

# A Community Shop in Combwich Questionnaire

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**Our community was saddened to learn that Jane, Peter, and Robert have decided they are no longer able to continue to run the shop and post office after many years' service to our community. We wish them well for the future. As a parish we need to consider what next?**

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## **A Community Shop for Combwich and the surrounding area?**

Our shop is a vital lifeline and for some people, especially those without transport, it is an important connection with the world beyond their front door. It is a meeting place, communication centre and an important lynchpin of village life. Much of the appeal of our village rests on its sense of community. It is the reason many people have moved here and remain here. The presence of a shop, we feel, greatly enhances that community spirit.

This questionnaire is the first step to determine options available should the community decide to try and provide its own community shop; the level of ongoing support it would receive and whether we will have sufficient volunteers to help run it. We need to know your views on what might be provided and what would receive your support. Please be as honest and realistic as possible in your answers. Your response will be treated in confidence.

The results of this survey will be published and presented to a public meeting when the responses can be discussed to determine whether we have sufficient interest to take such a project forward; to consider options available to us and if necessary, to form a steering group (*as alluded to in Q9*)

We would also like to hear from you if you feel you could help in any way with the running of the shop. There will be a wide range of tasks to be done from the initial setting up of the project to managing the enterprise and being involved in the day-to-day practical operation. Without the commitment of local people this project will not be possible. This kind of venture has been successfully achieved in other villages. There are currently over 300 community owned shops in the UK and most of these have been set up with the support of the charity Plunkett Foundation ([www.plunkett.co.uk](http://www.plunkett.co.uk)). We are fortunate to have access to the parish's allocation of the Community Fund (circa £370k) and there may be grants available, but we will need to produce a sustainable business plan to draw down this funding. Will our village be the next one? If you wish to speak directly to someone about this project, please contact the parish council clerk; [otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com)

## About a Community Village Shop

1. If a new village shop was opened in **Combwich** would you or any member of your household use it?

- Daily
- 2-3 times a week
- Once a week
- Once a fortnight
- Occasionally
- Not at all

2. What products would you be most likely to buy?

- Newspapers/magazines
- Ready meals
- Local Produce
- Frozen food
- Fresh fruit & vegetables
- Meat and dairy
- Greeting cards/wrapping paper
- Bakery
- Pet food
- Sweets/chocolate
- Household goods
- Beers, wines & spirits
- Stationery
- Packed groceries - tins, packets
- Craft items
- Cigarettes/tobacco
- Gifts
- Cleaning materials
- Baby Products – wet wipes, nappies
- Toiletries
- Sandwiches
- Organic/Fair Trade products
- Other (please list as many as you like below)

3. What services would you be most likely to use?

- Postal Services/Cash Withdrawal
- Deliveries
- Parcel delivery and collection point
- Advertisement board
- Tickets for local events
- Photocopying
- Internet
- Tea room/coffee shop
- E-top ups for mobile phones
- Prescription Collection
- Electric key meter top-up

4. Are there any other services not listed above you would like to see on offer?

5. At what time of day would you be most likely to use the shop (please tick as many as you like)?

- 8am – 12 noon
- 12 noon – 2pm
- 2pm – 6pm
- After 6pm

6. How far do you currently travel to do your:

- a) Main weekly shop?
- b) Convenience / top-up shopping?

7. On a scale of 1 – 5 (where 1 is not important and 5 is very important), how important do you think it is to have a village shop in Combwich. Please circle your answer.

NOT IMPORTANT <<< 1 2 3 4 5 >>> VERY IMPORTANT

8. Please state how many people in each age range there are in your household:

- 0 - 16 number of people: \_\_\_\_\_
- 17 – 25 number of people: \_\_\_\_\_
- 26 – 45 number of people: \_\_\_\_\_
- 46 – 65 number of people: \_\_\_\_\_
- over 65 number of people: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Would you or anyone in your household be interested in helping a community shop project in any way by:

- Joining the steering group
- Helping with fundraising
- Providing professional advice/services and my profession/skills are:
- Be involved in running the shop/volunteering

If you have answered yes to any of the above questions, or you would like us to contact you, then please write your name, address, and phone number here:

Name (optional)

Address (required)

Telephone

Email

**Thank you very much for taking the time to complete  
this questionnaire.**

Please return this questionnaire to any of the addresses below in the envelope provided by 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024:

14 Estuary Park, Combwich

3 Nursery Close, Combwich

Myrtle Villa, 27 Riverside, Combwich

20 School Lane, Combwich

Dowells Farm, Steart

This survey can also be completed online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FNWH2VZ>

