

Roadwater Village Community Shop Limited



CBS Members' Update: November, 2019.

The Build

We're going through a messy and noisy stage with various trenches being dug and filled in, a fair bit of heavy equipment in use and waste vehicles arriving and transporting away. Our Cinderella of a village shop is being shovelled this way and that and the dream of a transformation ready for Panto season seems almost impossible despite the progress so far – ("Oh no it doesn't!" the builders cry...)

However, the plain fact is that there's plenty still to do if we are to achieve our goal of re-opening the shop on Monday, 2nd December. Our contractors are determined to get us there and a 'finishing plan' is on its way to us following the latest monthly site meeting with our architect, Peter Roberts, whose commitment has been fantastic throughout. The level of support and encouragement in the village has also been amazing and very much appreciated, alongside the tolerance and understanding of our immediate neighbours, and of our tenant living over the shop.

Having built the walls, laid the floors and installed the new ceilings, our builders are working intently to complete the smaller extensions of an accessible toilet on one side, a small cleaner's cupboard on the other, plus the patio groundworks that will overlook the recreation ground. Meanwhile we now have new doors and windows, plus a highly anticipated roof-light so that the roofing, cladding work, plastering, second fixing and decorating is nearing completion, plus the patio groundworks that overlook the recreation ground.

"But will there be shelves for the stock, and will there be something to sit on in the new café area? Will the café area be ready?" Will Cinderella go to the ball? Thankfully, as the Roadwater Panto this year is a musical 'Romeo and Juliet,' (*tickets available from you know where*) if she doesn't quite make it complete in absolutely all her finery, it won't be for lack of effort or resolve. For the next instalments visit www.roadwatercommunityshop.co.uk/the-build or <https://www.facebook.com/pg/shophubexmoor> where we are trying to provide regular on-line photographs of the work so that you can see for yourself how the transformation is progressing. We know there will be some things that still need doing, buying, finishing, planting, completing, once we do move back into our own premises, (including a Spring /early Summer shed building job). There will also be new beginnings to contemplate particularly with regard to the 'community hub / café. We will also want further improvements in the months and years to come, particularly with regard to energy efficiency and reduction of waste and single use plastic in our business. Hopefully, we can all work together on these, sharing our knowledge, ideas, and work in a combined effort.

Trading Matters – meanwhile meanwhile....the absolutely vital business of the shop continues thanks to everyone who helped move everything into the old snooker room of the village hall on the weekend of October 12th and 13th, and to all our staff, the wonderful newspaper and shop volunteers and, of course, all our customers. About a year ago we anticipated a reasonably substantial fall in business during the build, but so far our customers are making a determined effort to make it business as usual in an unusual time and place. Compared to this time last year our three weeks in the hall do have us trading slightly below last year's figures, but business remains good and it is possible that we will yet see the slight pick-up in trade that makes up this difference, particularly if we have a return to some drier, brighter spells in the weather. Our opening times remain the same so, although it may be dark soon after 5pm, and from roadside our shop be less conspicuous, there will still be a friendly member of staff or two downstairs at the village to welcome any intrepid late shoppers. (We close at 7pm; 2pm on Sundays). Remember the PO remains open with all services available, including cash withdrawals, payment of bills, electric key top-ups, and mail. The only service we have had to close temporarily is The Lottery.

Post AGM Update

Our second AGM was held in October, attended by 43 members. Acceptance of the year's accounts and minutes of last year's meeting was proposed, seconded and approved by the meeting. A resolution not to spend the considerable amount of money required for formal auditing of our accounts for the coming year was also approved, on the grounds that the accounts will be independently examined, as they were this year. This is common practice for organizations such as ours, and means that we benefit from any observations or advice from someone well versed in the accounting business.

Our 2018-19 accounts will now be sent to the FCA and you can view a copy of these plus other AGM-related matters on our community shop website under 'Community Management.'

Thanks to all of you, our members, for your continued support and interest. The momentum you helped to build on the back of the village effort to keep the shop open from July 2015, and our combined efforts since we first launched our CBS share offer back in 2017, have brought us a long way towards the goal of upgrading the business and making it fit for many years to come. We hope that our Cinderella does make a good song and dance of it when the time comes. And we hope that our business gives back to the community at least as much as it has received in terms of services, support and investment for future community projects that help to make our village a vibrant, interesting, active, neighbourly, and friendly place to live.