

HADLEIGH CHAMBER MATTERS

The newsletter for members of Hadleigh Chamber of Commerce

Let's get this clear...

It is not surprising, given the high level of activity from both the pro- and anti- Tesco groups, that there might be confusion concerning the role of the Chamber of Commerce. It is, however, very straightforward.

As we have made clear through the pages of the *Community News*, and elsewhere, Hadleigh Chamber of Commerce is neither supporting the supermarket plan, nor opposing it.

We urge members to return the questionnaires you have been sent. Without your views we are less effective.

Thus the fact we are not opposing it does *not* mean we are giving it our tacit support, as has been suggested.

We are not entering the debate on the pros and cons of the supermarket plan. Individuals within the Chamber will no doubt have their own views, but as a group, we stay strictly in the middle. It is certainly true that some traders in the town are very positive about the idea of a new retail outlet; others, however, are as negative about its detrimental effect on their business and the town. I could not agree that most of the Chamber members would welcome a supermarket in the town, on either site. Neither could I suggest that most would not.

Each trader will have their own view. The Chamber will not take sides; its job is to make sure that if a

supermarket comes to Hadleigh, the traders and business within the town get the best possible deal, have the correct information as early as possible and have access to expert help. The Chamber enables traders to pool resources; to have a strong voice.

We are conducting our own research amongst traders to enable us better to help. This information will remain strictly confidential and will not be used in the general debate. The Chamber Committee feels that it is important to start speaking for traders as plans are being formed, rather than try to change unsatisfactory conditions.

We will not join forces with any group on either side of the debate. Put simply, the debate is irrelevant to the Chamber. We have to plan for the result, whatever that may be.

THE CHAMBER COMMITTEE

President: Cyndy Hilton
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Vice-President: Fiona Crabtree
(Crabtrees Cafe) 01473 828166

Treasurer: James Walter (Walter Wright) 01473 822143

Committee members:
Peter Brookson (Edwards) 01473 827271

Martin Freeth (Framesore) 01473 822334

John Gediking (Community News) 01206 210757

Jado Kapitan (Barclays Bank) 01473 585608

New start-up facility in Hadleigh

We have a new facility - Hadleigh Business and Learning Centre - for start-up businesses right here in Hadleigh.

Sited at the Lady Lane Industrial Estate these 20 self-contained units are designed to help launch and nurture new businesses.

They provide practical facilities, including broadband access, as well as free start-up advice and include a fully equipped conference room, available for outside hire.

Barry Donovan is Centre Manager. His job is to help local businesses either through his own expertise, or by referral to other local experts. The centre has a fully staffed reception area during normal working hours and ample parking and it shares a building with the Lavender Hill nursery, thus providing a creche virtually on site.

INVITATION

TO MEMBERS

Come and meet Barry at 5.30pm on Tuesday May 4th at the Hadleigh Business and Learning Centre, Crockatt Way, Lady Lane Industrial Estate (behind Hadleigh Building Supplies) when Chamber members are invited to join the Committee for a tour of the new facility.