

# HADLEIGH CHAMBER MATTERS

The newsletter for members of Hadleigh Chamber of Commerce

No 2

**H**alf a year gone and things are moving in the Chamber. Membership is rising steadily - we now have support from almost all High Street traders and are spreading to the industrial estates.

## Traders split on Tescos

**M**any thanks to all of you who returned the questionnaire on the planned new Tesco store. The findings were interesting, not least because they showed that traders are split on the issue. Some look forward to arrival of a new store because they feel it will boost their trade; others fear for the continued existence either of their own shop, or other High Street stores if the new supermarket arrives.

All or most of those replying thought a new supermarket would be particularly damaging for bakers, greengrocers, chemists, electrical stores, delicatessens, off licence, florists, foodstores, butchers, and newsagents.

The replies also showed that many traders believed some shops would benefit from a new store, including the Post Office, jewellers, restaurants and cafes, shoe shops, clothes shops, hair salons, dry cleaners, charity shops, home furnishing suppliers, beauty salons, takeaway food shops, financial advisers, banks and building societies, funeral services and car services.

The Chamber continues to take a middle line. Our meetings with Tesco representatives continue. We want to get information to you as quickly as possible. We have now been told that:

The Hadleigh store would be 20,000 sq ft. By comparison, the

Copdock store sales area measures 60,000 sq ft.

Tescos does not have a policy of across-the-board price cutting. Its usual practice would be to send money-off coupons to club card members living locally. This would probably run for four weeks, with lapsed card holders having a promotion lasting eight weeks or so.

The store design submitted to Babergh District Council at the end of last year is being revised.

---

### ***Sales floor details likely to be last minute decision***

---

We hope soon to have more details of design, positioning, information on the walkway and marketing of the town's traders on the proposed Tesco site. However, it seems unlikely we will have details of what they plan to put on the sales floor for many months. They say this decision is left to the last minute so current trading conditions can be considered.

Of course, the plan is still only a plan, but the Committee feels it best to talk about the issues which will affect Hadleigh traders as early as possible on the basis we can influence decisions but changing them once made would be very much harder.

## Tescos open meeting for Chamber members

All members are invited to an open meeting on the Tescos issue on September 14th at Priory Hall in Benton Street.

You will have chance to question representatives from Tesco and to put your views. We hope all members will take this opportunity to meet the people from Tescos, to seek the answers you need and put forward your opinions.

This meeting will take the form of a panel, chaired by the Chamber. We plan to have representatives from Hadleigh Town Council, Babergh District Council, from a town where the arrival of an in-town supermarket has been beneficial, as well as from where the town has suffered as a result of a new supermarket.

We will give you details of the panel format as soon as possible, but we hope to get a balanced team able to take a positive approach, whichever side of the fence they are on.

This meeting will only be open to Chamber members, which makes it a good time to encourage any non-members who are eligible to join. Forms can be collected from Crabtrees Cafe in the High Street, or from any of the committee members listed overleaf.