

For the attention of Woodford Parish Council

Ref: Change of 57 High St from Salon to residential

Dear Sirs,

I note your comments against the above proposal and feel as the present owner of the property I would like to express my point of view on the subject.

I have owned the property for the past 18 years and operated the salon to the best of my ability, but unfortunately due to poor health and retirement I need to sell. Since April 22 I have tried hard to sell the house and salon but to retain the salon as a business but unfortunately not one enquiry, this is probably down to the fact it is in a small village location and I only had enough clientele to open from Wednesday to Saturday morning, this is not enough to sustain a mortgage for a future buyer.

Over the past years as a village we have lost many shops, which include the Co-op, Butchers, a few Public houses to my knowledge and the Fish & Chip shop still remains empty, this is obviously down to lack of local support, most of these building are now residential.

Basically with regret it seems the salon is no longer viable as a business, unless like myself you have no overheads. I have taken steps to help the Ladies who worked in my salon to set up at another location in Woodford, but again they are struggling to have enough clientele to open beyond 2 ½ days a week.

So I have two alternatives open to me, I rent the house to gain an income whilst the Salon becomes another empty shop on the High St or I sell to a lovely American couple who are ready to embrace the English village life and are actually keen to use the local amenities, they also love the history of the house and village and plan to retain all the traditional features internal and external, their intension is to make their life here with their two children.

I think you will agree the later is more appealing.

The salon has always been connected to the house via an internal door to the hallway and it is the buyers intension to use the salon as extra living and storage space. During Covid 19 lockdown the door was blocked up for safety reasons, but can easily be opened up again, as this is not structural.

I hope you can find a way to speed up the process of transferring the salon to residential status, as I fear we may loose our American friends as a buyer, which will mean the salon will remain another empty building on our High ST.

Kind regards

Marion Howard