

## SAVE FELPHAM POST OFFICE

To Whom it may Concern

I have lived in Felpham since 1971 and welcome the opportunity to express my desire along with many other local residents and businesses to support the 'Save the Felpham Post Office' initiative. As a resident I have been involved with the campaign since its start and living in Felpham I have seen the village amenities evolve and change over the years.

In 1971 the village provided most of the needs of the community, there was no 'out of town' supermarket or shopping mall, no 'online' shopping facilities and no 'internet' banking all these needs were provided by the wide range of shops in the village. The lack of child care facilities meant few mothers worked and transport was often limited to the local bus service.

Many of these things have changed but the one constant in the village has been the Post Office and its facilities are still serving the community. During the pandemic and lockdown when many residents were isolated the Post Office took a wider role. Now selling, alongside the confectionery and cards, the post office sells a range of groceries and provisions and with the local butcher and other traders offered residents a much needed delivery service. Sourcing food from local suppliers and their own shops residents could order a wide range of supplies and have them delivered to the doorstep. A friendly face and reassuring presence.

Now the village has lost its last bank and all the banks in the nearest town have closed. As secretary of one of the four Women's Institute groups we now have nowhere to bank our Society Funds. Fortunately we can use our Post office to deposit our funds as along with many other local groups and organisations we do not have access to online banking. This is very reassuring as all our transactions are in cash or cheques.

This facility would seem to be a great opportunity for Felpham Post Office and for Post Offices in general to develop and grow to meet the new needs of the community. As a child a Post Office Savings Book was my first link to the Post Office later moving onto using their Giro Bank facilities and almost full circle back using the Post Office to bank the funds of my Women's Institute.

The Felpham Post Office is a great asset to the village in helping keep the community and village shops in place for future residents and I feel confident that the community based initiative planned by the preservation campaign has a major role to play in ensuring the 'village' community can survive into the future.

Yours sincerely

Marion Brooks (Secretary The Shrubbery WI) '

