

Clerk's Report – Holkham Parish Council – Tuesday 9 July 2024

I had a very amicable meeting with Peter Mitchell on 22 May. I said that various local residents had approached Councillors to say that they were unhappy at the fact that since the repurposing of the Reading Room, there was now no longer a suitable place for community activities in the village. They were also unhappy at the loss of a public house that was accessible to them.

Peter said that the loss of the public house was also felt by members of the staff, who often used to meet there in small groups. The reason for the change was the fact that it was difficult to staff the Vic if it was open to all-comers as well as to residents. In the past they had had too many occasions when there were not enough staff, hence risking upset to hotel residents, or too many, resulting in uneconomic operation. I suggested that perhaps out of season at least, they could open to non-hotel guests on regular known occasions, such as “the first Wednesday of the month” or whatever. He would discuss this with the Vic management.

With regard to a “social centre” the Estate were already looking at the long-term use of the Reading Room, although there was still a lease to the outdoor shop during this year.

Peter said that he would like to attend one of our meetings at some time, I said that he would be very welcome.

Probably better if you have a lie-in on Sunday 7th as up to 1500 cyclists will be using local roads as a racetrack. I have no idea why they are allowed to do it! I have written to complain to NCC Highways, but they seem to think that it is a good idea.

As I write this before the General Election of 4th July, may I wish you the national government that you had hoped for during the next five years.

KL 7/2024