

## Chinley Coop newsletter and update



At last we are sending an update about progress with the community shop. It may seem as though little has happened but the committee (formed by the people who came forward following the survey in November) has been working really hard to get everything in place. You may have seen the window displays in the shop, if not have a look next time you pass.

Thanks to the great response from everybody to the survey and the social media posts we have been supported by the Plunkett Foundation to guide us through the legal process. We have applied to register ourselves as a community benefit society. This means that our shop is there to provide a service and support the community, not to make a profit. If we do have a surplus we will spend it on community and/or eco-friendly projects. How the surplus is spent will be decided by the members –see below for more information about becoming a member.

As well as applying to be registered we have also opened a temporary bank account while we await completion of the lengthy process of opening a business account. This means that we are now able to accept donations. Once we are registered as a community benefit society we can start to enrol members and issue our community share offer. We have agreed a lease for the shop with Lalit and Veena Parmar but we need to await our registration before we can sign a lease. We are lucky to have such supportive landlords.

As well as selling bulk products in refill packaging and a range of wholefoods, we will also be a community hub for selling and swapping local produce. We will offer ways to reuse unwanted or surplus food and other products. The shop is a community resource so please bring your ideas to the meetings or send us an email at [admin@chinleycoop.org.uk](mailto:admin@chinleycoop.org.uk)

### How to become involved and support us

We would like you to become a member. To become a member you need to buy one share for £10. When you are a member you can vote at our AGM and are eligible to stand for the management committee. As a member you can influence decisions about how we spend any profit and what we sell or how we run the shop. You may also wish to join one of our groups if you would like to be more

involved. **As soon as we are able to enrol members we will let you know. We hope this will be before the end of February.**

We need volunteers to help renovate and adapt the shop. If you like DIY, design, decorating or cleaning please join our mailing list. Also if you have shelving or furniture that you think might be useful for the shop that you can donate then send an email and photo to [admin@chinleycoop.org.uk](mailto:admin@chinleycoop.org.uk)

We need members to work in the shop. You will need to be available for at least one half day every week. You will receive food hygiene training and be fully supported. **Our next newsletter will give more details about working in the shop.**

We need to raise funds to buy our starting stock. We intend to do this through community shares. To become a member you need to buy one share for £10. You can then purchase additional shares at £10 each to support us. You will not receive any extra member benefits by purchasing more than one share, you will still only have one vote, but you can request the return of your investment after a period of time, usually two to three years. The investment will be returned to you if the society is able to do so. You can chose to leave your money invested in the shares and we would then pay interest on the investment until any future repayment. We also welcome donations which are particularly helpful during these early stages. The more we can invest in stock at the start the better the choice will be. Our next newsletter will explain how you can buy community shares. **We cannot issue shares until we are registered as a community benefit society which we hope will be completed by the end of February.**

We are running two pop-up shops with pre-ordered items to be collected from the shop on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March. We will also have a few extra, including local, items for sale. Payment will be by card on collection except for larger orders where we will collect payment at the time of ordering. This is to help us find out what products you would like to buy and if the coop is going to be successful. **Please support us, you don't need to be a member to order from the pop-up shop. The important dates are below.**

Order forms for pop-up shop will be available	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February
Deadline to make order for 1 <sup>st</sup> pop-up shop on 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February
1 <sup>st</sup> pop-up shop	10am – 4pm Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> March
Deadline to make order for 2 <sup>nd</sup> pop-up shop on 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March
2 <sup>nd</sup> Pop up shop	10am – 4pm Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> March
Official opening of shop	Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> April

Ordering instructions will be sent to you by email if you are on our mailing list and we will also be distributing paper order forms. Ordering instructions will also be on our website.

Look out for our next newsletter and pop-up shop order form.

