

16/2/18

## **CILCAIN COMMUNITY SHOP : A PUBLIC BALLOT AND 'HAVE YOUR SAY AND VOLUNTEER' DAY ON SATURDAY 3 MARCH IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

### **Background**

The small steering group formed at the public meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup> has listened carefully to views about a future community shop, and communicated its early conclusions in a newsletter on February 9<sup>th</sup>. This second newsletter is to let you know what is proposed as the next step, how you can influence what happens, and how you can contribute to a successful future community shop.

### **Options**

Two basic options have emerged, both of which will involve some financing.

#### **OPTION 1**

Focus solely on finding (or creating) community-owned premises in which a shop can be accommodated. Using community-owned premises has the advantage of long security of tenure and lower operating overheads. Identifying and gaining agreement for the use of part of an existing building (or new build) would take time, and there is as yet no guarantee of a successful outcome.

#### **OPTION 2**

Set up a community shop in its current location. This would involve renting the shop premises. It could be started up as soon as the necessary legal, financial and operating arrangements have been made. This option would not exclude transfer of the shop to community-owned premises in the future, should this become available, and should people prefer this.

### **Choosing and volunteering**

The steering group believes it is important that the community chooses its preferred option in a way which is inclusive and democratic. This will be done by holding a ballot (similar to an election vote) in the Village Hall – a day during which everyone can cast their 'vote' in privacy.

Whatever the outcome of the ballot, the current steering group's task will be complete, and a new team will be needed to lead the next stage. To deliver the option preferred by the community from the ballot, we will need:

- volunteers for a management team to lead the preparation, launch and operation of the new shop
- volunteers who have specialist knowledge (legal, financial, retailing, business planning, etc) to support the leadership team
- pledges for start-up funding (even in a small way)
- volunteers to help run the new shop.

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Volunteering is an important part of the ballot day, so please come prepared to offer your support, in whatever way you can. Members of the steering group will be in the Committee Room for you to talk to about volunteering, to listen to your views, and to help with any questions about the two options.

We already have offers of involvement and contribution from the returned questionnaires. However, not everyone has yet had the opportunity to complete a questionnaire, and some of the questionnaires have been returned without a name. So please come with your offers of involvement and contribution on the day, even if you have already returned a questionnaire. The more people who give their support, the greater the chance of a successful community shop for the future.

### **Details of the day**

The ballot will be on Saturday 3 March in the Village Hall Committee Room from 11.00 to 17.00. The Village School PTA café already booked for this date in the Hall will go ahead as planned, from 14.00 to 17.00. The ballot will be planned and run to ensure privacy for those taking part.

If you are away on the day of the ballot, or cannot for some other reason get to the Village Hall on the day, call one of the numbers below for a 'telephone vote' and any offer of support.

741062    741268    741162

### **THIS IS WHAT YOUR BALLOT PAPER WILL LOOK LIKE**

Please mark your preferences with a cross in the boxes of your choice. There are two basic choices – A and B. If you choose A, there is no need to go further. If you choose B, please select just one of the three options underneath, marking your choice with a cross.

- (A) I want a community shop (and post office) only if this is in a community-owned location.
- (B) I want a community shop and would like to see it set up as soon as possible in whatever village location is available and suitable.

If a community shop is opened in the shop's current location, and a suitable alternative community-owned location becomes available in the future, please choose one of the 3 options below.

- (a) Keep the shop where it is.
- (b) Move the shop to the community-owned location.
- (c) I don't mind where the shop is.