

Statement prepared for BANES Cabinet Meeting 02 December 2009

I came to Keynsham nearly 50 years ago, like so many then, as an employee of J S Fry & Sons. At that time, in the early 1960s we numbered some 5000.

My wife was born and brought up in Keynsham, her family can trace its origins here to the 1600s. Together, in Keynsham, we have raised 4 children and built-up 2 successful businesses which, over the years, have employed more than 200 local people. We have both been and are still active in our community and have elected to remain here, amongst family and friends, in our retirement.

I believe I am well qualified to make the observation that during the time I have been here Keynsham has lost its' identity and to a large extent, its' sense of community. Sadly, successive authorities have done nothing to address this sorry situation.

However, the redevelopment of the Civic Centre presents a unique opportunity to do something positive for Keynsham. The more especially if any scheme is handled sensitively and with provision for us properly to celebrate the remarkable history of this town, by having a permanent heritage display incorporated in the proposed development. This is long overdue.

I believe that what is proposed, if handled correctly and provision made for the existing retailers, will go a long way to restoring our sense of civic pride. It is within your power. I would urge you not to fail us, the people of Keynsham, in this matter.

Permitted point of information

The *Keynsham Collection* consists of both Roman and Medieval artefacts, which are acknowledged to be of considerable archaeological importance – not just Roman artefacts as referred to by members and in the papers tabled.

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