

BLOCKLEY VILLAGE SHOP & CAFÉ

BCA COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The shop management committee makes use of a variety of media to keep in touch with the 600 members of the cooperative association. Public support is crucial to the long-term success of the village shop and café and every effort is made to ensure that communication with customers and members is a two-way process. This has been even more important over the past two years since it became clear that it would not be possible to secure a viable long-term lease on the current premises.

REGULAR METHODS OF COMMUNICATION

The BCA Annual General Meeting

In her address to the AGM in May 2010, the chairman announced that the management committee had been looking at every possible option to secure premises for the long-term future of the shop and café. These included working with the existing premises, adapting other premises, or building a new, designed-for-purpose shop and café on a number of possible sites.

Newsletters

Every two months the shop newsletter is emailed to 360 members and delivered or posted to 150. A further 150 copies are available in the café and at the shop till. The newsletter is used to give details of new products, village events such as Christmas and May Day celebrations and to keep members in touch with the shop's financial results and future plans.

Email updates

The email database is used to keep in touch with members between newsletters. It is a particularly important medium during bad weather, alerting people to supplies, calls for help and other community emergencies.

Posters and flyers

Posters are regularly put up all over the parish to back up communication by email and newsletter. When necessary, flyers are delivered to every household in the parish.

Website

News updates are posted at www.blockleyshop.com

SPECIFIC COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT THE NEW SHOP PROJECT

Discussions with key village groups

In November 2010 meetings were held to discuss the new build proposal with representatives of key community groups including the Heritage Society, the Bowls Club, the Sports and Social Club, the Women's Institute and the Horticultural Society. A further meeting was held with the owners of neighbouring properties. Everyone who attended these meetings gave wholehearted support to the idea of a new shop on the proposed site.

A public meeting

About 100 people attended a public meeting on December 18. The meeting had been widely advertised by poster, email and flyers. Presentations were given by committee members who explained the rationale to the plan and answered questions. Signatures were obtained from most of the people attending the event. There was unanimous support for the plans and many offers of help were made by the public. Several emails and letters of support were also received from people who could not attend the meeting because of the bad weather. The presentations were emailed to the shop database and displays of the architects' drawings and background information were mounted in the shop, café and post office.

Q & As sheet

Following the meeting, which was reported in the press as well as the shop newsletter, a sheet of questions and answers about the new plans was produced for customers and BCA members. This document, which was handed out in the café and shop, aimed to cover any questions or concerns that might be raised by the community. The shop manager and staff were briefed to answer questions from individuals.

BLOCKLEY VILLAGE SHOP & CAFÉ

Letters of support

The committee contacted all the remaining community groups in the village to ensure that we had communicated directly with as many residents as possible. As a result, letters of support were received from 25 groups representing a wide cross-section of the community:

Blockley Parish Council
Parochial Church Council
Blockley Heritage Society
Blockley Arts Soc
The Lady Northwick Memorial Homes
Blockley Little Village Hall
Blockley Decorative & Fine Arts Soc
Blockley Dramatic Soc
Blockley Ladies Choir
Evesham Post Office
Blockley Blokes Choir
Blockley Ramblers
Blockley Bell Ringers
Blockley Allotment Association
Blockley Sports & Social Club
Northwick Bowling Club
Cakes & Company
Cotswold Wardens
Orchard Bank
Blockley Bookworms
Picture Playhouse
Blockley Brass Band
Blockley Women's Institute
Blockley & District Horticultural Society
Friends of Blockley School

Petitions

More than 50 per cent of the electorate in Blockley ward have signed a petition in favour of the plan. A total of over 800 villagers, second home owners and friends signed petitions in the shop and online.

New media

The new shop project is updated on the shop website at www.blockleyshop.com, Facebook and the village information site www.blockleyblower.com. The shop website has links to all the official shop documentation as well as the presentations, posters, media links etc.

A community-owned venture operated by

THE BLOCKLEY COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Blockley Parish Council

Mr Kevan Lambert
Vice-chairman of Blockley Parish Council
Fox Lodge
Aston Magna
GL56 9QQ

Mrs Margaret Bryan
Chairman of Blockley Co-operative Association
2 Northwick Terrace
Blockley
GL56 9BL

30 April 2011

Dear Margaret,

The Blockley Parish Council is writing to express its full support for the proposed development of the new community shop/café in Blockley. The existing arrangement is extremely successful and highly valued by residents of the Parish. This is despite the fact the current premises are not ideal, limiting the goods and services it could potentially offer. However, its location in the heart of the village has been critical to its award-winning success and a less central location would likely substantially reduce its viability. The shop/café provides more than the much needed essential goods and services, including Post Office services, it provides a place for people to meet and greet. It has become a much depended upon hub of the Parish.

