



Alton Eastbrooke & Wooteys Residents' Association AGM Thursday 6th November 2015

1. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

2. Update from Committee

The committee mentioned the possibility of running a raffle at the December meeting. This idea was supported but would rely on enough prizes and people turning up to make it viable. Coffee & Mince Pies was also suggested.

3. Presentation from the Secretary of Alton Matters

Helen Broadbent (Secretary of Alton Matters) gave an update on the work of the group, which was made up of businesses from across the town. Their aim is to get footfall back into Alton. Despite perceptions, Alton has a high take-up of retail units (higher than Petersfield and Basingstoke), and the group are trying to drive this uptake further still. The group have organised a couple of “scavenger hunts” – challenges aimed at bringing shoppers into the high street and finding certain objects in certain stores. These have proved successful so far. The group were looking to implement late-night shopping in the run up to Christmas, on Friday evenings (which were most popular with shoppers) for four Fridays in a row.

Following questions, these points were raised:

- the Market traders wanted to stay on the High Street;
- the Yuletide Festival was great in bringing people into the town, although they didn't tend to stray far from the stalls;
- The rents of shop units were putting off potential businesses;
- The Weybridge and Post Office buildings were proving difficult to bring back into use;
- The Ivy seems to have had a positive effect on the town, bringing more people out rather than drawing them away from other businesses;
- The group had prepared an “Alton Shopping Guide” pamphlet which was displayed throughout the town and had generated a good response;
- The group would be making use of bus stop advertising where possible;
- The Christmas Lights switch-on would take place on 27th November;
- An event was being planned possibly for next February/Easter to promote local shopping – details to be confirmed.

4. Feedback from Planning Sub-Committee

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The appeal for the development site on top of Old Odiham Road was unsuccessful – the Chairman thanked all those who had their say on this. The referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan would take place some time next year – possibly February. Digging had started at the Cadnam site too. John Geoghegan would be acting Community Project Worker for the Cadnam site development, starting imminently.

5. Local issues and other business

- **ACTION:** John Geoghegan to follow up play equipment at Eggars Close/Adams Way with Hyde Housing;
- There was a week left to comment on the planning application on the High Street Ref 37183/005. Residents were urged to look at the details and have their say.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday 3rd December 2015, 7pm at the Alton Buckle Community Building. Coffee and Mince Pies will be available!