

Hello to everyone.

It's been a very busy week! And I wanted to make sure that all of you who came to last Sunday's meeting were kept fully up to date on what's been happening. I will try to be brief.

Organisational stuff to get us up and running:-

- I have attached notes of the meeting, in two parts. If you would also like all the flip chart notes, let me know and I will happily send them to you.
- John Bond-Smith has offered to chair the '**Premises**' Working Group and we have already started meeting all the people who offered their help so we can make sure we don't duplicate skills and of course, so that we can identify any gaps. One that jumps out already is that we are short of an accountant. Any offers out there?
- I am in the process of getting a small **Communications** Group together, hopefully in the next week or two.
- The third working group, for '**Planning the Shop**' is not the top priority for this week, but will need working on very soon. Again, it's a question of checking what skills we have and what skills we might still need. Watch this space.
- Cllr. Steve Good has written to me and asked for his e-mail to be circulated so that is also attached.

Progress on the shop itself:-

- There is now a new company in place - **Standlake Village Shop Co. Ltd**. It will have a bank account open shortly. (And as you can see, we also have a new e-mail address).
- I have spoken to the selling agents for the shop so they are aware of the progress we have made. Nadeem remains committed to giving priority to our Community Shop project over and above any other expressions of interest.
- The next step will be to have an initial survey done and the premises valued; that is in hand.

Money:-

- Now that our own Ltd Co has been set up, we will be sorting out the details of the investment offer, and how/when to invest. More news as soon as possible.
- I have spoken to West Oxfordshire District Council about grant funding. There is none available at this late stage of the financial year, however they are extremely impressed at the progress we have made in a very short time and by the methodical approach (including involving so many people, so quickly) that we will be well placed for any grant applications after April.

- A substantial 'pot' of government funding will become available early in the new financial year; this will be the important one to watch. We are a bit short of manpower on this one - any offers?

Finally, does anyone fancy some pleasant trips out to visit some of the other Community Shops in Oxfordshire? I'll e-mail separately about this one - some structured research (or 'organised spying') would be really helpful. Have a think about it.

I think that's all for now. Thank you for all the amazing offers of help and for the massive enthusiasm on all sides. The amount of progress made in such a short time is astonishing; now we have to focus on keeping up the momentum.

Very best wishes to all.

Linda Watson