~~The Blockley Parish Council welcomes the efforts that the Blockley Co-operative Association is making to realise a sustainable and sensitive development, with close attention to conservation issues, clean energy and the sustainable use of local and natural resources. The Blockley Parish Council also recognises that many residents support the new proposals with a petition of over 750 signatures in addition to the support of many community associations. Without the shop/café the Parish would become a much less attractive place to live and its future as a vibrant rural Cotswold Parish would come under threat. Community networks would be weakened, shopping habits would become less environmentally sustainable and some people would become isolated and more dependent on others.~~

We hope that the proposals will be supported by the planning authorities.

With best regards,



Kevan Lambert
Vice-chairman Blockley Parish Council

**BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH**

**c/o Malvern Mill, Blockley, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos GL56 9HA
Telephone 01386 700250 E-mail jandabourne@dsl.pipex.com**

6th March 2011

Margaret Bryan,
Chairman, Blockley Co-operative Association,
2 Northwick Terrace,
Blockley.

Dear Margaret,

Blockley Shop and Cafe : New Development

We are writing following the discussion with the members of Blockley PCC about the plan to develop a new shop and cafe for the village, replacing the old one.

As neighbours of the proposed site, and as the **body responsible to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Church and churchyard**, we anticipate that in due course the Cotswold District Council Planning Department will notify us of the proposal and ask for our views. We have consulted with the Diocesan Assistant Secretary and with our church architect, himself a member of the DAC. Meanwhile, it is appropriate that we should send you a preliminary statement.

The PCC are **unanimously in favour of your proposal for a new shop and cafe**. This is undoubtedly an essential amenity for the village community, and will contribute greatly to that spirit of local solidarity and co-operation which the Church seeks to foster. It is of course clear that old people and those without private transport cannot manage without such an amenity.

We find that the views of the Church through the entrance gates and from the upper levels of Northwick Close will not be in any way obstructed. We would ask that special care be taken not to damage the churchyard walls, nor the roots of yew trees growing close to the boundaries, but we feel sure that this will not be a problem.

We wish you every success with the venture.

Yours sincerely,



Frances Stone, Churchwarden



Jeremy Bourne, Churchwarden

BLOCKLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY

*Incorporated in England as a company limited by guarantee number 7008626 and
registered as a charity number 1133319*

Chairman
Jeremy Boume
Malvern Mill, High Street, Blockley
GL56 9HA

28 January 2011

Margaret Bryan
Chairman,
The Blockley Cooperative Association Ltd
The Old Coach House,
Post Office Square,
Blockley
GL56 9BB

Dear Margaret,

I am responding on behalf of the Society to the public consultation process you have initiated in relation to the plan to build new permanent premises to accommodate the existing village-owned shop, café and Post Office.

Our response deals primarily with aspects of your proposals that relate to the village heritage and in particular:

1. The historical context of the plan to build a replacement shop in the proposed location
2. The implications of a new property being constructed in the Blockley Conservation Area
3. The physical impact of a new property on surrounding listed buildings including the Parish Church

We have consulted our 180 members in writing on your proposals and, while our response primarily addresses heritage related issues, our members have asked us to emphasise at the outset that they understand fully the reasons why your Association is planning to relocate the shop on termination of its current lease and in the circumstances are wholly supportive of that intention.

1. The historical context of the plan to build a replacement shop in the proposed location

You will be aware that for much of its life Blockley has been an industrial and trading community based on agriculture and milling. More recently it has extended its commercial activities to replace the dying silk trade by the creation of the brickworks and two industrial estates. To serve this commercial community the village provided in the early 20th century some 70 retail outlets, banks, cafes and hostels, almost all of which were located in Bell Lane and the High Street.

During the last century, the focal point for retail activity contracted towards the area surrounding the church, including Bell Lane and a short distance south-west along the High Street. The reasons are fairly obvious: the area had become the commercial and social "hub" of the community that was most readily accessible from all parts of the parish as well as to visitors. The existing community-owned shop and café is sited in that area.

The need to preserve what is left of the commercial and social hub of the village seems to us to be a *sine qua non*. Without it, the community must surely be further diminished.

Thus the plan to build the replacement premises adjacent to the premises currently used is entirely consistent with the evolution of retailing in the village and ensures these essential facilities are retained in the most natural and convenient location for use by the community. It follows that it may also prove to be the most viable location economically.

2. The implications of a new property being constructed in the Blockley Conservation Area

As the local Heritage Society, we are probably more concerned than most with conserving the natural, cultural and physical features of the village's past. But conserving the past need not be at the expense of responding to the needs of the present. Indeed it is a fundamental characteristic of the Blockley Conservation Area that the properties comprised within it evolved over a long period of time and tell the story of that entire period. Heritage is the product of a dynamic evolutionary process and must be allowed to evolve further, albeit with careful stewardship.

