

Village Shop Fund Raising Update

It's time to work really hard for the last half of our target! Share commitments are slowing significantly.

As at Saturday morning the 17th June we are at or very slightly over the 50% of target. There are 5 more working days to go plus this weekend, so we have decided to extend the deadline for cheques to Friday 23rd June, and those for immediate BACS investments to Tuesday 27th June, some 3 days before the Auction on June 30th.

Please help those villagers who are either not aware of the risks of losing the shop, or are unsure of what to do, or how to do it. There are plenty of commitment forms at Peckhams, it can be downloaded from the Findon Village website, or collected from me at 'Coachmans', 2 Nepcote (873399).

I urge all those who have already supported us to talk to neighbours and friends, persuade your clubs and organisations in the village to commit some of their reserved funds to the shop fund target. All funds will be returned within 30 days if we fail, and the share value is largely backed up by the freehold value of the premises.

Several current shareholders have said to me that they could probably put in more if we were very close to target by the end of next week, and our Parish Clerk Fiona McLeod is going to try and assemble a share register on a confidential group e-mail so we can communicate with everyone. The list will be on an 'undisclosed' basis to retain full confidentiality, and amounts of commitment will not be published, just names.

Strangely there have been hardly any businesses that have committed (except Peckhams!) so it's possible that the pubs, restaurants and other businesses might be persuaded with a little help.

The absence of a convenience store and post office will lower property values in the village, has an immediate impact on a lot of villagers who want their papers locally and the convenience of popping into the shop for essentials without going down to the Valley. Liz Legge (877268) and Aud Stapleton are hoping to start newspaper sales and deliveries within a month from the Village House, but they still need more names of those who want a service, and will run the service until the shop is back in action.

This coming week we will be having our first meeting with the Plunkett Foundation, who have committed themselves to helping us get a Village Cooperative started if we manage to buy the freehold.

The Findon Village website will continue to be updated with progress at least every other day with some help from Richard Bell and Nick Gore, and Bob Easterbrook will amend the Fund Thermometer outside Peckhams.

Peter Goldsworthy