

OVING PARISH PLAN

Action Point template

Subject Investigated: VILLAGE SHOP(S)

Survey Question Numbers: Mainly Q19, but comments throughout the results report

Description of the perceived need:

The shop in Oving village closed in 1985. Since then there has been no shopping facility in the parish. In 2004 an investigation was undertaken as part of the follow up of the previous parish plan. Based on professional advice from Action in Rural Sussex it was accepted that the population of Oving was insufficient to support a local shop.

In 2013 the Gribble Inn converted the bar in the family room into an unofficial shop stocking basic supplies. This was not re-opened following the fire in 2014 as business rates were too high

Summary of the relevant survey data:

There were 77 responses to Q19, with the highest number (20) requesting a shop. Throughout the results document, there were requests for a shop but some of these might be duplicated

Description of response proposed:

The new Shopwyke Lakes development has included two “Comercial Units” on the ground floor of the large block of flats. One of these could become a shop provided by one of the retail chains and could be used by other residents from the parish. When the Oving traffic lights are permanently closed as planned, this could be attractive to avoid the circuitous routes to Sainsburys or other shops in the City. However, this is unlikely to be the reason why existing Oving village residents are requesting a shop. A shop could be provided by a commercial organisation or be a facility run by volunteers on a co-operative, non-profit making basis.

Feasibility of response:

To be determined

The agency which is ultimately responsible:

Chichester District Council as it is likely that planning consent or any change of use would be needed within the Oving conservation area.

Those who will benefit among the community:

Many residents who need at short notice and the elderly who do not have a car or cannot get to a supermarket regularly

Timeframe & estimated costs if known:

This could take several years to implement. The likely costs will depend on whether an established provider is prepared to fund a shop and run it. The cooperative venture will depend on whether sufficient volunteers can be found.

Plans already in process or proposed which may be relevant:

The Gribble Inn has already agreed to put together a list of basic items that they can stock for emergency supplies for sale. The list of items will be based on their previous experience of demand and is likely to include bread; milk; teabags; coffee; biscuits; eggs; bacon; cheese; pet food; toilet rolls; vegetables; sweets. Alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks will continue to be sold as they are currently. This is a very generous arrangement that covers the short-term requirement. However, the business rates issue has not been resolved and could result in this arrangement being terminated.

In the longer term, a shop will be required in the new housing development as well as in Oving Village. It is likely that Oving Parish Council will support either or both these options. Investigations for a suitable location within Oving Village have already been started by others.