In Blockley there is no need to look any further than at some of the original water mills to see evidence of essential evolution. As the silk trade ceased to be commercially viable, the Blockley Brook was harnessed for other purposes. The Blockley Electric-Lighting and Manufacturing Company and the Astral Works were established to provide electricity away from the original mills in a nearby building more suited to the purpose. Elsewhere Captain Spencer Churchill set up the brickworks to provide alternative employment as the mills closed. Without that evolutionary process the community would have withered.

In our view it is essential to conserve substantive evidence of our heritage, but that aim does not of itself preclude either (a) building new structures in harmony with their existing surroundings or (b) replacing the existing public toilets which cannot be said to contribute to the character or appearance of the Conservation Area.

3. The physical impact of a new property on surrounding listed buildings including the Parish Church

It seems to us that the principal concerns that could arise in relation to the surrounding listed buildings would be the possible obstruction of views or access, and aesthetic clashes with the architecture of existing buildings.

While the local authorities will doubtless wish to consider these aspects when a planning application is made, from a preliminary study of the initial proposals we have not been able to identify any material obstruction to the popular views of existing historical buildings. Any near view of the church from the north is already obstructed by trees, the public lavatories and the existing Coach House, and better views are available from further north and from many other sites. The views of other adjacent buildings do not appear to be obstructed at all.

We recognise that the design of, and materials used in constructing, the new premises will need to blend with the surroundings, albeit recognising that even the existing buildings embrace a wide range of architectural styles, and we would expect this aspect to be addressed by the local authorities in the normal course.

We would be happy to discuss our views with you further if this would be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Bourne
Chairman

From: Roy Marshall (roy4square@tiscali.co.uk);
To: mbryan@btinternet.com;
Date: Saturday, 26 February, 2011 14:35:10
Cc:
Subject: BLOCKLEY VILLAGE SHOP PLANS

> Dear Margaret Bryan,

>

> As Chairman of Blockley Arts Society my group wish to add their total support for the proposed plans for a new Village Shop/Post Office/Cafe in the heart of the village.

> The proposed new building, as presented by architect Leslie Burton seem to answer the needs of residents and visitors and appear extremely suitable for the site in the heart of the village and will greatly help Blockley to resist the fate of so many other villages in the area some of which have become mere dormitory "suburbs" and totally reliant on exterior services. As a place for 'social inter-action' within a village it is highly likely that a shop has at least as much value for a wider range and a greater number of residents than the traditional village pub and is to be cherished and nurtured as a result. In addition, it is a valuable source of employment for a substantial number of people which is not be under-estimated in it's value to the village.

>

> Such a fine facility is not to be under-estimated in the added value that it gives to residents and the attraction it holds for prospective residents.

>

> It is not unreasonable to suggest that 'conservation' in these times, at least as far as village residents are concerned, is as much about retaining local services and facilities (infra-structure?) as it is about retaining the character of it's buildings. There is no long-term alternative to re-building the shop and toilets in the village centre without adopting a plan such as has been proposed and Blockley Art Society members are whole-heartedly supportive of the plans to retain and enhance the village of Blockley with this proposal.

With every good wish for a successful outcome:

Yours sincerely

Roy Marshall - Chairman Blockley Arts Society

>



The Lady Northwick Memorial Homes

Mill Dene, Blockley, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, GL56 9HU
Tel: 01386 701280 Fax: 0705 361 6982 Email: barrydare@milldene.co.uk

BSD/jhy/lnmh
24th February 2011

Margaret Bryan
Chair
The Blockley Cooperative Association
The Old Coach House
Post Office Square
Blockley
Glos
GL56 9BB

Dear Margaret

Blockley Village Shop and Café

The Trustees of The Lady Northwick Memorial Homes write in support of the proposal to build a new shop and café located on the site of the current public lavatories in the village of Blockley. We fully support the shop as an integral part of the village as both a viable amenity and a community facility.

As the current location has become untenable, the proposed site appears to be an ideal alternative as it is part of the central village "square". The proposed design is attractive, in keeping with the surrounding buildings and fully fit for purpose.

The shop and café has proved itself a viable business over the past three years and the Cooperative Association is greatly supported by the villagers. As the recent bad weather illustrated, the shop is an important link for the residents, especially the elderly and more vulnerable. It is a central meeting point for local people and a main point of communication for village information and events. The shop and café employs local people, encourages local suppliers, provides an extensive range of products which can only be enhanced by having more storage in new premises, and numerous other benefits which the community now enjoys.

To conclude, the Trustees agree with and fully support the proposed new premises for the Blockley shop and café which can only add value to the village. We do not consider the planned building will have a detrimental effect on the physical environment and we do not want to lose our shop and café - a vitally important facility.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Stuart-Turner
Chairman

Sue Powell
Trustee

Blockley Little Village Hall

Mrs M Bryan
Blockley Cooperative Association
The Old Coach House
Blockley
GL56 9BB

2 Colebrook Courtyard
Blockley
Moreton in Marsh
Glos
GL56 9DS
Tel 01386 700612
24th February 2011

Dear Mrs Bryan,

I am writing on behalf of the Trustees of Blockley Little Village Hall to lend support to the proposal to build new permanent premises for Blockley Shop and Cafe.

