

Dursley Town Traders Meeting (8/7/14)

Councillor Nelmes and Leah Wellings, Deputy Town Clerk attended the meeting on 8th July 2014 at Hummingbird Cafe. The meeting was attended by approximately 9 traders.

The meetings are held monthly and open to all traders in the town. Agenda items relate to trade, events and issues within the town.

The comments/ideas put forward by traders to be considered included:

- The desire to have more retail units rather than service based businesses (e.g. clothes/shoes).
- The idea that the large vacant electrical shop could be used for small startup units or indoor market stalls.
- Dursley could encourage local craftsman/artists into the town centre by providing small units/market stalls.
- The Old Dairy site behind Parsonage Street was seen as an under utilised space and a good place to develop a bigger market place, hard-standing for additional parking (when not in use) or picnic/seating area.
- Lack of long stay parking was considered an issue for employers/employees and hair salon customers, who often require longer than 3 hours. Parking is an issue for the newsagent on Silver Street.
- Improvements are required to Town Centre signage.
- There is a need to encourage young families and commuters to use the Town Centre for socialising. Cafes need diverse retail to bring customers in.
- A local cinema or somewhere to take children would be good a good attraction/facility.
- It was recognised that Dursley is home to many commuters working at large employers in the area e.g. Renishaw. Commuter numbers will grow with additional housing. Business growth in Dursley itself may be more viable in areas such as retail, garages, transport and the software industry.
- There is a lack of B&B and tourist accommodation. Dursley should take advantage of its place on the Cotswold Way.
- The desire to protect existing traders.
- Pop up stalls would be fine but not when in competition with existing traders.
- Poor visual appeal of Castle Street (back of Parsonage Street shops unattractive).
- Need to encourage people to cross over from Castle Street car parks into the Parsonage Street shops.
- Things to encourage footfall in the town.