

How You Can Support Avebury Community Shop

In order to be able to run a community shop, we have to adopt a legal structure which allows for community ownership and control. The Steering Group, advised by the Village Retail Services Association, have selected the business model of an Industrial and Provident Society, run for the benefit of the Community. Because we will be trading, this is not a charity but is a not-for-profit association whose surpluses can be reinvested in the shop or in appropriate community activities. It is not owned by any particular person but equally by everyone who buys a share. Shareholders have one vote each and elect a committee to run the shop on their behalf under a set of rules governing how such an entity must operate.

These rules stipulate that objectives are stated (ours are 'to open and operate a shop that will serve the needs of the local community'), powers and controls are defined, meetings are arranged, officers and a management committee are elected and procedures are followed. Copies of the details of all of this are available from Chris Gater (539342), if you wish to review them.

To support and participate in the creation of a Community Shop, we need as many people as possible to buy shares. Any grant funding we seek will be assessed by the level of local support we can show, evidenced by the number of shareholders we have. If you want a local shop, we need your support.

Shareholding does not come with any tangible benefits – your money is a onetime investment which is not refundable. It entitles you to attend annual meetings and elect the management and have your say. It does not promise reward or payback in anyway, although the steering group are hoping that the opportunity to create some sort of residents 'discount scheme' will arise in time. If the shop fails, its debts do not fall back on shareholders and any assets left will be transferred to a similar/compatible organisation.

To support your community shop, we need you to buy a share at £10 per individual. Only one share per person is allowed, but please buy as many as you can in your household.

To do so, please write the names and address of the subscribers below and return it to Dave Scattergood, Strawberry Cottage, South Street, Avebury Trusloe, Marlborough SN8 1QX, UK with a cheque (payable to The Avebury Community Shop Ltd).

Subscriber 1 Title..... First Name..... Surname.....

Subscriber 2 Title..... First Name..... Surname.....

Subscriber 3 Title..... First Name..... Surname.....

Address.....

Subscription..... Donation..... Total enclosed £.....

Some people have said that they would like to support the Shop in a more substantial way. If you are able to make a donation as well, please do so, or if you would like to discuss loan or donation arrangements, call Chris Gater on 01672 539342. Again, the more support we can demonstrate, the better our chances with grants. Thank-you.

Equally we will need as many volunteers as possible. If you are able to give your time to serve customers in the shop, please contact Michele Lomas on 01672 539646.