Blockley Little Village Hall is one of three halls in our very active village supporting a wide range of local groups and individual functions and our aim is to continue to contribute to a vibrant community. The community shop is an integral part of this effort.

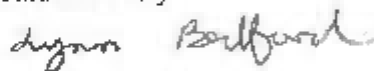
Following the demise of the old post office the community as a whole came together to provide the present shop and cafe, but we appreciate that the present size of premises is not able to generate sufficient turnover for long term viability and that there is also a problem with security of tenure. The loss of this amenity in a central position would cause severe difficulties for many local residents particularly the elderly. It would also rob the village of a very successful social amenity.

We consider it imperative that a permanent establishment, purpose designed, of modest size, but adequate to satisfy the needs of this community is created and the obvious and most accessible place for this structure is in the immediate vicinity of the present shop. No other site would offer the equivalent convenience for residents and in our own specific interests, those using the Little Village Hall. We know from experience that our hall hirers do make use of the shop and appreciate this extra facility.

As custodians of a listed building we are sensitive to conservation issues and would have no wish to see a structure erected in Blockley that offended those sensibilities. We are confident that there is sufficient talent and skill that can be accessed, and wise enough judgement in the community to ensure that a building on the chosen site would not only be acceptable, but complement the surrounding architecture.

In conclusion, we hope that your planning application will meet with success.

Yours sincerely



Miss Lynn Bedford
Hon Secretary

Blockley Little Village Hall
Bell Bank, Blockley, Moreton in Marsh, Glos,
GL56 9BB

Registered Charity No. 1042374

Illustration courtesy David Birch





BLOCKLEY DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETY

Mrs Margaret Bryan

A Member Society of NADFAS

Chairman, The Blockley Co-Operative Association Limited

The Old Coach House

Post Office Square

Blockley GL56 9BB

22 February 2011

Dear Mrs Bryan,

On behalf of the Society, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the building of a new shop and café for the Blockley Co-Operative Association. Blockley DFAS has an active membership of 269 with some 20 others currently on our Waiting List.

Blockley's strength comes from its mixed age groups, vibrant community spirit and the rich variety of organisations which flourish in the village. This success is due to the fact that over time enlightened leadership has encouraged the village to embrace change allowing it to evolve to meet the challenges of the times and needs of the community.

The demand for and financial viability of the village shop and cafe have been established over the last 3+ years. This was particularly true during the recent difficult winter weather conditions of the past few years. The enterprise also provides employment for 17 people. It is a central point of communication and a meeting place for young and old alike. In an area of infrequent transport it is also a vital facility to retain as otherwise people who do not have their own transport may be forced to move. This could have a detrimental effect on our membership levels as we mainly draw membership from the retired, some of whom no longer drive.

As a fine art society, we are acutely aware of the need to conserve our heritage but we also believe that we must be mindful of the needs of the current community in the 21st century.

While public conveniences are necessary, they are rarely a thing of beauty! We are confident that the initial schemes we have been shown can be developed to enhance the proposed site and architecture around Post Office Square whilst at the same time fulfilling the essential community needs for shop, café and meeting place in the heart of the village. The positive environmental benefits of having such facilities in the village are well-proven, particularly for the more elderly.

We trust that your endeavours will be successful.

Yours sincerely,

For and on behalf of Blockley Decorative and Fine Arts Society

Caroline Nelson

Chairman: Caroline Nelson

The Old Baptist Manse, Sheep Street, Stow on the Wold, Cheltenham GL54 1AA

Tel: 01451 870813

Email: manse@talktalk.net



Feb 21st 2011

5, Northwick Terrace
Blockley
Moreton-in-Marsh
GL56 9BL

Dear Margaret Bryan,

The members of Blockley Dramatic Society are pleased to support the proposal to build a new Cooperative shop and cafe. We really value the opportunity that the present shop offers us to socialise while shopping or enjoying the refreshments in the cafe. In addition the shop has given BAD Co plenty of opportunities to publicise our various productions and the staff have been kind enough to sell tickets for us as well.

We really need new premises, however, as the current premises are too small with crowds forming at the till at busy times preventing access to the notice board in order to 'read all about it'.

The proposed position of the new shop is perfect as it is cited in the heart of the village. Its aspect will give opportunities to sit outside and enjoy the sun, which is sadly missing in its current home.

We wish you well in fighting the bureaucracy which might prevent us getting the shop and cafe that we all want.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jenny Bruce'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'J' and 'B'.

Jenny Bruce

BLOCKLEY LADIES CHOIR

Secretary: Mrs. Jean Ellis, St. Anne's, High Street, Chipping Campden, Glos, GL55 6AL.
Tel: 01386 841253

20 February, 2011.

Blockley Ladies Choir wishes to express its strong support for the proposed community shop and café on the site of the present public toilets in Blockley.

