

Update on Pitton Village Hall and the Pitton Community Shop

Since our last update work has focussed on understanding the way forward in terms of the PVH trust deed, drawing up potential designs for the shop and developing a prospectus for the launch of a Pioneer Share Scheme for the community shop. The Village Hall Management Committee are fully committed to enabling a shop next door to the village hall and so the two organisations have been working closely together to move this forward. And progress is certainly being made.

On the legal side, the PVH trust deed has been reviewed and it has been agreed that the first step is to ensure that the community support the plans. PVH will hold a public meeting on Wednesday 6th December at 7:30pm at the village hall to discuss this and vote on the proposal to open a shop at the village hall. All residents will be invited to attend and a formal notice will be placed in the Salisbury Journal. We will send out further information for you to read before the meeting.

Assuming necessary support from the community is received, we can then move forward to agree a lease of the land from PVH to PCSL and to submit a planning pre-application to Wiltshire Council.

PCSL architects have drawn up a potential design for the shop and this will be used in the pre-application to check that there are no obvious issues with the design so far and that planning permission is likely to be granted. Following this the formal design will be submitted for full planning approval.

Both tasks require cash and, following the public meeting, the community shop team will launch a Pioneer share scheme to raise the necessary funds from the community to support these two Phase 1 activities. This will give the community an opportunity for early investment in the shop.

Once the lease has been agreed and planning permission granted, which is expected to be around the summer of 2024, PCSL will launch a follow-up community share offer and submit applications for grant funding to raise the money to build and fit out the shop.

All going well, PCSL plan to open the new, purpose-built shop and post office before the existing one closes its doors in early 2026.

Best wishes

Pitton Village Hall Management Committee and Pitton Community Store Limited

October 2023