

KIPPAX TRADERS ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes Wed. 19th September

Present :- Helen (Carr), Pat (Pats Sweets), Pete Mudge (LCC), David (Co op), Karen (Black & Cream), Christine & Nicky (Goodalls), Jayne (Dodgesons), Marie (Old Tree), Vic & Mary (Ann Marie)

**Apologies:- Jason (Hairdresser), Nicki (Newsagents), Emma (Florists)
Mark & Paul (Alarm shop)**

Pete gave a summary of the state of play on the High Street:-

The Old School site, as previously reported, has been taken off the market, and it appears that the Council still would like to earmark it for older peoples accommodation.

The Toilet Block Area (CrossHills), the land has planning permission for shops and office development, and as such is now on the market.

Royal Oak Site, the owners want to turn the building into flats, and build a new block at the rear. Pat has contacted LCC with strenuous objection to the change of use from Commercial premises, and about the owners cavalier attitude to the work being done. Trees have been widely damaged and cut down without any planning permission being granted, fences to Butt Hill gardens knocked down and general damage being left. Pete has also written to 3 councillors about the owners total disregard to the village, the tree damage and continuing with no permission. The owners have apparently been served with notice to stop work until some resolution is reached.

The Alldays site, Pete reported that negotiation was in progress with the owner of buidings at the rears of the site and that future development now looked likely to happen.

New development next to the Swan, Jaks Icecream Parlour is scheduled to open on the 11th October.

The Hermitage. Pete reported that as a result of all the enforcement proceedings the Council are due to start basic repairs to the fabric of the building in the near future. Pete stressed that this was basic work, primarily intended to make the building safe.

Old second hand shop. After discussion as to the general external appearance it was agreed that Pat and Pete would talk to the owner with a possible view to smartening up the outside.

New Alarm Shop. Mark and Paul intend to open in the near future and have told Karen that they would like come to the next meeting.

'Pig on the Wall' House. Pete said that he thought it would be nice if the frontage could be tidied up to generally enhance the start of the High Street.

Co op. Dave reported that the plans to open a Co op Bank were looking good. The Co op are happy with the number of signatures so far (about 750) though it was felt that to get to 1000 would be nice. Pat and Marie agreed to 'door knock' with the aim of getting to 1000. Karen suggested putting the petition on Facebook to escalate the campaign. Dave also confirmed that, following the recent spate of break ins, security had been improved dramatically.

Pete said the Councillor Wakefield had written to the Co op in support of a Bank and that a local survey had concluded that 94% thought the Bank a good idea and 87% said that they would use a Bank in the village.

Helen reported that work to the render on the row of cottages had started the day of the meeting. When necessary work was completed it was intended to paint the window lintols black and the cottages 'Tobermory' style. (A suggestion very well received). Helen asked Pat if there was any way Kippax in Bloom could lend a hand with the actual painting . It was agreed that help could probably be provided, but would have to be limited to ground floor work as untrained people could not be asked to carry out ladder work. (Pat and Helen to liase about this). As to the proposed gable end mural, it was suggested that the Kippax art group who so successfully converted the old toilet block into a cottage, could be approached to do this work. Helen said that she would like to think the work could be completed by the end of October.

Pete said that he would try to put further pressure on Highways to repair the potholes still evident between the Post Office and Nicki's shop, and, particularly in the light of comments from Marie, would try and do something about litter bins and the general litter problem in the High Street. He again said that if he could be given specific instances of regular 'dog fouling' in areas of the Village he could arrange to have something done about this as well.

Both Peppers and Cross Hills fish shops have now changed hands. Pat reported that the new owner of Cross Hills, who has been visiting the village since early in the year, has commented on the improvement he has seen on the appearance of the High Street. It was again commented on how nicely Cearsars has blended in to the Village since first being approached and that continued 'gently gently' approaches to the Chinese take away might have a similar effect(?).

Pete has spoken to Doug Morley about the possible use of the old Halifax pemises by the Parish Council as Neighbourhood planning offices.

Pete also reported that Barclays had pulled out of any negotiations for putting their building to any particular use. It was said that, nevertheless Barclays should be asked to keep up to the general appearance of the building and surrounds, and Pete agreed to approach Barclays to this end.

Pat suggested that the Village should take on some initiative as a body, and suggested for all traders to stop using plastic bags. This was thought to be a good idea and should be taken up (though it will not happen over night).

It was asked if the Co op could ensure that the re-cycling area could be cleared on a more regular basis.

David asked if there was any site in the village that could be allocated for kids to play on skateboards and scooters. Kids were using the co op car park . Pete said the Council were continually aware of the need for space but at the moment there was nowhere that could be allocated within the village.

The meeting closed at 7.45, and the next meeting was set for Wed. 17th October, 6.00pm at Black and Cream.