Our choir consists of over 30 members, most of whom live in the village, and the remainder in nearby communities. We believe that we make a significant contribution to the social health of Blockley, but our contribution is small compared to that of the proposal.

The present facility has fully demonstrated the vital benefit to the community that it provides. Its loss would be devastating. We believe that any concerns about a development in the conservation area must be outweighed by the community benefits.

In our view the proposed development blends well with the surrounding built environment, and the design and form is entirely sympathetic to its surroundings.

We would urge the planning authorities to approve this vitally important proposal.

19th Feb 2011

Dear Blockley Cooperative Association,

I am writing to you with regard to your proposal to build a new shop. My name is Jonathan Bumphrey and I am the subpostmaster of Evesham Post Office which, as you will be aware, is the core office to Blockley Outreach Post Office. Chris Walters has very kindly informed me of the plans to relocate. Chris also refers to space being provided in the draft plans for a PO counter and goes on to say that I may wish to view the plans on behalf of my business before we get too far along the line. I am very grateful to Chris for his constant liaison not only on this matter but on all matters. Although I have every confidence that all the requirements for the Outreach office will be catered for (and I say that with the fantastic job that was done when the current position was created in mind), I would be very grateful of the opportunity to look at the new plans to give any assistance I can in making this happen as smoothly as possible.

I would like to offer my support in any way that I can. Blockley Village Shop Café has become the heart of the community in Blockley and whilst many communities across the country have lost their local village shop and Post Office, Blockley must take heart from the fact that they are a real success story. Blockley Cooperative Association has provided jobs for local residents, trade and commerce for its local trades/businessmen, become an outlet for many local suppliers and become a real focal point in the village for people to engage with their community (a tradition that is unfortunately seldom facilitated these days). I feel that this proposal will be of great importance to the future of Blockley shop, Post Office and community at large.

I became the subpostmaster of Evesham Post Office in July 2010 and since that time have endeavoured to deliver a first class, self sustaining and viable Post Office service at Blockley. My job has been made easier by the help and support that I have always received by the friendly faces at Blockley Village Shop Café.

I can confirm that Blockley Outreach Post Office attracts a regular customer base which suggests that the local community requires the services which the Post Office currently provides and will continue to provide under the new arrangements at the new premises.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Bumphrey



Tel. 01386 700789
Fax. 01386 700241

Sheafhouse Grange
Draycott Road
Blockley
Moreton-in-Marsh
Gloucestershire GL56 9DY

18 February 2011

Margaret Bryan
Chair
Blockley Cooperative Association
The Old Coach House
Blockley GL56 9BB

Dear Margaret

At a recent Thursday evening practice of the Blockley Blokes Choir, I explained the contents of the letter in which you are seeking support from local organisations for the proposed new premises for the shop and café. The support was unanimous, with individual comments ranging from the prime need for the shop as the centre point for the community to expressions of enthusiasm for both the design and position of the new, enlarged building.

The present shop is a real asset for the choir both in promoting concerts and events and selling the vast majority of the tickets. We can only imagine that the improved facilities in the new shop and café will be an even greater help in our marketing efforts, including recruiting new choir members.

We are also delighted to be invited to take part in various events around the shop and the proposed location for the new shop remains ideal at the hub of the village alongside both the Post Office Square and the Church. We are fully supportive of the plans for the new shop and café and look forward to being asked to perform on the opening day!!

Yours sincerely

Gareth Lewis
Treasurer
Blockley Blokes Choir

18/2/11

Margaret Bryan
Chair, BCA
The Old Coach House
Post Office Square
Blockley
GLOS GL56 9BB

Dear Margaret

Blockley Village Shop and Cafe

I am writing to you on behalf of "Blockley Ramblers" to support the proposed new premises for the village shop and café. "Blockley Ramblers" is one of the village's medium-sized clubs and associations with some 70+ members. The majority of members live in Blockley, but a number come from surrounding towns and villages such as Chipping Campden, Longborough, Mickleton, Moreton-in-Marsh and Stow.

After the snow in December, those of us who live in the village need little reminding of the considerable benefits that come from having a shop and café in the centre of the community. As well as the shop's obvious many conveniences, the addition of the café has given a considerable boost to the village's social amenities. It's not just a place where people come to shop, but also to meet one another and catch up on latest developments. Indeed, as an elderly neighbour who lives on their own put it to me recently, it's somewhere to go for company. Not surprisingly, it's preserving the village's enhanced social fabric that is uppermost in most peoples' minds in considering the pros and cons of the new premises proposals, helping to explain why there is so much support for them throughout the community.

But it isn't just those of us who live in the village who will benefit. One of the reasons why "Blockley Ramblers" has such a widespread membership is that Blockley offers such excellent walking opportunities. Not only is Blockley situated on the highly regarded *Heart of England Way* and *Diamond Way*. There are no fewer than eight half day walks from the centre of the village, with the possibility of extensions to Longborough, Hinchwick, Snowhill, and the Campdens etc. The opportunity to shop and/or take refreshments before, during or after a walk is a major bonus, which the new premises will increase substantially.

