

Comment for planning application 21/00369/F

Application Number	21/00369/F
Location	Kirtlington Post Office Stores 1 Troy Lane Kirtlington OX5 3HA
Proposal	Change of use of shop to residential, alterations to rear of property, alterations to front window and two new roof lights (Re-submission of 19/02888/F)
Case Officer	Shona King
Organisation Name	Celia and Chris Hawkesworth
Address	Woodbine Cottage, Troy Lane, Kirtlington, Kidlington, OX5 3HA
Type of Comment	Support
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>The village shop was a hub of community life ever since we came to Kirtlington nearly fifty years ago. But for the last fifteen years the owners have struggled to make it profitable. Village-wide efforts were made to help it succeed, but in the end changes in lifestyle, such as the ease of on-line shopping for people leading busy lives and more recently the opening of the successful Co-op store in the neighbouring village of Bletchingdon, combined with the effects of the pandemic, meant that the owners had to give up. Those of us who have tried over the last year to set up a small community shop continue to believe that such an amenity for the village is both important and viable if it relies largely on volunteer input and is in the right venue. This is a very different prospect to that facing the family currently living in the shop building which is also their home: for them the business needs to provide a livelihood for the whole family and enable them to maintain the property. This has proved impossible and we therefore support their proposal to convert the building into a proper family home.</p>
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Attachments	