

Radley Village Shop AGM - Chairman's report – 21 May 2014.

Good evening and welcome to the 7th Annual General Meeting of The Radley Village Shop Association. I am pleased to report that, at the end of another busy year, that has seen some substantial changes, we have completed another successful year of trading. With careful purchasing, effective marketing and vigilant monitoring of our price margins we have shown an improvement in our end of year profit. Our treasurer, Lynda Pasquire, will shortly give you details of our financial situation in her report.

Once again I would like to record, on behalf of Radley Village Shop Association, my thanks to all of the volunteers who have given of their time freely and willingly during the past year to ensure that the shop is able to open 364 days of the year. Following the closure of Radley Post Office in 2013 the presence of our shop in the village is even more important as, apart from The Bowyers, it is the only retail business in Radley. Apart from being an essential convenience store it is a place where friends and neighbours see each other and share local gossip and banter, particularly about football. Tradesmen coming into the village to work soon discover the shop and are grateful for the variety of goods available. The number of volunteers remains steady at about 60 although we have recently lost a few who, for one reason or another, are no longer able to continue. We are grateful for the time and commitment that they have given to the shop and wish them well. This has resulted in some shifts becoming available. We are currently having a recruitment drive and would welcome anyone who would be willing to help. In the meanwhile we are grateful to our regular volunteers and our reserves who are covering these shifts. The work of the volunteers remain wide and varied - they can choose to work an occasional shift or regular, perhaps, multiple shifts, they may be a volunteer manager, collect the meat and eggs, take care of the IT, regularly check our energy consumption or be a member of the management committee therefore undertaking additional responsibilities such as finance, secretary, rota, manager support, advertising, displays, research, waste and filing. Some volunteers who have regular shifts are even willing to fill in extra shifts if the need arises. Without all these people the shop could not exist. So please, if you are not already a volunteer, do think about it and consider whether you may like to become part of the team.

Once again I would also like to thank our shop manager, John Goodenough, for all of his hard work throughout the year. He continues to work well with the volunteers and has a good relationship with the customers.

I reported last year that the management committee had decided to go ahead with the planned refurbishment of the shop. In October 2013 we carried out a major re-fit. With co-operation from everyone we managed to achieve this whilst only closing the shop for 3 entire shifts for the duration of the work which included replacing the chillers, re-siting the tall freezer, a replacement counter and re-positioned and additional shelving and redecorating. The work did not go entirely to plan as there were serious manufacturing problems with the new chillers which resulted in them being condemned and replaced. It is only recently that the final adjustments have been made and accepted. I hope you will agree that the new equipment and improved layout of the shop has been worthwhile.

The range and variety of goods available in the shop is continually monitored and we often hear comments from customers who are surprised and pleased at the choices on offer. Two

additions that have been welcomed are stamps, since the Post Office closed, and the coffee machine which is proving to be popular with tradesmen in particular.

Once again we are now looking forward to the time of year when our Fresh Produce stand will reappear so that local produce from gardens and allotments can go on sale.

At our last AGM it was agreed that £1000.00 should be set aside for grants for which village organisations could apply. There were 8 applications and they were all considered to be worthwhile, and therefore were allocated a share of the fund. Grants were made to:

1st Radley Brownies
Radley News
Radley Good Neighbour Scheme
Radley Flower Show
Dolphins Swimming Club
Radley Village Hall
Toys for Orphans
Friends of Radley Primary School

You will hear later in the meeting that the management committee is recommending that grant funding should be set aside once again this year.

I have one change to report to the membership of the management committee. Barbara Ellis who has managed the rota since our last AGM has decided to stand down. Barbara has carried out this difficult task very efficiently and I would like to thank her for her hard work in making sure that all of the shifts have been covered, often at the expense of her own time when she has worked additional shifts. I would like to welcome and thank Sheree Beckingham, a regular volunteer, who has agreed to become our new Rota Manager and, therefore, a member of the committee. I am pleased to report that the other members of the committee have agreed to continue for the forthcoming year.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those who are committed to the shop whether as a volunteer or a customer and ask that you continue your support to ensure that the shop remains successful for the benefit of everyone in the village for many years to come.

Bob Earl

Chairman

21/5/14