

Earl Shilton Business Forum

Bringing the Business of Earl Shilton area together

Earl Shilton Business Forum
Forum Meeting
Thursday 21st August 2008
Held at Earl Shilton Constitutional Club,
Station Road, Earl Shilton

Present: Robert Phelps, Specnet; Frank Tipper, Deputy Mayor; Janice Richards, HBBC; Sue Langley, BDI; Audrey Green, Earl Shilton Building Society; Ernie Francis, Handy Locals; Judith Studley, HHBC; Geoff Waters, Best of Hinckley; Steve Hardy; Hardy & Draper Carpets; Katherine Davis, AIMS Accountants; Pauline Edwards, secretary.

- 1. Community House :** Rob reported on a notification he has received with details of the relocation of the Community House to Peggs Close. There is an official launch day on Wednesday 3rd September between 11:00-6:00. This is an opportunity to spread the news of the Earl Shilton Business Forum and what it does. Frank Tipper confirmed that the Community Radio would be operating from this venue and would start broadcasting from 1st January 2009. This date has been set to coincide with licensing requirements which run from January to December.
- 2. Signage :** Steve Hardy reported on the progress of new signage for the town to draw people in once the by-pass has opened. He brought along proposed signs which were on display for everyone to view and comment on. These will shortly be available to see on the web site. It was felt that emphasis should be placed on the fact that parking is FREE in Earl Shilton. Steve has offered to take these samples in to local shops to make retailers aware of what is being proposed.
- 3. CCTV :** No progress has been made on this as yet. The problem seems to be 'doing the rounds' of officialdom with everyone passing it on to someone else. It would seem that the police are only interested in number plate recognition systems, but it was strongly felt that the town needs something to monitor anti-social behaviour with a quality good enough to be used as evidence should any prosecutions be required. The matter is still being pursued by the Town Council Planning Committee and the Business Forum.
- 4. Earl Shilton Business Directory/Shopping Guide:** A draft new shopping guide has been produced which Rob passed around. This will be printed as a four fold leaflet which has a map and list of all businesses on one side and other useful information on the reverse. On the map side there are advertising spaces which have all been sold to local businesses. It is envisaged that once initially produced, text and advertisements can be revised at intervals and then reprinted. The biggest difficulty with producing this guide is making sure it is as accurate as possible. With this in mind if anyone spots a business that has been missed off or has now closed please let Rob, Steve or Koreen know asap. This leaflet has been sponsored by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and Earl Shilton Business Forum and it was felt this should be noted on the leaflet with the logos for each sponsor printed. Logos to be sent to Steve asap. Steve and Julie from K2 who have worked on the leaflet are going to the next Town Centre Planning Meeting and should have costings for 5,000 & 10,000 copies. It was felt that some

form of disclaimer should be included to state 'Correct at time of printing' or something to that effect. Next consideration is means of distribution. Ideas please.

5. **Flyer** : As a result of the leaflet we will have some A5 flyers x 2. We need to decide what we want on these flyers. Please pass any ideas to Rob asap.
6. **1st Aid Training** : The Earl Shilton Business Forum has been given funding, some of which has to be set aside for training. With this in mind Steve Hardy has been looking into providing some 1st Aid Courses. The first one is a 4 day 1st Aid at Work which has been arranged for the first and second Thursdays and Fridays in November. The full cost of this is £200 per person but Forum members will receive a 50% grant towards this. At least 5 people are needed to make this possible with a maximum of 12 people. A second one day course for Appointed 1st Aiders will be arranged in the New Year. If you are interested please let Steve know. Notices for these courses will be posted on the web site. If anyone has any other training needs that the forum might be able to help with please let Steve or Rob know.
7. **A.O.B.**
 - a. Mentoring - Rob mentioned that NBV are offering mentoring courses at a very reasonable price. For £250 a business can get 10 sessions of personal 1-2-1 mentoring with a dedicated business adviser. Full details on the website.
 - b. Steve Hardy advised that there will be another Earl Shilton advertising special in the Hinckley Times on September 18th if you want to take advantage of this. Audrey Green expressed concerns that the Hinckley Times often got the ads wrong. Others expressed similar concerns which led to discussions about the best way to advertise. Sue Langley said Leicester Mercury had been very helpful in the past. They also do area features which might be appropriate. Steve offered to look into this.
 - c. Future Development. Judith mentioned the planning applications that are in for future housing/business development in Earl Shilton and Barwell. Any developments will be phased. Consultation period will start in October this year. We will be added to the information contact list.
8. **Future Meetings** : Concern was expressed that the evening meetings of the Earl Shilton Business Forum started too late to encourage people to attend. There was too long a gap between shop closing times and start of the meetings. It was agreed that future evening meetings would start at 5:30 with the club opening early to accommodate the meetings. The committee would like to express their thanks to Janice Richards and the Earl Shilton Constitutional Club for arranging this for them.

October 16th – 5:30-7:30 Earl Shilton Constitutional Club - light refreshments will be served.

December 11th – to include AGM at 5:30.- 7:30 - Earl Shilton Constitutional Club Christmas refreshments will be served. Coffee and soft drinks to be available. This will be an informal networking meeting after the AGM. Anyone and everyone welcome to attend.