

RYE LANE TRADERS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter No. 1.

24 October 2012

Traders agree to set up their Traders' Association

At a meeting on 4th October in the meeting room 135 Rye Lane, traders discussed the issues facing them in Rye Lane, and other parts of the town centre, and agreed to set up a Traders' Association to help them work together on their common interests. Some suggested aims were discussed and agreed for further discussion. These are:

- To encourage communication between members of the association and to identify common concerns or interests and take appropriate action.
- To establish good liaison with community groups representing the interests of residents and shoppers.
- To establish good liaison with the Council, the Police and other organisations and agencies with a role in the town centre.
- To help in promoting the business and commercial interests of members of the Association.
- To contribute to actions that will promote the town centre as a commercial shopping and leisure area.

...it was agreed that membership will be open to all traders in or near Rye Lane, and there will be a small subscription when the Association is set up. Already [60] traders have signed up.

Police Shop Watch Meeting

The local town centre police team held a meeting with the traders on 10th October, and local Council representatives were also present. The traders put a list of points to the police and the council that are coming out of the first discussions in the traders meetings. Some actions were agreed and other matters have to be discussed further. These are some of the points covered:

Christmas Preparations: traders asked for Council support for attractive street decorations, and also for free Council car parks during December. Council agreed to consider both.

Burglaries: too many shops had been burgled with no action being reported to the businesses by the police. Police agreed to look into what improvements could be made.

Shoplifting: traders asked for more support, guidance and training from the police on handling the situation while waiting for police to arrive. Needs further discussion...

Street lighting: council agreed to arrange a street audit with traders after the clocks go back in October to improve dark and unsafe places.

Refuse collection: this is not working well. Traders are encouraged to take photos of any problems, including unauthorised dumping of waste, and send to the council. Contact details will be given to traders.

Safe Havens: this is a new scheme and traders are invited to take part to provide a safe place for young people, in fear being threatened, to hide while police are called. Training for traders will be given.

Council CGS improvement grants: These are available to improve areas. Traders can make proposals (before 30 November 2012) for projects to be carried out from April 2013. *Pass suggestions to Akbar Khan.*

Public toilets: absence of public toilets is leading to anti social behaviour in the street. All agreed to explore a campaign supported by traders and residents against urinating in public.

Next actions

Action on these and other points would be reported at the next traders' meeting (being arranged). The traders are also seeking a meeting with Harriet Harman MP to tell her about the Traders' Association, and ask for her help to improve the way the immigration agencies behave in Peckham town centre.

Please re

**PLEASE NOTE the RLTA return address has changed to:
RLTA Suggestion Box, Khan's Bargain Ltd, 135 Rye Lane, SE15 4ST**

Rye Lane