I also want to emphasise a very particular benefit of the planned new premises to walkers, cyclists and other visitors that might otherwise go unnoticed – it is the proposal to incorporate public toilets on the site. Presently, for example, a major attraction of Blockley for people walking the *Heart of England Way* or the *Diamond Way*, whether or not they take advantage of the shop and café facilities, is the availability of the public toilets next to the existing premises. But these are scheduled for closure. If the proposed new premises are not allowed, it won't be just the local community that will suffer, but also a much wider group of people.

Yours sincerely



Keith Sisson
Chair, "Blockley Ramblers"

Malvern Mill
High Street
Blockley

I am writing on behalf of the Blockley Bell Ringers to support the application by the Blockley Cooperative Association, for planning consent for the proposed new premises for the shop and café in Blockley.

Since the present shop and café opened it has proved to be a magnet for all the village. It is extremely popular as a meeting place for young and old alike, and a good centre for community events when several hundred local people attend and enjoy themselves.

The present premises are too small and the opportunity to build new premises in the centre of the village, designed and owned by the village, is too good to be missed. It will provide the security of tenure that the shop needs for the future.

The shop and café are a great asset to the village, and are part of the reason why Blockley has such a strong community spirit, and why so many people want to live in the village.

Ain Bowne . Tower Captain
Blockley Bell Ringers.

1.Coneygreen.
Blockley.
GL56 9BJ
15/02/11.

Dear Margaret.

I am writing this letter to express our complete support for the proposal to erect a new shop premises at the site of the existing toilets at Post Office Square Blockley.

The present shop is the focal point of our local community "open all hours" quite different from the other village owned, unmanned buildings eg St. Georges and the Little Village Hall. There is always someone at the shop, whether employed there or visiting as a customer, who can always be relied on to give assistance or advice on any problems you may need help with solving.

It goes without saying the enormous advantage of having our own shop in the centre of the village accessible to everyone without having to travel to another town. Some residents do not have transport readily available to go to shops in other locations.

We do not need a "Tesco" style shop merely a village "corner" shop which can provide everyone with basic provisions at an affordable cost, while providing a profit to sustain the upkeep of the shop for the future.

The needs of the shop become more apparent when the village is cut off in adverse weather conditions.

In my first sentence of this letter I used the word "our" I have approached and gained full support from all the committees and clubs I am involved with namely :-

I am Chairman of CVOPHA Orchard Bank. Everyone living there and the committee are all behind the proposals. I am also Chairman of the Allotment Association and all our members are in agreement many have signed the petition already. I am Treasurer of the Northwick Bowling Club and we are all in favour of the site of the proposed new building. Last but not least I am a Vice president of Blockley Sports and Social Club, life member and ex Chairman they also give you their support.

On a personal note I would like to wish you and your hard working committee every success with your applications to the Planners.

Yours sincerely,



ALAN CURRIER COTNER

Cakes and Company
The Old Royal Oak, High Street, Blockley, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 9EX

Tuesday 15 February 2011

Dear Margaret,

Cakes and Company is a Club for the elderly who live in and around Blockley. I write on their behalf in support of the proposed building of a new village shop and café.

We understand that the Shop committee has been unable to secure a long term lease on the current premises but has been successful in finding a site for the proposed new build. The new build would give improved storage space and a better layout. The plans show it to be an attractive building in keeping with those around it.

The elderly members of Cakes and Company feel that the village shop is invaluable to them. Many visit the shop each day not just for the items the shop sells but also for a chat to the staff and other customers. The shop is a meeting point and a life line for people living on their own. During the deep snow in December, medicines were delivered to the shop which Chris, the shop manager, would deliver along with the groceries to all who were housebound.

When Radio Gloucester came to the shop recently to interview local residents, one customer said the shop was "the best in the world"! And it is, not just for the local produce but for the care and thoughtfulness it shows towards the people who use it.

The members of Cakes & Company are wholeheartedly in support of the building of new shop premises.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Willott

Carol Willott
Founder Cakes & Company

Melrose
Station Road
Blockley
Moreton-in-Marsh
GLOS GL56 9DX
01386 700032
15 February 2010

Margaret Bryan
Chair, BCA
The Old Coach House
Post Office Square
Blockley
GLOS GL56 9BB

Dear Margaret

Blockley Village Shop and Cafe

I am writing to you on behalf of the Cotswold Wardens who have half a dozen or so members living in Blockley.

We would like to add our voice to those supporting the proposed new premises for the village shop and cafe.

One of the Wardens' main functions is supporting and facilitating the healthy activity of walking throughout the Cotswolds AONB. We patrol footpaths, work on enhancing them and keeping them clear and lead guided walks throughout the year.

