

1/8/1  
October, 1978. E16

Dear Resident,

I expect you have noticed or heard about the creation of a restaurant to be opened shortly at the bakery in Tatsfield part of which traded as 'DICKS' grocery store up until the end of July.

We aim to be open for business as from Sunday the 26th November and as the project exists very much in the centre of the village I feel it might be mutually advantageous to tell you something about it.

My name is P. Johnston and I have lived at 'Totem Ridge' in Paynesfield Rd for nearly 25 years and somehow the prospect of the village, without the old bakery and the proposal by some 'developer' to build six houses in its stead, didn't seem credible to me or to most others to whom I spoke.

For some years I have considered the possibility of opening a restaurant and upon being given an encouraging architectural report, Dick Watson agreed to sell the property to me with sufficient adjoining land for car parking and building of the new kitchen.

Upon application to the authorities I was to my great surprise and delight granted a full 'on license' for the sale of liquor, and so in addition to the restaurant, the reception bar (which will bear the not so original title of 'DICKS') should offer all the facilities associated with a public house, about which perhaps one should make no further comment.

Knowing nothing about restaurants (and for that matter not a great deal about anything else) yet nevertheless having fairly definite opinions about what I feel may be reasonably expected from them, I asked Mr. P. Owen also of Tatsfield and whom I have known for most of his life and whose livelihood is very much concerned with culinary matters, (apart from being Chairman of the Parish Council) to assist me in the project, to which he readily agreed.

Having in our opinion employed one of the best builders, laid out the restaurant and equipped the kitchen with virtually no expense spared (you should see the bills!) with hand pumped beer in 'DICKS' and air conditioning throughout (as there is no charge for the aroma of cooking or tobacco smoke we decided we couldn't let you go home with them) we hope we have established the right foundations; time and Midland Bank will no-doubt confirm this or otherwise.

Of-course we shall have our teething troubles (like trying to make a profit?) but we expect to surmount these fairly soon with the suggestions and co-operation of any patrons.

Our Spanish manager 'Joe' and his English wife 'Margaret' will be living in and as he is undoubtedly known to some of you we are delighted with his involvement.

Apart from 'English fare' we will offer charcoal barbecue cooking as a central feature in the restaurant itself and we intend to vary the menu a little, but regularly.

It's not easy to predict how much trade we may reasonably expect from within the parish and immediate surrounding areas without advertising (or even with) or how viable the project may be as a result of personal recommendation (or otherwise) alone, but to determine our survival that is what I would prefer.

So you have been warned, we shall be delighted to welcome you the moment the 'old bakery restaurant' flag breaks from the pole and our telephone number (if still connected) is 605, should you however feel reckless before this and be thinking about Christmas occasions etc. (I understand that New Years eve is already over subscribed) please contact Margaret at Westerham 62771.

Yours with undying friendship,

Sorry

P.T.I.