



East Boldre Community Stores is no longer buying the shop and Post Office.



East Boldre Community Stores Limited was incorporated as a community benefit society with the sole aim of safeguarding the long-term future of East Boldre's shop and Post Office, essential to the life, vitality and resilience of our village.

Our offer for the existing shop premises (which has been under threat of closure since 2014) was accepted on 5th January 2022 and, with a detailed business plan in place and an award of £250,000 from the government's Community Ownership Fund, we started to really push ahead with our local fundraising!

However, on 22nd January 2022 the owner informed us that he intends to continue to run the shop and Post Office himself, deciding this is the best approach for both him and his family. The whole process of discussions with us over the last few months has crystallised his own needs and priorities.

Therefore, he has decided to pull out of the agreement to sell the property to us. We have spoken to the owner at length and understand this is his final decision.

We are pleased that the owner's decision does mean that the shop and Post Office will continue. For us this is arguably a much simpler solution.

We made the difficult decision to immediately stop this fundraising process, we cannot continue in good faith, now the existing owner has pulled out. We have repaid our early investors.

This does mean we will not have the necessary match funding in place in time to secure the £250,000 Community Ownership Fund award so we will lose this funding, which was essential to achieving our project.

We had exciting plans for the business and, after all of the hard work to date, are clearly very disappointed we will not get a chance to implement them.

We do hope to continue to work with the owner sharing our learning from other community shops and supporting this local business.

We have also amassed a wealth of local contacts and knowledge (managing community projects, fundraising etc) that we hope might be useful to other community organisations.

We will be working over the next couple of weeks to wind up the society's affairs including:

- Communicating this change to the community and would be happy if you helped spread the news.
- Reclaiming outstanding monies (VAT, cancelling subscriptions etc)
- Settling any outstanding invoices and returning remaining grants to the providers.
- The community benefit society will be liquidated.

And finally...



The management committee would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to all those who have supported us in our efforts, in particular to our enthusiastic lane representatives.

We hope in a small way to have strengthened the community by bringing people together who would otherwise not have met.

Judith Richardson, Rebecca Gabzdyl, Mike Hawker, Anna Rostand and Nick Thompson