

# Notes from MBF High St meeting held at 6pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 in the function room of the Rose & Crown

Present: Jeanette Hore, Gill Marengi, Mike Marengi, Sam Santo, Nicky Earler, Jess, Vicky Streeter, Jo Eates, Mark Curtis, Simon Heaton, Jo Lee, Louise Riley, John Riley, Kate Wilson, Andrew Burnett, Veronique Stone, Roger Stone

Apologies: Chris Lilly, Hannah Mold, Holly Chevralls, Sally-Ann Tibbles, Jerry Watkiss, Ian Parker, Michael Wilford, Karenna Wilford, Laurie Wrightson, Abby Lafferty, David Wilson

## Shop news

Jo Eates announced the great news that the **Post Office** would be **re-opening at 1pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May** and that Sam Santo will be working behind the counter. The required phone line has at last been installed which means the date is now firm. Jo is also investigating the possibility of having handrails installed at the side of the steps outside Rusden's.

It was also reported that Mark from Rushers Cross was planning to take over the old Hullabaloo premises as a charity shop, which would be selling children's clothing and equestrian items among other things.

## Events

We then reviewed the main events planned or proposed over the next few months:

**Monty & Ward open evening, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May:** from 5pm - 8pm. Formal opening, showcasing the stock, meet the designers and drinks & bites.

**Mayfair, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 1pm – 4pm:** road closure from 11am to 5pm. Louise announced that she would be running a dog show with four different categories and she was on the lookout for judges. Timetable and list of attractions at [www.mayfieldmayfair.com](http://www.mayfieldmayfair.com) or from the village Facebook page.

**National Gardens Scheme, Open Gardens, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June:** Sally-Ann Tibbles is proposing a Country Brocante Market on the Sunday (16<sup>th</sup>). She is talking to the retailers to check that she has their support. **If you have any comments or concerns please contact her as soon as possible (or I can pass on a message).**

**Parish in Bloom, mid-June to mid-July:** Mayfield and Five Ashes are again entering the Parishes in Bloom category, where we won a gold award last year. In addition, this year Mayfield is entering the Larger Village category.

Eddie Gulliver and Diane Kirkness are willing to do planting but would welcome contributions for plants. Please note also that the Highways Agency risk charging for any installations on public space unless the installation has already been there for several years.

**Mayfield Midsummer Bands evening, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June:** run by Mayfield Bonfire Society.

**Mayfield Carnival, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Sep:** there will be a street market this year. Jo Lee said the Bonfire Society were also considering a Battle of the Bands and a children's workshop. They were looking for more volunteers.

**Farmers Markets:** this idea was again discussed. There was concern over clashing with the trade of some shops but quite a lot of support. It requires a small group to drive it forward if it is to happen.

## Promotion

There is an offer of **free social media training** from professionals for High St traders and other local businesses, particularly on Instagram but also Facebook. At the meeting (Jo E, Simon, Louise, Sam and Kate expressed interest).

If anyone else is interested, then **please let me know**. The idea would be to have an evening meeting, possibly with one session for beginners and one for those who already have experience. The proposed date is now 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Mark also offered to help promote the village and key events, using his website which attracts a large number of visitors

On the question of a **video of the High Street**, various people (Jo E, Sam, Jess) offered to find out if Helme, who did the community play video, would be willing to produce one. Simon offered to do this if no-one else was available.

**Loyalty cards:** two ideas were raised -

- to offer discounts for additional purchases at other shops after a first item had been bought
- to sell a discount card which offered different % discounts at different outlets

Jo E. offered to look into this so **all ideas and offers to assist to her** please

**Maps:** there was a request for maps to be displayed and/or distributed showing the new P.O. and also the car parks. In addition there was still a need for **improved signs to the car parks**.

## Calendar and Cards

Mayfield 2020 calendar is planned to be ready in September to allow much more time for sales before the end of the year.

The retailers present were in favour of Mayfield Christmas cards as well – A6 size and stating a link to charitable causes. There was also a request for framed Mayfield photos to sell.