Cover letter in support of Planning Application at School Street, Holmfirth HD9 7EQ

23 February 2023

Planning Application:

Use of cul-de-sac at School Street, Holmfirth for temporary community retail market on two days per week for a period of three years. Use of a garage on School Street for storage of market equipment and ground next to the garage for wheelie bin waste storage.

This Planning Application is made by Holmfirth Forward, a community company, that has been promised a License to operate a Market by Kirklees Council if Planning Permission and other requirements are obtained.

This follows from the decisions by Kirklees Council to demolish the existing Holmfirth Market to form an extended car park with facilities for an Open Air Market and other festival activities on the same site. This Application is designed to provide a temporary home for the market traders during the period of construction. When the former site is available, the traders will return to that site, subject to further Planning Permission. This is therefore an Application for Temporary Permission in two senses:

1. Application is made for a length of 3 years to account for slippage in the construction period, but School Street will be abandoned earlier if possible. It is currently expected that construction work will begin on 15 May 2023 and last for 12-15 months.
2. Application is made for the Market to be open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 08.00 to 15.00, plus set-up and clear-away time.

It is expected that 3-6 stalls will operate at each opening, but there is a desire to grow the number of stalls and should this happen, we will need to seek an amendment to this Application. Should permission be granted, continued part-time employment will be enabled for up to six people; if it is refused it will not be possible to find another site before ejection occurs and the market will cease in Holmfirth.

Officers and landowners have been very helpful in the formulation of this proposal, the site having changed very recently from an earlier suggestion at the other end of Crown Bottom car-park due to various factors. It is understood that there is every support and no objection for this proposal from all we have consulted. Clearly, we will need to be mindful of management issues. These include maintaining good access to Holmfirth Methodist Church for vehicles and pedestrians, especially on a Saturday morning when an indoor market takes place; and site tidiness, including awareness of fly-tipping.

Kirklees Council will need to provide License to occupy part of the site, adjust parking restrictions and possibly institute Road Closures on market days, following granting of Planning Permission. However, we understand that this is likely to be straightforward in each instance.

As explored in the Application, this community venture enhances all planning and related policies, helping secure business and visitor activity in the centre of Holmfirth.

Please do be in touch if I can be of further assistance, bearing in mind the tight time schedule to which we are operating.

Yours sincerely

Steve Davie

Steve Davie stevedavie43@gmail.com 07918654956

93 The Village, Holme, Holmfirth HD9 2QG