

# Roadwater Village Community Shop Limited



## CBS Members' Update: August 2019

### Fundraising

It has been a while since we have had a members' update. Since January the committee have been busy with our Phase Two plans for development, including raising the funds needed. The good news is that we have now raised the funds we require to give a green light to all our planning. The last piece of the jigsaw is the allocation of £80,000 by the National Lottery's 'Reaching Communities Fund,' which we have been informed of this week.

This latest grant complements funding already received for the project from: St Luke's Mission Fund, Fairfield Foundation. Exmoor National Park Partnership Fund, Awards for All (Lottery) and Somerset Social Fund (SSEF). As with all community grants and social investment there are conditions attached and we will have to demonstrate to the National Lottery how the grant contributes to the aims we specified in our application related to social impact. We focused this on development of services to the community, in particular making available useful information plus appropriate help and support where individuals need and want it. There will be more detail to follow but, as always, we will be calling for help from volunteers to assess the impact of the café/ community hub and services available once the building work is completed.

### The Build

For now, we are focusing on the enormous task of planning and carrying out the building. Work is scheduled to begin on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, with completion by Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November. Clearly the twelve week construction period will be a challenge for the business and all our staff, volunteers and customers. All members of your committee want to thank everyone in advance for your patience, understanding and, we hope, continued support and custom during this time.

For the first six weeks the shop and Post Office will remain open. The forecourt area will be reduced to space for a delivery vehicle to turn and unload. Customers arriving by car will probably find that using the hall car park is their best bet. The rest of the space will be fenced off for the contractor (Ware & Co South West Ltd) with a protected walkway for customers to and from the shop entrance. During this period the ground area of the extension will be levelled, so that the full area of the new shop is on one level, and the shell of the extension will go up.

During the second six weeks the whole site will need to be vacated for all the new fitting-out and service upgrades. New flooring, new ceiling, counters, Post Office, 'back-office', shelving, electrics, plumbing, café / community hub area, accessible toilet facility, cleaner's cupboard, will be installed. Outside there will be new drainage, a patio garden area, a new waste area, plus storage. All will be resurfaced. Bollards will separate vehicles from a customer pathway and there will be a new, smaller planter to maintain the separation of the forecourt from the road. During this period, the shop will operate from the downstairs room of the village hall (old snooker room) but the Post Office service will have to close. We are looking at what limited services we may still be able to offer during this period, including the possibility of an outreach PO service for a specific time each week.

It's going to be an interesting time, but also a very positive time for our community and shop. So many local services have been disappearing, but at least we feel that we are securing the future of this particular service, and, with all the good work of our volunteers and members, we are looking to make it even better. We're truly 'taking back control' in, and for, our own community.

### Shares

**New Members:** If you have acquired a new neighbour, or, a younger member of the family has recently turned 16 it would be great to have them join us. Membership is open to all by purchasing a minimum of £25 worth of shares. Please note that new member shares will not be eligible for Social Investment Tax Relief.

**Existing shareholders:** Members who already hold shares and would like to add more can do this, but again, these shares will not be eligible for SITR.

For further information, email Mary for more information at [cbsroadwater@gmail.com](mailto:cbsroadwater@gmail.com).

And of course, we are always pleased to have additional offers of help at the shop, especially during this development period when there will be so much packing and clearing up to be done. Also, if you have suggestions for new activities and/ or would like to be involved with the setting up of the revamped shop and café/ community hub, please talk to Sarah, or to any member of staff or volunteer team. The shop is here for the benefit of all in the local community and we welcome everyone's contribution.

Thank you all for your support!

*Rob, Cherry, Debbie, Becky and Mary*  
Roadwater Village Community Shop Management Committee