

# Let's Talk Shop

Together we can make it happen

[www.kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk](http://www.kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk)

Issue 13

Aug/Sep 2011

## Questionnaire results.....

### You want a Shop, preferably on the Recreation Ground and you want it NOW!

Dear Reader,

Behind the scenes as with many projects, the volunteers have been hard at work over the last 2 months preparing, delivering and collecting the questionnaires to gain the views of the Parish of Kingsbury towards opening a shop. For those involved in this process please accept this as a personal thank you for all your contributions. The news from the Management Committee who are still dedicated and determined to bring a shop to our community (before Tesco rule the world) is that there has been some further changes in members; Carol Mason one of the founder members and helped start this project has resigned as she feels that having given three years of hard work, 'now is the time to bow out and leave it to others to try a different approach'. Carol spent many hours researching the community needs, discussing and planning the way forward with the help, expertise and guidance of many organisations and departments outside of our area. We have expressed our sincere thanks to Carol whose enthusiasm and drive has always ensured we focus positively on our aim. Christine Weymouth has also left our number to concentrate on the fundraising committee and we thank her for all her valiant work. We look forward to the fruits of her labour in conjunction with all of the fundraising committee. Fundraising will become especially important over the coming months due to the huge decision made at the last Management meeting which has resulted in a change of direction. From the questionnaire results all of those who expressed an interest in joining the committee were invited along to the Management Committee meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup> and their input together with other members of the public who attended was invaluable and greatly appreciated. As a result Patrick Godwin has been voted on to the committee and Jeff Martina along with John Bray have made the decision to join at the next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> August 8pm at the Wyndham Arms. Please remember everyone is welcome to come along to our meetings.

The questionnaire results have shown the support for a shop is not flagging as some replies suggested, as encouragingly 88% of those returned are in favour. What has become evident is that a shop is needed now; this takes us on to the direction we have now decided to take. The chasing of Lottery funding has been put on hold for the time being because this could take upwards of a further 12 months and at the end of that time and effort the answer could still be no. We are therefore listening to the community and are going to focus initially on a smaller and more cost effective project. With the consent of the Recreation Committee and the planning department of South Somerset District Council we are hoping to site a portacabin on the Rec to start small and grow according to the level of demand.\* This plan is in the process of being discussed with the Rec Committee and in future newsletters we will update you on our success.

\* See page 3.

Best wishes

*The Management Committee*

### Enjoy a family day out taking part in a walking TREASURE HUNT



To take place on  
**Sunday 18th September,**  
starting at **The Wyndham Arms**  
between 4pm and 5pm.

**Adults £5, Children £3**

**Family ticket for 4 £12**

**includes BBQ supper**

**(Drinks can be purchased)**

**Call 01460 240092 or 01460 241736 for your tickets**

**Wow! What a result.** 53% of questionnaires were returned, which is a fantastic response. This is down to the hard work of our trusty volunteers, and to those of you who took the time to complete and return it. Your answers, comments, suggestions and letters which have all been read and collated, have provided us with important and encouraging results. Results from the questionnaires have shown that **88%** of households are in agreement with a shop in the village and this is the encouraging news we needed to enable us to continue our work. **90%** read the 'Let's Talk Shop' newsletter regularly; therefore the work of the Committee and the news which it generates is reaching a substantial amount of the Parish. Comments and suggestions received included: Why not email it? As 75% have broadband this could be a possibility, although problems would be encountered as we would need everyone's email and postal address to ensure that we were not doubling up on distribution. Whilst this has the potential to reduce printing costs it would present us with many logistical and time consuming problems to make sure that the remaining 25% received their copy. If it is in paper form then at least there is the potential for more than one member of a household to read it. The Newsletter is always available on our website. One area we could look into would be obtaining sponsors towards printing costs. Other comments; very interesting and informative, professionally produced, Keeps us up to date, some think it is too expensive and could be in black and white, all of these comments, as with others received will be looked at in greater detail over the next few months.

