

# KENT MESSENGER

## Closure of Woolworths

31.12.08

A couple of week ago I met the management and staff of Woolworths in the town centre to ask whether I could help in any way following the company's impending closure.

The staff and management are super good people who will be out of a job unless a buyer can be found. This is unlikely at the moment as the potential buyers cannot raise the cash. The taxpayers have recapitalised our banks but this has not recapitalised our economy. And I am very afraid that one of Britain's oldest retail names will close before its 100th birthday next year.

Unfortunately, some of them had been in touch with the Job Centre who had two retail jobs - and bearing in mind this is the busiest trading period of the year - one was a management job in a local bakers and the other was temporary in Bluewater until the beginning of January. There were no administrative jobs either.

To compound their misery they have to put up with foul mouthed customers. I witnessed one man abusing a member of staff with the 'F' word , who did not "give a \*\*\*\*" that the staff would be loosing their jobs". I am told that this is not uncommon if customers can't find what they want in the 50% off sale . There is not much point, but can I ask those uncouth people to please be courteous to people who will soon be out of a job with no prospect on the horizon of getting another one any time soon?

