

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	
Name	Tony and Gill Summerfield
Address	Garden Cottage,Troy Lane,Kirtlington,Kidlington,OX5 3HA
Type of Comment	Support
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>We are writing in support of this application for change of use. The present owners have been running the shop since 2003. during that time they have made changes to try to enhance the business such as take away curries, opening a tea room to accommodate light lunches etc. and extend the opening hours in the evenings. Initially this did have a positive effect on their business even through the economic crisis of 2008. However in the last eight years trade has diminished drastically. To counteract this problem village volunteers helped in the shop serving and also assisting with shop maintenance. However it was quite apparent that despite such positive actions trade was decreasing at a rapid level. Passing trade is essential for such a village shop and indeed from villagers and sadly this was not forthcoming. It was apparent that the shop was losing money every day it was open. In September 2019 when the very successful Co-op opened in Bletchington trade reduced even more dramatically from both passing traffic and villagers alike. Basically a village shop cannot compete with the prices charged by a large supermarket and the shop closed on 29th February 2020. Last year a Sainsbury's opened at Heyford which again has attracted shoppers from the surrounding villages. At the same time many villagers have switched to home deliveries for their shopping which has increased even more so since the pandemic. Shopping habits have changed so much over the last 20 years that such a shop is not economically viable enough to support a family and maintain the property.</p>
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Attachments	