



Islip Village Shop
Church Lane
Islip
Kidlington OX5 2TA
Tel 01865 375715

September 2021

Dear Resident,

Do our local communities really want a village shop?

Islip Village Shop, which is volunteer-managed and mainly volunteer-staffed, is facing challenging times and a real question over its future.

For almost twenty years the shop was comfortably profitable - because it had no staff costs. Profits which would otherwise have been taxed were donated to the Islip Shop Community Fund (a registered charity separate from the shop) enabling the shop to support local groups. Two years ago, after our volunteer manager Maralynn Smith retired, we took on a part-time paid stock manager. Last year, thanks to more people using the shop (in part due to Covid), we increased turnover by nearly £10,000. Despite this, after covering rent, staff costs and other overheads, we made a loss of almost £3,000. Although the Village Hall has kindly given the shop a quarter's rent holiday, this will not solve the long-term problem.

In addition, we are operating with a tiny group of wonderfully generous volunteers and a committee (also volunteers) most of whom have been in the role for over ten years and would like to step down from their management roles.

Therefore, to keep the shop open, we must increase turnover and attract additional volunteers. To be profitable we need to increase sales by 15-20%, or about £300/week.

Without this, the appropriate business decision would be to close the shop – not immediately, but when our reserves are exhausted, which would probably take a year or two.

To discuss this in detail we invite everyone to our Annual General Meeting, which will be at 6:30 on Monday 11th October in The Terrace Room. If the community decides we want the shop to continue, there must be greater participation in managing, staffing, and using it. We urge you to join us.

With best wishes,

Islip Village Shop Committee

Jane Currie
Lindsay Stead
Diane Wild
Chris Cook

Stephanie Sandell
Gwen Scott
Kate Venables

If you have questions or comments in advance of the meeting, or are unable to attend,

- please email islipshop@gmail.com
- or leave a note in the Comments box in the shop