

### Halton and Area Traders Group

Please find attached the minutes of the last meeting-

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014 5.30pm - A good meeting covering several items. At the next one our PCSO Lisa Franks and Retail Crime Manager Andy Gately will be attending to advise us of the many new initiatives they are developing to reduce retail crime and giving us advise on how to work together to further reduce the problems we have as traders - please come along and get involved.

The next meeting will be at Matalan on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 - 5.30pm

### Minutes Halton and Area Traders Group - 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014

#### Venue Matalan Store

#### Present.

Julie Carroll-Matalan  
Phil Batley-Mills and Spenceley Ltd  
Jill Austin-The Flower Factor  
Yvonne Gott-BeadshopLeeds  
Cllr Judith Cummins  
Lisa Frank-Area PCSO  
Peter Mudge-Town Centre Area Officer

#### Apologies.

Andy Gately-Retail Crime Manager  
Claire Deacon-Post Office  
Jo Thompson-Sweetz  
Ben Jacobs-Stoneacre Properties  
Jenny Marshall-Halton in Bloom  
Dominic - Tesco's

Welcome and introductions. Thanks to Julie Carroll Manager at Matalan for letting us use her training room for the meeting. Also welcome to Judith Cummings one of our local councillors and to Lisa Franks our local PCSO.

Brief look at last minutes as points A-E needed some update.

- 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. A+B being dealt with by Nick Barass and will be actioned after the Tour De France as he is fully engaged in that at present, so in progress.
- C) See if Matalan will consider a car park directional sign for traffic island on Selby Rd. Julie to seek advice from her head office.
- 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. Decided to leave until more traders come to meetings and look at further.
- 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.) No action at present.

Any other questions/comments arising from last meeting/minutes:-

Phil (Mills and Spenceley) commented that the area around Matalan and the walkway up to Selby Rd were looking very much tidier thanks to Matalan staff.

It was reiterated that individual traders should still take responsibility for their own area.

Peter Mudge asked if we wanted him to arrange for someone from locality working to attend a future meeting re litter/the councils/our responsibilities etc and this was agreed.

Phil mentioned the problem with the drains at the back of Matalans car park i.e. becoming clogged with rubbish and so not working properly. He will show Julie after the meeting and she will look into.

The state of the area in general was discussed;-lighting in the walkway, it's thought that it will probably be the individual owners responsibility, Phil is going to contact an electrician re costings.

Parking was discussed - inconsiderate parking on the disability spaces near the café, Julie (Matalan) will monitor and Lisa will ask PCSO's to monitor also. Julie also realises that their car park is used by those not using Matalan and she is OK with this unless the car park became so full her customers couldn't get parked. This led to the suggestion of utilising other spaces like the one outside Delilicious and the take-aways and the possibility of removing the barriers and making drive-in parking spaces. Julie asked about costing this and who actually owned the area, Peter Mudge will ask Nick Barras once Nick's arranged Grande Departe.

Lisa -PCSO gave us a brief insight into her position, she is already working with several traders who are experiencing a large volume of retail crime, shoplifting etc.

Lisa is not only our area PCSO but she lives in the area so has a strong desire to improve the area and has lots of initiatives she is working on both from the police and trader perspective. She advised us that a Retail Crime Manager (Andy Gately) has been appointed for the area, he couldn't make today's meeting but it has been agreed that they will both come to the next meeting which will be dedicated to crime prevention and they will give us an insight into the initiatives that could benefit us all and we can also benefit from their expertise in other areas.

Election of committee members was raised by Yvonne, but it was still thought we need more members present before doing this. Dominic (Tesco Manager) has agreed to do Marketing and Publicity and Yvonne will take minutes and get them distributed. Many thanks to those that helped last time but we could do with a few more please, so if you could distribute 6-10 around your shop that would be very much appreciated, please contact Yvonne on 07789 089774 or at [Yvonne@beadshopleeds.com](mailto:Yvonne@beadshopleeds.com) and she will get them to you.

Having some craft stalls in the walkway was further discussed at Peter's recommendation. If we keep the numbers to 4 we can avoid having to get into street licenses and keep the rents to a nominal one (possibly £15-20 per day). The idea is to draw shoppers into Halton and the walkway. We agreed that they should bring their own tables and we need to monitor this to make sure they enhance the area rather than the opposite with their appearance.

We also decided that we must not have a stall that sells the same as the speciality of any local trader and also ask if any trader wants to have a stall so please let us know if you do. Yvonne will

look at how the Morley version of this works and was set up so that we can hopefully avoid any pitfalls they encountered and get this up and running soon.

Other business- Yvonne was contacted by Jenny at Halton in Bloom who want to work closely with us and will attend the next meeting, she sent their apologies for this one. Please note the correct contact details for them are;- [haltoninbloom@gmail.com](mailto:haltoninbloom@gmail.com)

When distributing the last minutes the owner of Moreno's Restaurant suggested a good time to have a meeting would be for 1hr on a Sunday as few actually work on Sundays and he and probably many of the other restaurants and take-aways couldn't attend on an evening because they were working, if you think this would be more suitable even as an occasional option please let us know and we will endeavour to be more inclusive.

Phil (Mills and Spenceley) offered to walk around and talk to traders he knows and get the message across about the benefits of this group and attending the meetings and having your say, so this may also highlight more ways we can make it more accessible. Other attendees said they would do the same, please feel free to do the same in your locality.