The village shop and cafe support our activities by selling and distributing information about walks, providing a meeting place and offering facilities for refreshments during and after walks. Good public toilets are also a necessity for walkers and other visitors to the village. The proposed new shop will ensure that such facilities will continue to be provided.

As Cotswold Wardens we all obviously have a strong interest in retaining the style and atmosphere of the Cotswolds AONB while accepting that the area is not a museum but a developing place where people live and earn a living as well as being a centre for rest and recreation. As such we all take the view that the proposed new shop and cafe are entirely consistent with the atmosphere of the village and would indeed enhance its centre.

Yours sincerely



Peter Mansion



ORCHARD BANK

COTSWOLD VILLAGES' OLD PEOPLE'S HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD.

Housing Society No. 16595 R, registered under the Industrial & Provident Societies Act 1893 -1954

Web : www.orchardbank.org.uk

Tel : 01386 700953

e-mail : info@orchardbank.org.uk

February 15th 2011

Dear Margaret,

On behalf of the above association we are writing to offer our support for the building of new premises for The Shop and Café in Blockley.

We have seven purpose built apartments for elderly people all of whom in some form use the facilities of our local shop. Those, who are able, shop there and meet friends in the café. This is so important for those who otherwise would not have a purpose for going out and could become further isolated and lonely.

The central location of The Shop and Café is also important as none of our residents drive any more and few can walk very far. Some see the ability to continue to walk to the shop as an important part of remaining useful and independent. I am sure this must also apply to other very elderly people in the village.

Our cooks, who supply a freshly cooked lunch for our residents, often use the shop for supplies. It is a very important commercial and social facility for all those within our complex.

The staff of The Shop and Café sometimes join our staff for training days, sharing facilities and costs and so extending closer communications.

Yours sincerely,

Val Holmes (Hon. Secretary)

Registered Office : 1 Coney Green, Greenway Road, Blockley, Glos.

Chairman : Alan Cother

Hon. Secretary : Val Holmes

Hon. Treasurer : Dave Walsh

Thankful Steps High Street Blockley Gloucestershire GL56 9ET

anne.hayes13@gmail.com

Tel 01386 701044

February 15, 2011

Mrs Margaret Bryan
Chairman
Blockley Co-operative Association
Blockley Village Shop Cafe

Dear Mrs Bryan

I am writing to you on behalf of the Blockley Bookworms to express our support for the proposed new premises for the Blockley Village Shop Cafe.

The shop in our opinion is the hub of the village, an essential institution without which the present vibrant spirit of the village would wither.

It fulfills so many needs for villagers –

★it provides vital supplies and when snow falls the staff and the many helpers make sure no one goes without

★it houses the Post Office

★it's a centre of communication (from the over-populated noticeboard to pertinent advice, rumour and the necessary wi-fi)

★and it is a wonderful meeting place in which to meet friends and neighbours or somewhere to go as a treat for oneself.

We can't do without it.

Yours sincerely



Anne Hayes (Mrs)
Blockley Bookworms

PICTURE PLAYHOUSE AT BLOCKLEY

THE WILLOWS

PAXFORD

CHIPPING CASMPDEN

GL55 6XR

Dear Margaret

Ref: Proposal for the new premises for the Shop and Cafe in Blockley.

The committee of the Picture Playhouse fully support the building of a new shop and cafe at the location proposed.

The area will be considerable enhanced by the proposed new building at the centre of the village.

The toilets at the entrance to the church grounds do not enhance the appearance of the conservation area. As the inclusion of this necessary facility is included in the proposed plans it will be a more acceptable and aesthetically pleasing solution.

Since the shop opened it has become an integral part of village and Blockley parish life, adding to the community many vital services which are required for living, particularly for those disabled and without transport.

The Playhouse is greatly indebted to the shop for selling the tickets for our monthly film shows and the posters they display for us and many other organisations. It is an ideal centre for communications.

We all agree that the only sensible place for the shop is in the heart of Blockley and it is an absolute essential requirement, we urge the BCA management committee to do everything possible to make it happen.

Yours sincerely,



Helene Thompson

Chairman Blockley Picture Playhouse

BLOCKLEY BRASS BAND

Miss Rachel Galt
Rorkes Drift
Station Road
Chipping Campden
Gloucestershire
GL55 6HY

01386 841677
galt Rachel@hotmail.com

Mrs Margaret Bryan
The Blockley Cooperative Association Limited
The Old Coach House
Post Office Square
BLOCKLEY
Gloucestershire
GL56 9BB

12th February 2011

Dear Margaret

Blockley Village Shop and Café

On behalf of the committee and members of Blockley Brass Band I am writing to show the Band's support for the proposed building of the new village shop.

We believe that the village shop is the heart of the village. Blockley has a mixture of young and old residents alike and the shop serves all these residents and is an important asset.

The proposed new site for the shop is ideal as it is in a central location and easily accessible. We are sure that any new building would be in keeping with the surrounding area and that any impact on the conservation area would be minimal.