16 people have offered to help with the fundraising, a further 55 have volunteered to help with the project and 75 have said that they would work shifts in the shop. In answer to Question 7, we asked if you were willing to invest by purchasing Bonds? We had an amazing response of £8,865 pledged, thank you very much. Some local businesses have also offered sponsorship which is encouraging. This will be very helpful in the immediate future with our proposed outcome.

**What sort of shop best suits the Parish?** The top answer was 'Alteration to existing building'. Unfortunately none of the returned questionnaires provided any premises that could be used at this time. 'A New build' was the second favourite suggestion. This is what we have been trying to achieve, however the funding process is a lengthy one and most people indicate that they want to have a shop sooner rather than later. 62 of the 239 replies to this question opted for a portacabin. This could be a temporary building followed by one of the other two options at a later stage. Some comments included; using the Church

Rooms or surrounding area, Portacabin to see if successful, Mobile Shop, New Build really great but costly, Something basic then grow, Cheapest option, Important to have parking facilities. Most would like to see a shop on the Recreation Ground and 78% would like to see the Shop committee and the Rec. committee working together.

**Fundraising ideas:** Thank you all so much. There have been some great suggestions that we will be looking at for future events and we look forward to your support to boost our fundraising. In reply to some of the comments received we are very aware of other events in the area and try very hard to avoid clashing of dates. The new Kingsbury website under construction by a member of the Parish Council should prove very useful for advertising local event dates and more.

**Current Shopping:** Most of you do your main shopping in Yeovil, followed by Langport, then Ilminster. Most people travel to Martock to do a 'top-up' shop. 58% of you would use your local shop for 'top-up' items and 42% would like to see a full range of items sold. Local produce came out on top as the most popular 'likely to buy' item, followed by bread then milk. Almost 100% of you would like to see Post Office services. We will try our best to provide as much as we can.

In answer to some who thought we would take away trade from local businesses, it has always been the intention to ask local business to supply the shop, where possible, therefore reducing food miles and travel costs.

**Community Facility:** 28% rated a community facility as very important, and 32% would like to see a tea room/coffee shop. If we follow our new direction these will be areas of concentration for the future, as and when funds permit, once a need has been established.

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**Land: Three people said that they may have suitable land, however not all of these people gave us contact details. If you would like to discuss this further with us, please call or send an e-mail. We would love to hear from you.**

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We all appreciate that we will never be able to please everyone which is only to be expected as when the questionnaire was introduced via the Jun/Jul edition of Let's Talk Shop we said it was your chance to have your say, which you have. Thank you  
The above is just a summary of the replies we received. For more detailed results please visit the website. [www.kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk](http://www.kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk). If you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail please send an e-mail to 'committee@kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk'

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## So...The Outcome

The committee have decided to push forward initially with a portacabin/temporary building, ideally on the Rec. To enable us to do this as soon as possible, we will need to raise an additional £20,000-£30,000 in the next 2 months, as we have the opportunity to purchase the following. This amount of money is needed to purchase the building, arrange transport costs, pay for set up fees and to buy initial stock. We are now asking for your help. Are you, or do you know of anyone who would be willing to make a loan bond to the project, bearing in mind that there is a chance that this may not be reimbursed? We are continuing to apply for grants but this would take more time than we have if we are to purchase this building. Please call Pauline on 01460 240092, in confidence, if you would like to discuss this.



<http://www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk>

**For those who wish to support this fundraising appeal there are two methods:**

**The first method** (for sums of £250 and above) is to subscribe to the 1st Issue of the Loan Bonds issued by The Kingsbury Community Enterprise Ltd.

**The second method**, for smaller sums, is to make a donation to The Kingsbury Community Enterprise Ltd. The Fundraising Committee has already held several fund-raising events in aid of the Community Shop. All funds received will be used to purchase temporary premises, equipment, stock & set up costs.

