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Date: 12 April 2024 at 15:12:13 BST  
To: Lizzie Mickery <lizzie@lizziemickery.net>  
Subject: Save Felpham Post Office - please!

To whom it may concern.

Save Felpham Post Office Campaign from Kate Stewart, Editor of Felpham in Focus

As editor of Felpham in Focus, a local magazine that reaches 6,000 households in Felpham and the surrounding areas every month, I am very aware of the needs of our community. The magazine is also online so I am very much in the loop when it comes to community matters and what our village likes and does not like!

Felpham Village Post Office provides essential services to the village and its environs. It's our epicentre and very much the heart of the village. Not just the vital banking it provides, which local traders rely on, but mailing services, online sales deliveries and cards, newspapers, lottery tickets and some groceries. But what is also important is what it represents to the village. People meet outside and chat. There is a rotation of pop-up shops in front of the building, allowing local small-time crafts people and bakers, plant and coffee sellers to sell their goods. Since the pandemic, the full impacts of isolation are better understood. The Post Office provides a social lifeline to the lonely, the full-time carers and the disadvantaged, among many others. The wonderful staff, who know their customers individually, are a welcoming presence.

The Friends of Felpham CIC, who are behind this campaign, intend to extend the Post Office outreach to residents by establishing a community hub. Interest has already been shown by charity and community interest groups and there are many Felpham residents who have pop ups and small businesses who need a space like this.

The idea to campaign to prevent the potential loss of the Post Office came from a Felpham resident whose connections to the village go back generations. The intention, however, is to preserve it for the generations to come. The Friends of Felpham CIC directors consist of residents who are working extremely hard to save the Post Office. The support from the community has been illustrated, not just in donations, but the full attendance at the inaugural open meeting and subsequent events as well as my readers who regularly comment on how keen they are to save it, as well as our local Whatsapp and Facebook groups.

Our magazine Felpham in Focus has run articles and adverts since the beginning of the Campaign in support of their cause. And as the editor, the magazine and I are fully behind the Campaign to Save Felpham Post Office.

Your sincerely,  
Kate Stewart

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