

SPECIAL EDITION Newsletter from Midgley Community Forum

NEWS ON SHOP, POST OFFICE AND COMMUNITY ROOM PLANS

In response to criticisms of the plans for the new build and wishing to heal the divisions within the community which have arisen over this, Midgley Community Forum has decided to withdraw the planning application for the new shop, post office and community room at the end of Pleasant View flats. The reasons for this decision are:

1. The original aim, and the activities of the Forum over the last five years, have been to bring the village together: the new build plans were threatening this.
2. A possibility has also now arisen to purchase the former Co-Op building following its failure to sell at auction. This was not an option when we first looked at the new build.

There is overwhelming support to continue to have a Post Office, Shop and Community Room in the village: it just seems to be a case of where.

Our lease expires on Great House Barn later in the year, we are at a crossroads in our development and it is really important to see how people feel about where we go next.

It is a good time to reflect on what we as a village have achieved in the last five years.

- Re-opening of a village shop - used by 80 customers a day with any surplus ploughed back into village activities and run totally by 30 or more unpaid volunteers.
- Re-opening of a post office, which is open on four days a week.
- Opening a Community Room - available for meetings, events and group activities, and paid for by fund raising events throughout the year.
- A free village newsletter, which is edited and distributed throughout the village and environs by volunteers.
- Organising events which engender a community spirit and raise money to support the shop, community room and post office and endeavour to provide activities to suit all ages and interest groups in the village.

WITHOUT THE MCF NONE OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS WOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE:-

Visit by Father Christmas, rides on the trap, Santa's Grotto and presents for children.
Distribution of Christmas gifts by Father Christmas to villagers over 80.

Carol singing. Midgley pageant

Midgley open gardens and studios

History group and the culmination in an excellent book on the history of the village.

Coffee mornings and afternoon teas. Play group for the under 5's

Children's activities e.g., Easter egg hunt, Treasure Hunt, Pumpkin competition, Bunny drives and games sessions. Family evenings in the community room.

Horticultural produce and art and craft shows. Music and general knowledge quizzes.

Book club. Wine and beer tasting evenings. Burns night suppers, pudding clubs. Summer walks – both social and historical. Boundary walk. Visits to Castle Carr and arranging for the fountains to work for the event. Charabanc trips to Robin Hoods Bay, Whitby, Chester, Chatsworth and Bridlington New Year celebration Jacobs join suppers. Race nights. Barn dances. Auction of promises
An active Traffic group to monitor problems and safety within the village.

NEW SUGGESTIONS AND INVOLVEMENT are actively sought through word of mouth, newsletters and meetings and we encourage everyone to join in.

All these activities have been and continue to be open to everyone in the village through advertising in the newsletter and posters throughout the village.

This is all in addition to the social benefit of the facilities which enable people to have a place to meet, talk and exchange ideas, get to know each other and make new friendships. It also acts as an extra alarm system if anyone is known to be ill, infirm or having difficulties.

None of these activities would have taken place without a place to meet and they will cease to run unless we all agree on a way forward.

HAVING WITHDRAWN THE NEW BUILD PLANNING APPLICATION WHERE DO WE GO NEXT?

In order for Midgley Community Forum to maintain what we have achieved so far it is essential we find premises which enable us to continue to provide for the needs of the Midgley Village Community.

We plan to host another consultation event for the whole village and propose that it is led by someone independent, so that we can all agree on the next steps.

Thank you for all your continued support.