

Clerk

From: Standlake News <standlakenews@gmail.com>
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**Standlake
ShopTALK**

Creating a community shop for Standlake

Standlake Shoptalk - This week's update

As usual, we have plenty to tell you!

Buying the premises:-

- Negotiations are under way, but inevitably these things take time. We are hopeful that we can find a way through that will suit both the community as buyers, and Nadeem as the seller. Meanwhile he has now taken the shop off the open market.
- In the next News Update we will be telling you more about how to invest in the

FEEDBACK FROM THE DROP-IN SESSION LAST MONTH

We've collated all the comments that everyone made and would like to share them with you. Let us know if you have different ideas [by completing this survey](#).

What are the Top 5 things you need in an emergency?

Most of us seem to run out of the same few things, so at the top of the list (by a big margin), you said your emergency buys are:-

- bread, milk, eggs, newspapers, stamps

Then there was another group of items you told us you often suddenly need:-

- wine, cream, vegetables, non-dairy milk alternatives, cheese, sugar, and greeting cards

Closely followed by:-

- butter, batteries, ham, wrapping paper (to go with the card that you also forgot), proper coffee, tea bags, and loo rolls

Then the rest of the list was a mix of other odds and ends, including jiffy bags (to send the parcel that you wrapped earlier with the paper you forgot!), cornflour, cleaning stuff, and marmalade.

What are the Top 5 things 'our' shop should offer?

Again, there was a lot of common ground, but definitely top of the list was the Post Office, with lots of comments (and discussion at the event) in favour of a small café for coffee/tea and cake.

These were followed by:-

- vegetables, bread, newspapers, milk and greeting cards
- meats (cooked and raw), eggs, penny sweets/pick and mix, cheese, wine and other alcoholic drinks, local cheese, fresh fruit and veg, and cakes

Other ideas included frozen foods, pizzas, ready made meals, baking

where do you normally go for your top-up shopping?

- 31 people said they'd go to Witney
- 9 would go to Bampton
- 8 would use Standlake, Milletts Farm or Wootton
- 7 use Kingston Bagpuize/Southmoor or online services
- and 6 go over to Eynsham

It would be great to be able to change that in favour of Standlake – more convenient, and a whole lot better for our carbon footprints.

In conversation with the Session helpers (Claire, Anne, Karen, Sue) people talked about the other things they'd value in 'our' shop. These included the need for a friendly, efficient, courteous service, a good choice of stock and good quality items; and careful monitoring of cleanliness and sell-by dates were a priority. People also talked about local foods, maybe with an ordering service for produce such as Northmoor beef, pork and lamb. You also mentioned plastic free options and 'greener' produce. Other interesting ideas included having a small library of books/magazines, and recycling of printer cartridges.

This coming Saturday we're doing a Drop-In Session at Northmoor Village Hall from 10.00am until noon, to coincide with the Village Market. If you didn't get to the Standlake Drop-In, do come along and tell us what you think. Our retail and business planning experts are now beginning work on the list of suppliers and stocks for our community shop, so all your comments are really useful.

Getting the governance (the legal stuff) sorted out:-

- For reasons of speed, the Limited Company that will (hopefully!) be the official purchasers of the premises was set up with only one director, John Bond-Smith. Having got the ball rolling for us so quickly, John will be now standing down. Three of our skilled and knowledgeable team are now becoming Directors of the company, and this will give us the right structure to get us to the next stage. We're grateful to John B-S for getting us off the ground only days after we'd had our very first meeting.
- For people interested in putting money into the purchase of the premises, we are

how much you can invest. We are also preparing a user-friendly version to explain the important sections as simply as possible.

- At the same time, others are working on the application to set up the Community Benefit Society that will 'be' the community shop. The registration can be quite a slow process and the more thorough the preparation, the better the chance of the application going through smoothly.

As mentioned above, we want - as soon as possible - to give you information about how to invest, so do keep watching this space.....



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