

EAST MORTON PUBLIC CONVENIENCES - COMMUNITY ASSET PROPOSAL

The existing public conveniences are a small building in the centre of the village, currently owned by Bradford Council and recently closed (April 2015) due to the need to make continued cost savings.

The building has been used mainly by walkers and visitors to the village, along with the Morton in Bloom group who have carefully landscaped the building, which also provides rainwater for the planting on the Village Green.

The Village has a thriving local pub and Village Institute, but currently there are no shops serving the village itself. There is a sense of community as evidenced by the number of active groups and activities promoted within the village

Following closure of the public toilets, the options for the village to consider at this time are for the building to be demolished and (possibly) subsequently landscaped, or, for an application to be made for alternative use of the building.

What follows is a proposal to apply for the building to become a community asset, with a view to using it as a community shop, run by and for the village.

The main purpose of this initiative would be to have develop a community shop, starting a small scale operation based on a street 'market' approach which would allow local producers to sell their products.

We recognise that this is a potentially major undertaking but we are encouraged by the success of other communities who have set up successful community businesses

We would very much like to hear your views on these proposals, whatever they may be as we need to gauge the level of support for our proposal from the feedback we receive. Attached is a questionnaire which is the first step. If you want an electronic version please contact via the email address and we will send a version in WORD for you to complete and return.

e-mail address: eastmortonshop@outlook.com



Why have a village shop?

The New Economic Foundation Think tank says "local shops tend to act like a social glue and holds communities together in a way that big retailers can't" (Quote taken from '5 reasons to shop local' in The Local Clarion)

The Plunkett Foundation (see their website) are a long established UK wide organisation who have supported local initiatives to establish and promote community shops. Their report using robust data shows how these shops have a good track record and a low failure rate

- The creation of a village retail outlet enables people in the community to spend more time and money locally as part of a community based activity.
- The shop would be to use local suppliers wherever possible.
- Using a local business helps to minimise congestion and pollution, and would help to sustain a walkable and active village centre. Locally produced goods help cut down on mileage (food miles).
- Local shops create charm and individuality which makes the local area unique and special, as well as providing a point of access, engagement and enjoyment.
- As a community asset it forms a hub that has the ability to promote, support and provide an outlet for other community based groups and projects. It can be an additional information resource and space for others to use.
- The enterprise would be run by volunteers and all profits would be used to support the project and other local activities.

Who benefits?

There are small but significant social, environmental and economic benefits for the community in the following ways:

- As an outlet for good quality and locally produced food which is affordably priced but recognises the importance of bio diversity and good standards of animal welfare in it's production.
- Accessible for those without cars or for those who prefer not to use a car for short journeys; promoting activity and engagement in the community. There could be an option for local delivery for those with limited mobility or time.
- Creating opportunities for people to be involved in a local project, stimulating social connection and interaction.
- Serving as an additional resource for other local groups and activities and could promote community based groups in a variety of ways.

CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING A COMMUNITY ASSET: Village shop.

This consultation should be completed in conjunction with the briefing notes attached.

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| Would you be in favour in principle of retaining the existing toilet block building in East Morton as a community asset? | YES / NO Comments: |
| Would you prefer the asset (toilet block building) to be used for a specific purpose i.e. other than as a community shop? | YES / NO If yes please tell us your idea |
| Would you support the development of a community shop? | YES / NO |
| Would you or anyone in your household be interested in helping a community shop project in any way? | YES / NO Join the steering group Help with fund raising Provide professional advice/services (Please specify skill/profession) Be involved in running the shop/volunteering Making a donation Buying a Share/s (say £10) Making a loan or contribution |
| If you like the idea of a small shop with limited opening hours, what products or services would you most like to see? Here are some ideas, please add your own. | Advertising and tickets for local events Dry cleaning or shoe repair drop off Tea room/coffee shop facility Deliveries Post office services |
| What time of day would you be most likely to use a shop in the village? | Before 8am 8am - 12 noon 12 noon - 2pm 2pm - 6pm After 6pm After 7pm |
| On the scale of 1-5 below please show how important you think it is to have a village shop in East Morton? | NOT IMPORTANT <<< 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 >>> VERY IMPORTANT |

It would be helpful to have the following and let us know if you are willing to be contacted for future feedback or consultation.

Post code:

Your contact details: (telephone/e-mail)

Return as soon as possible via post box at the Village Institute, or request an electronic version by email eastmortonshop@outlook.com