The shop also provides a social life to the village with its annual events and café.

In a day and age where we are encouraged to support the local producers, growers and local economy. We believe it is vital the shop is able to survive and to serve the community.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Galt
Secretary Blockley Brass Band

Chauffeurs Cottage

Batsford

hereafter in marsh

11 Feb 2011

Dear Mrs Bryan,

The members of Boddley Womens Institute are pleased to pledge their wholehearted support to the proposal to build a new village shop.

The existing shop has proved a great asset to the village, both from a social point of view, and a vital link and support to villagers during the very bad weather.

We trust plans can go ahead and that the village can benefit from such a wonderful amenity.

Yours faithfully

Janet Jarvis

President

Boddley Womens Inst.



Blockley & District Horticultural Society

Margaret Bryan
Chairman
Blockley Cooperative Assn. Ltd
The Old Coach House
Blockley
GL56 9BB

5th February 2011

Dear Margaret

Thank you for the opportunity to put forward the views of the Blockley & District Horticultural Society on the future of the Blockley Shop & Cafe

This Society has a membership of over a hundred people who would be supportive of ensuring that the attractive environment of the village is preserved. Blockley is an active village with a community which is able to maintain many thriving societies such as our own, and the success of the shop and cafe is another aspect of this community activity.

In addition to providing a retail outlet, the shop acts as a focus for many village activities and an excellent centre for communication. For example, the Horticultural Society runs two very successful shows each year. The schedules and entry forms are available from the shop and completed entry forms returned there. Our monthly events are also advertised in the shop.

Members are pleased to support the proposals put forward by the BCA which are considered to be an excellent way to develop the shop and cafe while protecting the conservation area of the village

We should be happy to discuss the proposal further if this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

John Baldwin
Chairman

43, Winterway Blockley GL56 9BZ

4 The Clementines
Blockley
Moreton in Marsh
GLOS
GL56 9ER

31st January 2011

Dear Mrs Bryan

On behalf of the members of the Friends of Blockley School Committee I would like to offer our support for the proposed new building and home for the village shop and cafe

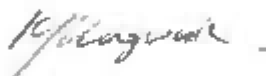
The shop and cafe are a valuable asset to the village but particularly for the mums and dads. Its wonderful to be able to call in on the way to and from school for supplies. The kids love to come after school for a treat or an ice cream to take to the park.

The cafe serves as a great meeting place for either coffee or lunch.

The shop was also an essential lifeline during the recent snow when many villagers were unable to leave the village. The shop committee members played a valuable part in e-mailing regular bulletins to villagers to coordinate deliveries, road cleaning, arrival of newspapers and other provisions and also offering support to anybody who may have been vulnerable at this time. I feel very strongly that without the shop this sense of community spirit would be greatly diminished if not lost all together.

Whilst the current shop has been an excellent facility we think that it is very clear that the proposed new premises will offer huge advantages in terms of space, additional facilities and indeed an improvement to the current inadequate and unsightly public conveniences.

Yours sincerely



Kathy Illingworth
Joint Chair, Friends of Blockley School.

Blockley Sports & Social Centre

Sparmoor, Station Road, Blockley, GLOS



c/o The Bakers Arms
Broad Campden
Chipping Campden
Glos GL55 6UR

26th January 2011

Mrs M Bryan
Chair of the Blockley Cooperative Association
The Old Coach House
Post Office Square
Blockley GL56 9BB

Dear Mrs Bryan

I am writing on behalf of Blockley Sports & Social Club to offer our support for the project to build a new shop for the people of Blockley and surrounding areas. As a local organisation we know only too well how important it is to keeping things going on behalf of the local community and our future generations.

What you have achieved with the shop you have at present is a marvel and with the plans you have for the new shop, it can only get better, providing even more services for the people of Blockley.

Every village needs a social centre to bring the people together whether it be for a coffee, to buy milk, a loaf of bread or a stamp and for communication (such as internet access) and company. If you ever need help, you can always go to their local shop or pub where there will always be someone who can help. Making home deliveries for the housebound was brought to the fore during the recent bad weather before Christmas where you had to perform many extra duties.

The shop already provides much needed employment for local people and with expansion you will probably need more staff which in this day of high unemployment is a great benefit. It also provides a place for many local suppliers to sell their goods, which again is great as suppliers are always looking for new markets in which to sell their produce. The café provides another income and this facility is used by locals and visitors alike. The café in particular offers the village it's much needed social centre right in the heart of the community.

As a cooperative you are already putting your local shop to so much good and with bigger premises things can only get better.

We wish you every success with your application and you can count on the support of the Blockley Sports & Social Club.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sally Mayo'.

Sally Mayo
General Secretary

President: Mrs Mary Wise

Patrons: Lt-Col W.A. McLelland, Tom Graveney O.B.E. G Clifton Brown M.P

Registered Charity Number 103035