

The Canterbury Society

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Regeneration and Economic Development
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
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16 January 2013

Dear Mr Brown

Ugly shop fronts and uncontrolled signage in Canterbury

We are contacting you because we are becoming more and more concerned about the proliferation of ugly shop fronts and uncontrolled signage in the city. This is an issue which concerns many of our members. We would like to highlight some examples.

- 1 The new Chinese takeaway at 47 St Peters Street seems to have been approved by the City Council, despite being expressly contrary to adopted planning policy.
- 2 This lapse in control has now spawned a competitor at 26 St Peters Street. In this case another bright internally illuminated projecting sign has been added to a refitted Chicken take-a-away, which occupies a grade II Listed building.

Others which concern us include:

- 3 The unauthorised sign at 2 Palace Street, which has been there for several years
- 4 The signs on the news agent at the corner of Orchard St and St Dunstan's Street
- 5 Numerous other signs in St Peter's Street, such as those on the Megaphone shop, on Tacos Logos and on Okabasi.

The deterioration in our legacy of historic buildings and in the visual appearance of our city is serious in itself. But it is also a problem when so many people and groups are working to prepare Canterbury to go in for the Britain in Bloom competition in 2013. St Peter's Street in particular is a key thoroughfare through the city, but last year we did not feel we could take the judges there because of its shoddy appearance.

We would like to be reassured that the City Council continues to be committed to the control of advertisements and signage in the city. We would also like to know what action is to be taken about the particular signs listed above. Thank you for your help with this.

Yours sincerely

Jan Pahl CBE, Chair
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