

Community shops

The where, why and what
with

Grindleford - typical community shop territory

- About 1000 souls and 450 dwellings at the last census
- 3 miles each way from a shop
- 12 miles from the city centre
- We have a primary school, a church and two pubs –



Why did we set up a community shop?

- Last commercial shop closed in 2010
- Major and immediate impact on social infrastructure
- We had someone in the village with experience of community shops

The problems in front of us.....

- No premises
- No money
- No idea how to run an shop
- No staff



Finding the funding

- The most important thing is not to get into debt unless there is someone to carry it
- You have to be able to walk away or it stops being fun
- But lots of possibilities for finding the money – shares, grants, pledges, donations, raiding lofts and garages

Finding premises

- Usually the biggest problem to solve - driven by not having money, it has to be cheap or free

(Try your local church – Plunkett and All Churches Trust)

- Position is really important as tea and coffee sales will keep you afloat – on the walking routes near the surgery or the



How to run a shop.....?

- The Plunkett Foundation will help. Employment law, rules of incorporation, stock lists, insurance advice..... etc.
- Other community shops will be keen to help you. They got help from others when they started up.
- Standard model is one paid employee plus volunteers (to keep costs very low)
- ‘Managing’ volunteers is an art not a science



Did it work?

- Yes. Grindleford Shop has just celebrated its 7th birthday. Litton has been open 20 years; Winster similarly.
- Around 13% of community shops fail. The other way round for commercial shops
- We support local businesses and make links with other
- villages nearby
- Everyone loves our shop, even the initial nay-sayers
- It has brought boundless benefits to the village



What next?

- Now working with the church to lower our joint carbon footprint to zero
- Initial upfront investment in green technology should allow us to produce all our own electricity using the church's sunny south facing roof
- And maybe solar powered electric bike recharging points!

