



The proposed plan for our larger, more accessible village shop



A planning application for change of use was submitted to the New Forest National Park Authority on 13 August. Although we are not extending the building, permission for change of use is needed to expand the retail area of the existing shop inside the premises.

The shop area will expand from 66 to 114 m². This extra space is essential to the shop's long term financial viability and will give us room to improve accessibility by widening the aisles. Most of the work proposed is internal to open up the space.

A shop fitter is working on the interior layout which we will share on our website soon.

We need YOUR support

Our project to preserve the shop won't happen without the clear backing of our community.

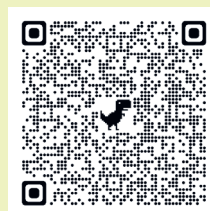
The planning application is open for public comment and **we need you to submit your comments in support by 12 September.**

Your comments will influence the planning decision – and, perhaps even more importantly – this will help us demonstrate to funders, such as the National Lottery, that our community shop project is supported by local people for varied reasons.

We believe this could play a major part in meeting our challenging fundraising target.

Support us online by going to:
www.eastboldrecommunitystores.com/

The link by the megaphone takes you to the planning comment page. Fill in your details and for 'Stance' – click 'Support'.



Support us by sending an email to:
dev.control@newforestnpa.gov.uk

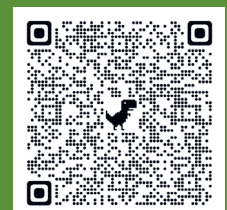
Quote planning reference 21/00759. State you are in support.

Support us by post by writing to:
NFNPA Planning Department,
Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road,
Lymington, SO41 9ZG.

Quote planning reference 21/00759. State you are in support.

Check out the East Boldre Community Stores website for more information about the project, the latest news, to find out how you can get involved, or to get in touch.

www.eastboldrecommunitystores.com



The benefits of a bigger shop

A bit of history....

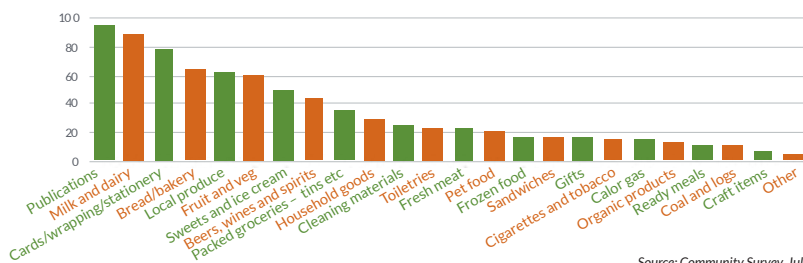
In 1987, our shop and Post Office (then selling only newspapers, tobacco and sweets) was reduced in size to enlarge the owner's accommodation.

At that time, East Boldre also had a grocer's shop at the property now called 'The Studio'. When it stopped trading in 1996 our shop and Post Office stepped in to add groceries to its product range, but without any increase in retail area – hence the cramped business of today which lacks the space needed to accommodate the product range it offers.

Present day needs

We badly need more room for the products and services our surveys have indicated are wanted by local residents and which are required to grow the business so our shop is financially viable.

Figure 1. Demand for products and services to be stocked in the community shop



Source: Community Survey, July 2017.

Future plans

We want to stock more local produce, especially local cheeses and deli goods, which will require extra fridges and we will need a preparation area for homemade sandwiches, hot snacks and onsite baking.

97%

The survival rate of community businesses is high due to the customer loyalty community involvement creates.



We hope our refillable product range and specialised plastic recycling will also contribute to growth.



A wider product range will increase average spend per customer.



OPEN!

Lunchtime opening will improve customer convenience and capture additional trade.



Campsite deliveries to increase turnover without increasing footfall in our quiet village.

The management committee



Andy Brennan
Chair



Mike Hawker
Treasurer



Judith Richardson
Administrator



Rebecca Gabzdyl
Secretary/project manager



Libby Duignan
Founder member



Nick Thompson
Management team

FUNDING NEWS

Community Ownership Fund

We applied to the government's Community Ownership Fund which, if successful, would match all funds raised from other sources (grants, share offer, etc.). We expect to hear if we have been successful in October.

Our sincere thanks to Michelle Morley (Hampshire County Council) for her support and expert advice in completing this application.

The New Forest Rural Fund

We applied for specific activities such as training staff, setting up systems (IT and EPOS) and for our electric van. Our project didn't align perfectly with its criteria but as there are to be no future rounds we thought it worth a try.

The Princes Countryside Trust

We will apply to a new fund – the Project Village Survival fund – to cover some of the building cost to open up the shop area. We are getting quotations to support our application.

Good news from HMRC!

HMRC have given us advance assurance that our community share offer will qualify for social investment tax relief (SITR). This means that, depending on your personal tax circumstances, you could be eligible to claim 30% of any investment you make in our community shares. To qualify you have to hold the shares for 3 years.

SITR typically cannot be claimed until the business has been trading for 3 months so, if everything goes to plan, next summer.

Our next newsletter will contain more information on the share offer.

Legal Agreements

We have instructed Philip Salt (of Scott Bailey) to draft the necessary legal agreements. Until these are in place there is still a very real risk that the village shop could close. These agreements will give us certainty in our proposal ahead of our community share offer launch in October.

We'd like to thank Philip for the pro-bono advice he has generously given our non-profit society.

Your lane representative is

or contact

eastboldrecommunitystores@btinternet.com