

Kensington High Street Retail Forum Newsletter March 2014

New Chair for the Retail Forum

Jason Window, Sales Coordinator of the Roof Gardens was voted in as the new Chair of the Retail Forum at the meeting on 13 February.



Comment from the new Chair

I'm delighted to have the opportunity to take over as Chair because I think there is a real opportunity for the forum to develop. It was sad there were no Christmas lights along the High Street last year, but this failure is a chance to re-think how the forum works and what it does.

At the February Retail Forum meeting we talked more about how the forum can be re-energised and we decided to hold a re-launch event, which I am pleased to announce the Roof Gardens will host.

In the next few weeks I will be coming round and introducing myself

to as many businesses as I can. I want to find out what the Retail Forum could do that would make a difference for your business. There are some ideas overleaf, and a recap of what has been done so far, but I want to know what you think and how we can all work together.

Re-launch event

The next meeting of the retail forum will be a re-launch networking event, at the Roof Gardens, 6.00pm-8.00pm on 28 April. This will be an opportunity to get together with other businesses over drinks and canapés in Babylon restaurant which has an amazing view across London.

Numbers are limited to 50-60 so please RSVP to Jason Window tel: 0207 368 3979 email: jason.window@roofgardens.virgin.com



The Roof Gardens' Spanish Garden

Retail Forum Meetings

In 2014 Retail Forum Meetings will be held at 10.00am on Thursday:
12 June
14 August
16 October
18 December

We would like to hold these meetings in different locations so if you would like to host a meeting please contact Jo Hammond.

Stay in the Loop

If you would like to receive future newsletters via email, please email us your name, position and shop name and we will make sure you keep up to date!

Kensington High Street Shopping Guide



Map, shopping guide and more - rbkc.gov.uk/visit

If you have anything to add or change on these web pages please contact Jo Hammond.

Events

On 1st April 2014 the Mayor will be hosting a Business Networking Reception for his charity, Trinity Hospice, taking place in the Mayor's Parlour at The Town Hall in Hornton Street W8 from 6.30 p.m.

Representatives from a wide range of business organisations will be attending and if any members of the High Street Retail Forum would like to attend, please email Mayor@rbkc.gov.uk with your name and address.

A formal invitation will then be sent to you. The evening is free of charge and will be an excellent opportunity for networking.

What does the Retail Forum do currently ?

Bimonthly meetings

Meetings are organised by Jo Hammond who works for the Council, and Chaired by a local business. Past Chairs have been the managers of M&S and Wholefoods. Meetings are usually held at the Town Hall, but have been hosted by Kensington Palace, The Copthorne Tara Hotel, The Royal Garden Hotel and Gap.

Newsletters

These are generally produced bimonthly, distributed by email and by hand, often by the police.

Business Crime Reduction

The police normally attend retail forum meetings and present information on crime and police activities in the area. At the February meeting Mark Bembow RBKC's Chief Community Safety Officer talked about his role as the Council's link to the police and how tackling business crime has become a higher priority for London's Mayor.

Christmas lights

Until last Christmas the Retail Forum organised contributions from individual businesses to pay for Christmas lights in the street trees. The lights cost about £10,000 to put up and it was not possible to raise the funds last year.

Famers' market

The forum has been investigating holding a Friday Farmers' Market in Derry Street or Phillimore Walk.

Visit Britain video clip

For about £3,000 a 5-6 minute clip promoting Kensington High Street could be produced. This would be used in Visit Britain's international tourism marketing

activities, which are funded by the Government.

Map, shopping guide and more - rbkc.gov.uk/visit

The Kensington High Street map is now no.3 on Google search for images of Kensington High Street.

How might this change?

Monthly meetings in different locations

If businesses are prepared to host meetings then we could alternate between daytime business meetings and less formal evening networking events.

Links to the Kensington Magazine

The Kensington Magazine is produced locally, the editor could come and talk to the forum.

Intelligence sharing

Would businesses be interested in sharing information confidentially on how the High Street performing?

Planning for the Future

Nationally 30% of retail leases are coming up for renewal by 2015. Many big retailers are reducing the number of shops they operate. This could result in a lot more vacancies on the High Street. Is there anything the forum should be doing? The Design Museum will be relocating to the former Commonwealth Institute. What can the forum do to prepare for the opportunity of more visitors?

Have you got any other ideas?

Let us know, come to the re-launch event, or send an email to Jo Hammond.