

## Meeting – Tues 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – re Cockburnspath Village Store and Post Office

HS, Facilitator, opened the meeting thanking all who attended, reminding them of length of meeting, and prime objectives i.e. to look at immediate short term provision of supplies and service once the shop/PO closes on 29<sup>th</sup> February. Approx 70 people were in attendance!

- 1 KT gave an update on PO situation – one day a week (Wed 9.30 to 11.30) pop up Post Office in Village Hall whilst open for café. Community Status retention is under review by the PO and we hope to hear soon about their decision, as this attracts salary of £12000. Reminded all, that should we be successful in retaining that status, setting up a PO will take time, application process is lengthy and certain checks and training need to occur.
- 2 AW from Pease Bay Shop gave an overview of what services they could offer. Papers could be ordered in bulk from her (orders only) and taken to wherever by a volunteer for collection. Some people may opt for house delivery of their paper at cost of 45p per day. Forms issued and with KT if anyone wants one – same form, just score out Dunbar News at top and replace with Pease Bay if you don't want delivery to your house, but want to order a paper. AW may be able to offer a limited “bag of groceries” delivery to older people if required. Whoever picks up papers could pick up some essentials also. Shop price list left for people and shop opening hours are 9am - 6pm Monday to Friday; 8.30am to 6pm Sat and Sunday, with peak summer extension to 7pm at weekends. Although Pease Bay closes during February, the shop could be kept open if required. AW suggested “piggy back” delivery re milk, papers etc and this seems a good idea.

Volunteers needed for paper collection – JV, ML, J, MM, SW so far – some more are needed. Some supplies runs to Pease Bay will also be implemented (JV, AH).

- 3 Mrs Neep (PMcG) wasn't available to comment on their ideas – KT will email.
- 4 “Shop working group” consisting of PMcG (Mrs Neep); SS, DR, and AW to look at what needs to be provided, in what quantities and from which supplier; equipment and facilities needed e.g chiller etc.
- 5 WHERE should the short term facility be placed?

Options – externally to village hall (e.g. top of car park) in portacabin type structure.

- Church Hall (Minister will check with Cof S).
- Portacabin in Square.

The meeting then divided into groups to consider pros and cons of each location

**Church Hall** – agreed this was a good “short” short term option as it had all facilities, including a phone line, hand washing and kitchen. Some coffee/tea could also be provided. There is scope to increase parking a little also and it supports another village “institution”. Minister will speak to Church re this and feedback. No cigarettes, alcohol or lottery. It was agreed that this and other options were not mutually exclusive – the church hall could be used potentially until a container elsewhere was available for example. Cons included Wednesday club usage – shop could have half day Wednesday to accommodate? Small fridge available for milk too.

**Cabin the The Square** – Lots of positives in terms of similar location to existing service, but electricity is an issue, permission may be an issue as within conservation area; water supplies etc, but would be safe and secure and is away from school area. Could be re-landscaped after use.

**Portacabin type at edge of village hall car park (on “stilts” to allow level access)** – pros included access and parking; increased footfall and involvement in village hall; able to be sold on after use if required; costs reasonable to set up. Cons were lack of signage, proximity to school (?consider one way around Callander Place and deliveries outwith school pick up/arrival times); storage limited.

After a show of hands, it was evident that the Church Hall immediately, then the cabin at edge of village hall car park were preferred.

Working groups set up in addition to “Shop Group” above to look at both options:

**Church Hall** – SF, ML, SW, JC, BR, BG – email addresses exchanged.

**Portacabin at VH car park** – MT, SH, AD, HS, KT, and various other volunteers. MT will compile email address list and begin work on this.

**Digital Platform** – Resident from Hay Terrace has volunteered to set up a digital platform for these projects and for the shop longer term. This was greatly appreciated – KT will confirm and perhaps get SS’s input for this as well.

**Prescriptions** – MB had been in touch with Eyemouth Medical Practice. There was to be a meeting of Practice staff and GPs today, and the closure of the shop was on the agenda. M has suggested that she and another RGN be present for 2 hrs (potentially when PO is open on a Wednesday 9.30 to 11.30) in village hall, and repeat prescriptions would be delivered there and collected. M will feed back once she has heard back from the practice. JS (development facilitator) has also been involved in liaising with EMP, so will also be copied in to discussions.

Longer term, it was agreed that there were opportunities here for something to replace the current provision, and build on it to perhaps provide café, walkers accommodation, charity shop etc and that we shouldn’t be blinkered in merely trying to replicate what we’re losing.

It may be a business opportunity and employment opportunity longer term also.

KT has spoken to **Planners** and asked for their early input re various options being explored.

**Environmental Health** will also have to be involved – KT has asked for email details of relevant officers in this respect.

JS, when back next week, will be main contact point – [jenniesuttoncc@gmail.com](mailto:jenniesuttoncc@gmail.com), not KT or PH

**Notice boards:** Information and signage towards any new provision can be displayed on notice boards (once replaced/erected by Council!) SS has volunteered to do some posters. KT will be responsible for board in Square; NS for one at Cove; FJ for Old Cambus; AD for one in Tollview.

RC had asked if there should be some sort of “thank you” memorial to shop proprietors. Discussed a sports cup for school as JH had been a keen runner in his youth. CC and Torness CNC are revamping bench outside shop in John’s memory and those present felt it would be nice to give his widow something for herself. Suggestions included some membership of Eyemouth Leisure as she uses it. KT will investigate and RC to collect contributions.

Conclusion: Groups to work on various topics agreed and come back to next meeting on **WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY at 7pm in VILLAGE HALL.**