with the minutes would be more effective so Jill agreed to do her area and arrange for them to be delivered near the Skyliner. Yvonne will visit selected businesses on Selby Rd and ask for volunteers to help do the rest, but she will e-mail those who have given their e-mail addresses as agreed, so sorry for any duplication.

Yvonne to type minutes up and get Peter to verify and once we have a venue they will be distributed.

Peter will get some e-mail addresses for Wyke Beck/Halton Moor/Whitcliffe and Colton businesses and ask them to distribute to their neighbours.

It was agreed that electing the necessary positions i.e. chair would be done at a future meeting when there were more businesses present.

Peter shared some possibilities for increasing footfall for businesses, one suggestion was having stalls in the walkway, the possibility of doing the same outside Flower Factor was also muted by businesses.

Phil (Mills and Spenceley Ltd) suggested that basics needed to be met such as cleaning up the area and maintaining that, also lighting etc were needed.

It was agreed that businesses need to take more responsibility for the area around their business. We needed to monitor bins and make sure they are being emptied on a regular basis and if we thought of anything else to bring it to the next meeting for discussion.

Phil also asked if we could have a grit and salt box in the walkway as it does get treacherous in the winter, Peter explained we would have to take responsibility for it, he will let us have contact details for pursuing this.

Jill did say that people were unsure whether they could park outside her premises especially as it was so close to the traffic lights. She will contact nick.barras@leeds.gov.uk for clarification on this.

We look forward to meeting more of you at the next meeting:-

Next Meeting - 10th June at 5.30pm

Venue - Matalan canteen