

Radley Village Shop AGM – Chairman’s report – 20th May 2015.

Good evening and welcome to the 8th Annual General Meeting of The Radley Village Shop Association. I am pleased to report another successful year of trading. Although the turnover for the year was less than the previous year, our overall profit margin showed a small increase. We attribute this to controlled purchasing, monitoring of margins and limiting waste to a minimum. Our treasurer, Lynda Pasquire, will shortly give you details of our financial situation in her report.

I have repeated this comment in each one of my annual reports but it is said again with sincerity that 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. The number of volunteers remains steady at about 60 although, during the year there were a few who, for one reason or another, were no longer able to continue. We are grateful for the time and commitment that they have given to the shop and wish them well. You may have seen from the posters that have been put around the village and in The Radley News that we have been conducting a recruitment drive. This has had some success and we are pleased to welcome several additional volunteers to the team. If anyone here this evening would like to become a volunteer, or knows someone who might, please come and have a word with a committee member after this meeting. The work of the volunteers covers all aspects of running the business and is not just the front-line face of the person behind the till. The future of the shop appears to be secure, but will only remain so with the continued commitment of the volunteers and customers.

It is right to once again record our thanks to our shop manager, John Goodenough, for all of his hard work throughout the year. He continues to work well with the volunteers, has a good relationship with the customers and is very astute with regard to products and sales margins.

The shop has enjoyed the benefits of the refit that was carried out in the previous financial year. There are ongoing problems with the doors on the new chillers but each time something happens Capital Cooling respond and on two occasions engineers have been flown over from Turkey to carry out repairs. There has been a marked reduction in our electricity cost which can be attributed to the efficiency of the chillers.

Two pieces of equipment have been replaced recently. The credit card machine suddenly crashed one Sunday morning so a new one was supplied by Barclaycard within 2 days. This did cause some inconvenience but thanks must go to the volunteers who coped with the situation and to those who installed the new machine.

We have recently replaced the ice cream freezer with the one that was being used as a general freezer in the stock room. This has resulted in a new chest freezer in the stock room.

We still stock a huge range of quality products and continue to source locally from a variety of suppliers. Prices are continuously monitored to ensure that we maintain a fair and sustainable profit margin whilst remaining competitive in the market.

Once again we are now looking forward to the time of year when our Fresh Produce stand is used for the sale of local produce, from gardens and allotments, which is kindly donated to the shop.

I think it is appropriate to record that the four month total closure of Church Road, due to the repairs to the sewer, has had a detrimental effect on the shop. We have noticed a significant drop in weekly takings and in daily foot-fall. Some regulars have found it difficult to get to the shop and we are missing the passing trade. As of Monday Church Road has been partially re-opened to traffic so, hopefully, we will begin to see an improvement in business. We intend to submit a claim against Thames Water for loss of takings.

At our last AGM it was agreed that £1000.00 should be set aside for grants for which village organisations could apply. There were five 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
1st Radley Guides
Radley Flower Show
Radley News
Radley School House Trust

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 am pleased to report that all of the current members of the management committee have agreed to continue for the forthcoming year if that is the wish of this meeting. However Joy Riley who, together with Joyce Huddleston produces all of the advertising posters for the shop, has expressed a wish to stand down from this post if a replacement can be found. Joy has been the inspiration behind most of our advertising and I would like to thank her for all of her hard work. If there is anyone here in the room tonight who has a flair for marketing, and would be willing to join the team, please have a word with me after the meeting. You would not necessarily have to join the committee if you would prefer not to.

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

20/5/15