

Comment for planning application 19/02888/F

Application Number	<input type="text" value="19/02888/F"/>
Location	<input type="text" value="Kirtlington Post Office Stores 1 Troy Lane Kirtlington OX5 3HA"/>
Proposal	<input type="text" value="Change of Use of Shop to Residential, alternations to front window and two new roof lights."/>
Case Officer	<input type="text" value="Shona King"/>
Organisation Name	<input type="text" value="Sue Brown"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="Brackley House,Heyford Road,Kirtlington,Kidlington,OX5 3HL"/>
Type of Comment	<input type="text" value="Support"/>
Type	<input type="text" value="neighbour"/>
Comments	<input type="text" value="I wish to express my strong support for this proposal. Whilst many people in the village support the idea of having a shop, sadly there are too few who actually spend money there to support the business and make it viable. Rachel and Amier have worked tirelessly over the years and invested to try to make the shop more attractive to village customers in many ways (such as lowering prices on basics, and introducing high-end deli items) but they have reached the point where the business is unsustainable. The challenges are undeniable: the rise in online supermarket shopping; decline of print media meaning fewer people calling in for a paper and making additional purchases; increase in car use, so people are more likely to shop at a supermarket; decline in numbers at the village school - so fewer children call in at the shop on their walk home (and many are now driven to school); change in village demographic, with younger working families less likely to use the shop and more likely to shop in supermarkets or online. Indeed, much of the custom at the village shop recently has been passing trade rather than village residents, and with the opening of the Co-op in Bletchington in 2019 the passing trade has all but dried up. We will all be desperately sad to see the shop close, but it is no longer a viable business and could not be taken on by anyone as a going concern. There is no evidence to suggest that a shop run from these premises as a community enterprise would be any more successful or better supported than the current shop. I therefore support the application for change of use so that the premises can be used as a family home rather than left to stand empty. I thank Rachel and Amier for everything they have done to keep the shop open for the good of the village in very challenging circumstances."/>
Received Date	<input type="text" value="29/01/2020 19:23:40"/>
Attachments	