

FUSS

Friends & Users of Staplehurst Road Shops

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR 17 NOVEMBER 2009

Meeting Attendees: Kathy Gasson (Chair), Ann Kashmiri (Vice Chair/Secretary), Iain Khan Gilchrist, Stephen Boyle, Hazel & John Savill, Elaine Hayter, Pauline Beck, Sylvia Pearce-Roberts, Ann Bligh, Arlette Dun & Cllr Paul Bentley

Apologies sent: None

CLEAN UP/PLANTING DAY SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER

Richard Bainbridge and Pamela Keats both sent e mails to Kathy saying how much they appreciated the new planting and how lovely the area looked.

STREET REFUSE

Arlette mentioned that the Councils refuse bags should not be placed by the island bed as they were an 'eyesore' Kathy said it would look even worse when the new planting/seating arrangement was put into place. It was suggested the bags could be placed along by the large recycle bins. Paul Bentley said he would speak to the Refuse Dept regarding our concerns.

REPLACEMENT FOR THE ISLAND BED

Kathy circulated a photograph of a suggested alternative to the Island Bed which required replacement. This consisted of 2 large square planters with a bench in between. (as 1 unit) Although some members were concerned that a bench may attract 'undesirables' it was felt the community benefit outweighed this possibility and the majority of members voted agreement to having it. Kathy would ask the Council if the finished article could be weatherproof stained either dark brown or black.

CHRISTMAS FAIR - 2009

ROAD CLOSURE/BARRIERS

Arlette informed us that Craig was willing to help with manning the barriers. It was suggested that all volunteers helping with the road closure should liaise with each other to provide the necessary coverage from late on December 4th and the early hours of the 5th December and during the course of the event, until it ended at 6pm. Arlette said she would contact all members involved and agree a plan of action.

MULLED WINE STALL

Hazel suggested that we serve Apple Juice and Apple Pies as well as the Mulled Wine and Mince Pies. It was agreed that the price for both be £1.50 for a drink and pie, irrespective of whether it was wine or apple juice. Hazel and John very kindly offered to sponsor the mince and apple pies. John will purchase 180 mince pies and 5 boxes of apple pies (quantity unknown)

The Station are sponsoring 12 bottles of wine, Ann Bligh suggested that to ensure we have sufficient for the day she would purchase a further 10 bottles, any unused wine can be stored and used at a later date. Pauline Beck very kindly offered to sponsor 12 cartons of apple juice. The members thanked Hazel, John and Pauline for their very kind sponsorship..

Pauline very kindly agreed to assist Iain with the Mulled Wine stall and it was agreed that we start serving at 2pm..

RAILWAY BANNER

It has been necessary to make another banner to be fixed to the railway slope railings. Elaine's husband John produced a prototype which was approved by the members who also offered their thanks to Elaine and John.

ENTERTAINMENT

CHILDREN'S PLAYBUS

Unfortunately, the Playbus is not available for the 5th December, added to which space for this would have been a problem.

CHOIRS/BANDS

Iain advised the members that Northbrook School Choir would attend the event and would sing between 3.00 – 3.30pm.

FACE PAINTING IN THE STATION

Arlette is to liaise with Jennifer with regard to face paints and starting time. It was suggested a cost of £3 per face be charged.

PA SYSTEM/PIPED MUSIC/FESTOON LIGHTS

As members are aware Elaine very kindly gave us a contact (John Harris) for the PA System. However, the fair last year had the benefit of festoon lights and Deborah said that she could supply a PA System which incorporated all the necessary equipment which came as a package to include the stall lighting. She also agreed to supply the majority of the funding, so we would only have to supply a small amount towards the cost.. Members agreed that this would greatly enhance the fair and thanked Deborah for her sponsorship. However, thanks must go to John Harris for offering to help us on the day and Kathy agreed to phone him to thank him for his offer of help at such short notice.

David Lewis has very kindly agreed to Compere the day for us again this year.

SANTAS PRESENTS

Kathy will be purchasing more presents for this year, cost approx £70, but has suggested that Santa uses those presents left over from previous years initially as the wrapping paper gets 'tired' being stored. It was also agreed that the price should be increased to 40p.

SANTA AND SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER

Sylvia (Pearce-Roberts) has kindly agreed to take on the very important role of Santa's Little Helper to help John Perry, and will wear reasonably festive attire. Santa and his Little Helper will be at The Station to welcome the children from **3.pm** until their bedtime which is around **5.45!! (That's Santa and the Little Helpers bedtime, not the children!!)**

RAFFLE TICKETS

FUSS Stalls will sell Raffle Tickets ie The Bric-a-Brac/Mulled Wine/Tombola stalls we also will endeavour to have a member selling them on a walkabout

NOTICES

Kathy has agreed with Arlette that the FUSS Christmas Notice and the Bric-a-Brac Notice be displayed on the Notice Board and at The Station with effect from Monday 23 November. Members of the community could then take into The Station any items of bric-a-brac and books for the FUSS Stall. Kathy said she would also e mail a copy of the FUSS Notice to Elaine and Hazel for them to copy and display as necessary. Kathy said she would display a Notice in her window, and request Manor Lane Dry Cleaners and Lee Health Centre also to display copies.

IF FUSS MEMBERS HAVE ANY BRIC-A-BRAC OR BOOKS YOU NO LONGER REQUIRE WOULD YOU PLEASE ARRANGE TO TAKE THEM TO THE STATION PUBLIC HOUSE IN STAPLEHURST ROAD FROM NOW UNTIL THE 4TH DECEMBER.

Date of Next Meeting: 16 February 2010 @ The Station

Many thanks to the Church of the Good Shepherd for their hospitality

May I take this opportunity of saying how wonderful it would be to see as many members as possible on the 5th December, your support means so much to us.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL MEMBERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR