

Press Release

Petticoat Lane Emporium Under Threat

Opened in February 2015, Petticoat Lane Emporium in Ramsgate quickly established a loyal following from traders and customers. At a time when Internet shopping has devastated many retail centres, the Emporium has found a market that has grown rapidly in the last twelve months.

Products on offer range from genuine antiques which would not disgrace a London auction house to keenly-priced quirky curiosities ready to be enjoyed by a new owner. From a handful of staff on the opening day, the payroll now supports 20 employees who produce a turnover expected to reach £1 million by the end of the financial year. There are an amazing 200 stallholders who find a busy retail space for their goods and a friendly environment where customers and traders can enjoy social exchanges that enrich their lives in more ways than one.

All of this is now at risk if the planning authorities at Thanet District Council carry out their threat to ban retailing from the building. Housed in a former derelict engineering works, the Emporium has brought new life to the premises which would probably otherwise be demolished.

Dubbed by leaseholders Kevin Shaw and Richard Tozer as the “City of Paraphernalia”, the Emporium attracts customers from all over Kent and beyond. They cannot understand why the council is seeking to close their business. Kevin Shaw said:

“Thanet has the highest unemployment in Kent. It just does not make sense to ruin 200 small businesses and put our 20 staff out of work. We know that this site has provided retailing in the past and all we are asking is that it should be allowed to continue for the benefit of everyone”.

A meeting with officials has been arranged for Monday, 8th February 2016 when the future of this unique outlet at 47 Dumpton Park Drive will be discussed.

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Information

District Chamber of Commerce was established in 1850 and gives business support to the private and voluntary sector in Dover, Deal, Sandwich and Shepway. Thanet & East Kent Chamber provides business support to firms in Ramsgate, Margate, Deal, Broadstairs, Manston, Sandwich, Birchington, Hersden and elsewhere in East Kent.

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