

The Community Shop Project – UPDATE, FUNDING APPEAL AND PUBLIC MEETING October 08

Dear Resident,

PUBLIC MEETING WITH LOCAL FOOD TASTING

First of all, a date for your diary: we invite you to enjoy a glass of wine and taste some local food whilst hearing all about recent developments and future plans for our community shop on

**Wednesday 15th October 2008
at the Memorial Hall
at 7.30 pm.**

PROGRESS

Only briefly at this stage, here are the most important developments on the community shop:

Planning permission. We obtained outline planning permission for our new build on the edge of the Galleries Field next to the Memorial Hall in March and have now applied for the remaining detailed permission. A positive decision is expected by the middle of October. Plans have been available for inspection.

Fundraising. We applied for various grants and have been successful in obtaining **£90,000** from the Government's Rural Renaissance Scheme and **£20,000** of Store's the Core grant from the Rowntree Foundation plus a low-interest **£20,000** loan from that source.

To obtain those grants, we had to show that we were able to finance most of the rest of the project, and so we had a frantic whip-round back in early June amongst a small group of residents. These people – some 22 households – were unhesitating in their response to our appeal. They rose to the occasion and committed to a total of **£71,260!** This money will not actually be required until building starts hopefully in November but we are extremely grateful for their invaluable support without which we would not have achieved these vital grants.

We have also obtained contribution commitments from both parish councils and raised some £10,000 over the past year through events. Even so, we will still need more funds, and enclosed with this notice you will find an invitation for YOU to contribute whatever capital sum you can afford. Please consider this seriously as the shop will be of benefit to EVERYONE so EVERYONE should be considering how they might contribute.

Charitable status. One way to make our money go further is to obtain charitable status. With that, each £100 donated from taxed income will be worth £128 to the project with Gift Aid. We have set up a company limited by guarantee, soon to become a charity, by the name of **Freshford and Limpley Stoke Community Association** or **FLISCA**. This will be a democratic organisation, with all Limpley Stoke and Freshford residents qualifying for membership. It has the support of both Parish Councils.

At our public meeting we want to tell you about this and how it will work.

Getting the shop built. We are in a hurry – not only does our £90K Rural Renaissance Grant need spending by 31st March 2009 or we lose it; but also we are very keen to get the shop going because it's been 2½ years of hard work already to get this far! We hope to make it a 'design & build' project and have four proven construction companies in mind who are willing to bid for the project on this basis. The detailed specification is currently in preparation.

The reverse credit scheme. Please remember that 2½ years ago, this committee only embarked on this project because of the very positive commitment obtained at our first public meeting. We told you what kind of shop we were planning to create and asked you commit to a monthly spend in the shop, channelled through a two-year Bank Standing Order. Total commitments were substantial, giving us the confidence to go ahead. We hope to approach those of you who aren't perhaps aware of this scheme to add your support to these commitments. We also asked for volunteer shop workers and have a useful list – but still need more.

Meeting. Our public meeting will be another chance to tell you about the proposed shop – the opening hours, the goods and services we plan to provide, and how it will operate. We will also want your input on extra facilities you might wish to see, to consult you on how to decide on the initial stock list, and to recruit extra expertise for the running of the shop. We could still do with legal, financial, marketing, retail and handyman's skills.

See the separate sheet for our funding appeal. Please return your form to the address below.

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY SHOP

Dear Resident,

Now that our community shop is much closer to becoming a reality, we need to appeal to ALL of you to go that last mile and make a small or large contribution towards the construction cost of our new build shop post office and café by the Memorial Hall. We intend to approach EVERYONE – because it will benefit EVERYONE in one way or another – not only a shop but as a post office, a café, a focal point for the community, and an opportunity for volunteering and helping each other; and by offering business services to those who work from home.

Please complete the form below return it to us at Hillside Farm, Church Lane, Freshford, BA2 7WD. We are counting on you! We have already raised **£210,000** for the building but need **£80,000** more to create a truly sustainable building, for fitting it out and for initial stocks. With some 500 households involved in our two villages, that does not require a great sacrifice from everyone - but it would be wonderful if EVERY household could feel they were making SOME contribution to the project.

Name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____

Email: _____ Tel: _____

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

I/ We the undersigned will contribute _____ towards the community shop and enclose a cheque for that amount (please make out to FLISCA). We confirm that we have paid income tax on this amount so that you can reclaim Gift Aid. (To be eligible for Gift Aid you are confirming that you have paid, or will pay, at least as much UK tax - for the tax year in which you are donating - as the amount FLISCA will reclaim on your donation).

SHOPPING COMMITMENT

In order to show my/our commitment to the new shop, I/we will participate in the proposed Reverse Credit Scheme. Once the shop is up and running I/we will set up a **monthly Bank Standing Order valid for two years** in favour of the shop for expenditure of:

£43 pm (= £10 weekly) **£65 pm** (= £15 weekly) **£87 pm** (= £20 weekly) other **£ ____ pm**

I/we understand that the monthly sum will be credited to my/our shop account, which will then be debited by the amounts of my/our purchases on a day-to-day basis through the month. Any credit balance will be carried forward to the next month.

PRACTICAL FORMS OF HELP

Please tick as appropriate below:

I would like to be considered for the Management Committee

I would like to help by working in the shop as a volunteer (we envisage three to five hour shifts)

I would like to be considered for the post of shop manager

I can help in other practical ways:

We will be collecting this form from you over the next week or two but you can help us by returning it yourself, to the address below. If you have any questions, please call on any one of us!