

Ref/ 17/00047/RREF

Kelso Square.

I would like to offer my support for the change of use in relation to the above application.

As I said in my original comments this shop is in a prime location in Kelso Square and has stood empty for well over a year.

In an ideal world I would like to see every shop to sell 100% retail goods but in the climate we are in just now with on line shopping and large supermarkets those days are behind us.

I support the protection policy in principle but I think there has to be a time when we say there is no advantage in having this shop sitting empty indefinitely in this prime town centre location.

Surely it is more beneficial to have the town centre vibrant with open shops offering a wide range of goods and services and providing employment.

Recent figures show footfall in Kelso fell recently and empty shops do nothing to help this trend.

I would appeal to the committee to allow this shop to reopen offering a vital service to the community and allow the Square to return to the gem it is.

This location has become an eye sore for too long and it's unfair to the businesses along this side of the Square who are trying very hard to enhance their properties and increase business.

I will allow the applicants agent to explain in more detail the planning arguments around this application.

My view is of a Kelso resident who is convinced this is the right thing to do and has the overwhelming support of the Kelso public and the other shopkeepers.

Tom Weatherston

Councillor for

Kelso and district.

Sent from my iPad