*See back page for application form*

### Why this unit?

In a search for a suitable building to house the shop, the Plunkett Foundation with whom we have worked with closely regarding the registering of the project as an Industrial Provident Society (IPS), advertised this unit. It was specially designed for the purpose of being a shop in 2007. The shelving on both sides with a gondola through the centre is wide enough to allow access for a wheelchair. A Fujitsu air conditioning unit has been installed. One of the Management Committee has been speaking to Seavington Community Shop Committee and they are having to now install Air Conditioning in their shop as the heat from freezers & chillers is damaging the stock. We see an air conditioning unit in the first instance as a necessity rather than an extra. The lighting is sufficient to provide a bright and light atmosphere. The strength of the building is in the design as other shop projects have found when a portacabin style unit has been used if too much weight has been put through the centre the sides tend to collapse. This building started life as a container and anti-vandal unit. We encourage you to follow the links to the Frensham website to view the photos and full specifications of the unit. Some of the Management Committee are hoping to visit Frensham shortly. Ultimately this may not be the unit chosen for the shop but it gives a good indication of how plans can progress with your help.

For those who filled the questionnaire in answering Yes to the questions regarding, helping with the planning/building stage, volunteering in many areas, could you please make yourselves known to a member of Committee. Apart from us needing your greatly appreciated support & help over in the next few months, we need to update the Business Plan. The work on this has already started.

Phone: 08456 911 439\* or 01460 240 092 e-mail: [committee@kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk](mailto:committee@kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk)

I wish to purchase a bond/make a donation of the value indicated below towards the provision of the £30,000 needed to help establish the Kingsbury Episcopi village shop. I understand that the bond will not be secured nor bear interest. The Enterprise will use every reasonable endeavour to repay my bond at the end of the fifth year of trading (October 2016) or as soon thereafter as the trading surplus allows. The Enterprise will use every reasonable endeavour to repay my bond in the event of death or in case of hardship, although it cannot be guaranteed. I understand that should the Enterprise fail then, having paid off trade and any other creditors, any surplus monies will be distributed pro rata to repay bonds and, following this, any surplus will be distributed in accordance with model rules. (available to view on our website - [www.kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk](http://www.kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk), or by written request)

I attach my cheque for the amount of £\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to **Kingsbury Community Shop Project**.

Please indicate if Bond  Donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send/deliver this to The Treasurer, 28 The Avenue, Kingsbury Episcopi, Martock, Somerset, TA12 6BE

Note: Although the Kingsbury Community Enterprise Ltd are not a registered Charity, they are formally constituted therefore monies raised will not be subject to tax.

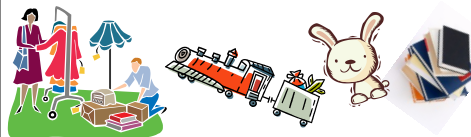
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**We now have some brilliant ideas thanks to you and need people with enthusiasm and energy to make them happen. (see below). We will be looking in detail at all of the results and along with new committee members we will be taking this project forward to become a reality in the near future. Once again, thank you for all of your input. The website will be updated regularly with any new information until the next edition of 'Let's Talk Shop'**

**Date for your diary 9<sup>th</sup> August 8pm,  
Management meeting at The Wyndham Arms.  
All welcome**

## Jumble Sale

**Saturday October 15th  
at The Methodist Church  
from 10am to 12pm**



Please call Pauline on  
01460 240092 to arrange delivery or  
collection of donated items

### Requests for help:

Can you spare approx 2 hours a month to be our minutes secretary? Shorthand not necessary.

New fundraising members are needed to help discuss, plan and arrange further events. As much or as little time as you can spare will be great. Please come along to the next meeting on Sept 6th (7.30pm at the Wyndham Arms) or call Sue & John on 01460 241736

We could still use more committee members. If you can spare some time and have any skills that may be of help, please call Pauline on 01460 240092

**Congratulations to the holder of winning number 206. Please contact Pauline on 01460 240092 to claim your £100, kindly donated by Thoroughbred Design & Print, and English Homes.**



The winning number was drawn by Steve Carpenter of Mid West Radio at the Lowland games on 31st July

**Do you have a business that would benefit from advertising in the Parish, every two months? We are looking for a sponsor for this newsletter. This could be just once, every now and again or a regular advertisement every two months. If you are interested please call Angi on 01935 824361. Please leave a message if no answer and we will get back to you.**

Phone: 08456 911 439\* or 01460 240 092 e-mail: [committee@kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk](mailto:committee@kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk)