

Enquiries to: Alan Franks

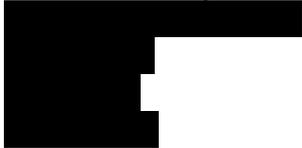
Direct Dial: 024 7637 6439

Direct Email: alan.franks@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

Our Ref: AF/BD

Mrs Dawn Maycock



Dear Mrs Maycock

**THE BISTRO – CIVIC HALL BEDWORTH PETITION**

Thank you for your letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 concerning the above and accompanying petition sheets that I received on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

As the petition sheets I have received contain 415 signatories [of which 298 are valid in that they contain the full postal address of the signatory] and in accordance with the Borough Council's Petitions Scheme, I have forwarded the petition sheets and your covering letter to Brent Davis, the Borough Council's Director – Assets and Street Services to deal with as an "ordinary petition".

Mr Davis will provide you with a substantive reply to the contents of the petition no later than 15 working days from the date of this letter, i.e. by no later than 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

In accordance with the Borough Council's Petitions Scheme, I shall also place a copy of this acknowledgement letter to you, together with details of the petition's contents, on the Borough Council's website in the next 5 working days, i.e. by no later than, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

I have enclosed a copy of the borough Council's Petitions Scheme for your information.

Yours sincerely

Alan Franks – Managing Director

### **The Bistro – Civic Hall Petition**

I have received, on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018, a petition in relation to the Borough Council's decision, taken in November 2017, to change the Bistro service at the Civic Hall from its current format to a coffee shop with a limited food offer.

The subjects of the petition are as follows:

*“I would like to bring to your attention the fact that the Civic Hall in Bedworth is closing their bistro. Can I ask why this is?”*

*There is nowhere else in Bedworth to go for a lunchtime meal. Meeting friends in Bedworth to socialise is the only opportunity, many elderly people get.*

*It gets them out of the house for exercise, fresh air, etc. Without this they will vegetate sitting at home with nowhere to go.*

*The meals at the Civic Hall are very good. The staff are excellent.*

*Could you please reconsider this decision?”*

And

*“We the undersigned are strongly opposed to the closure of the Bistro at the Civic Hall in Bedworth.*

*The Bistro is used by many of the people of the town.*

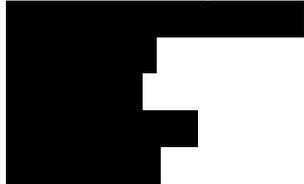
*For many older folk it is the only place they can go to have a hot meal.”*

The petition has been signed by 415 signatories, 298 of which have supplied a full postal address as required in the Borough Council's Petitions Scheme.

Alan Franks

Managing Director

Mrs Dawn Maycock



Enquiries to: Brent Davis  
Direct Dial: 024 7637 6347

Direct Email: [brent.davis@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk](mailto:brent.davis@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk)

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018  
Our Ref: Mrs Dawn Maycock Petition Reply 080318

Your Ref:

Dear Mrs Maycock

**REPLACEMENT OF THE CIVIC HALL BISTRO SERVICE WITH A COFFEE SHOP AND MORE LIMITED FOOD OFFER SERVICE – PETITION RECEIVED**

I am writing in relation to your letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 and the enclosed petition that accompanied it relating to the above, which were received by Alan Franks on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The petition had a total of 415 signatories of which 298 were valid ones. You will be aware that Alan Franks, the Borough Council's Managing Director and Petitions Officer, has asked me to deal with the petition in accordance with the Borough Council's Petition Scheme as an Ordinary Petition.

The decision to change the Civic Hall's current Bistro service to a Coffee Shop service with a more limited food offer was very reluctantly taken by the Council's Cabinet at its meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 as part of a package of savings put together by the Council in response to Government funding cuts. The Council has a legal duty to make its books balance and since it has lost around 60% of its Central Government grant since 2010, it has been forced to take some very tough decisions over the last few years. To be able to set a legal budget for 2018/19 alone the Council had to address a shortfall of some £1.15m.

As part of addressing the £1.15m shortfall for the 2018/19 financial year the Council has had to look very carefully at reducing costs of services, particularly "discretionary services" i.e. those that it does not have a legal duty to deliver. One of these discretionary services is the Civic Hall Bistro. The difficult decision that the Borough Council has taken to change the Bistro service to a Coffee Shop service with a much more limited food offering will save £34,000 a year. What this means is that the new Coffee Shop and more limited food service will be able to break even on its operating costs, since despite previous cost cutting measures that have been implemented over the last few years, and the hard work of the staff who work at the Bistro, it has consistently made a loss of around £30,000 a year. This loss has been mainly due to the relatively low number of customers using it on a regular basis.

The Borough Council is unfortunately no longer able to sustain such a loss on a service we are not legally required to provide.

The new Coffee Shop and more limited food service will commence after Easter. The Borough Council very much recognises that the Civic Hall Bistro is valued highly by its regular customers, some of whom use it as a place to meet and socialise with friends as much as, if not more than, a place to eat. This is why the opening days and hours of the new Coffee Shop and more limited food service will be the same as those of the current Bistro service. This will still give regular customers the ability to meet friends at the same time and on the same days as they do now. While we can no longer afford to provide full hot meals, the new service will provide hot food on its menu such as paninis, toasted sandwiches, breakfast batches and soup.

In conclusion, the Council does understand that the full Bistro service at the Civic Hall will be much missed by customers, but when faced with the enormity of the savings we have been required to make it is simply not affordable to continue to provide a loss making full Bistro service after Easter 2018. However, the opening days and hours of the new Coffee Shop and more limited food service will be the same as those of the current Bistro service.

Yours sincerely

Brent Davis  
Director –Assets & Street Services