

From: John Thorneloe

Sent: 19 February 2021 12:22

To: Shona King <Shona.King@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>

Subject: Planning Application 21/00369/F

Dear Madam,

Kirtlington Post Office and Stores

I should like to support the Planning Application of Rachel Simpson for change of use and alterations to the Kirtlington Post Office Stores. Rachel and Amir have lived there for a number of years and run the Shop and Post Office. However the Shop had become increasingly unviable, with most people doing most of their shopping in local supermarkets. Amir became very ill 2 years ago and, although he has made some progress is still unable to work and has limited mobility.

They have tried to sell the Shop as a going concern, but failed. With the opening of the Co op in Bletchington 2 years ago this made the Shop completely unviable, with the weekly takings well below the previous daily takings.

There are plans for a Community Shop to open, hopefully by Easter, at the Dashwood Arms. Rachel and Amir have 3 children, 2 teenage girls and a primary age boy. They all have friends in the village and wish to stay here.

The Shop is in a terrace, between 2 other houses. There is a bay with parking outside and a garden behind. Conversion to a residential property will be seamless. The existing Shop area is very small, and the original Living Room was used for a Cafe only very recently and has now been put back as a Living Room. The Conservatory area beyond the Post Office and adjoining the Kitchen is in very bad condition with a leaking roof so is no longer suitable as a storage area.

I hope you will look kindly on their application. With the Community Shop due to open shortly the need for them to remain a Commercial Property has gone.

Yours faithfully, Veronica Thorneloe

Mrs John Thorneloe