



news release

NORWICH LANES STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HOWARD LEE

The following statement is from Norwich Lanes Traders Association in support of Howard Lee's quest to re-enter the UK:

"Howard Lee has been an incredibly positive figure in and around Norwich for over 10 years. He also met and married his wife, Fiona, in Norwich, a PHD student at University of East Anglia in Norwich.

It was therefore a great shock to Norwich Lanes members when Howard was unable to return to the UK after a trip to Malaysia to apply for a permanent visa to the UK.

Howard was a founding member of the original Norwich Lanes committee at its inception in 2005. He was a chef and leading light at Bedford's bar and restaurant in Bedford Street and opened the venue's doors to the then new Norwich Lanes committee in order for meetings to take place there.

Always a gentlemen, a thoughtful and obliging man, he put a lot of effort into helping the early Norwich Lanes movement progress.

Since the refusal of Howard's re-entry back into the UK in 2007, many of his friends and colleagues have signed a petition in favour of his visa application.

The petition now has over 1000 signatories, many of which are business associates of Howard within Norwich Lanes and their customers who knew him personally.

Norwich Lanes Traders Association wishes Howard all the best with his fight to return to his wife and friends in Norwich and we look forward to welcoming him back home in the near future."

- notes to Editors follows -

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About Norwich Lanes

Norwich Lanes Traders Association was set up in 2006 to represent the interests of the range of independent businesses trading within the historic quarter of Norwich City centre.

The organisation primarily works to raise awareness of Norwich Lanes as a number one destination for shoppers, tourists, and socialising and targets people from within as well as outside of Norfolk.

Independent shopping has grown in popularity as people search for an alternative to generic shopping malls and national chains. Today, the businesses within Norwich Lanes offer one of the UK's best selections of unique and independent shops, mingling between an extensive collection of restaurants, cafes and bars.

Norwich Lanes is also home to a wealth of heritage sites and beautiful architecture as well as theatres and museums. Throughout the year, many events are held within Norwich Lanes including music festivals, photographic and craft exhibitions, an ice sculpture trail, and the famous Norwich Beer Festival.

Norwich Lanes Traders Association also works to provide a forum for debate between the businesses in the area about the future of Norwich Lanes and works closely with Visit Norwich and Norwich City Council regarding tourism and renovations of the area.

For further media information please contact Robin Phillips at REP PR on 0207 503 5752, 07947 427250 or robin@reppr.co.uk.

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