



Update: 17th May 2016

Since the Public Meeting on March 22nd we have been in discussions with the Postmistress regarding the current situation and the future, including her own plans.

We are not currently proposing any fund raising, although we may need to do some at some future point. Instead we are trying to increase awareness of the various services available over the counter at the Post Office as the income generated will help produce a more sustainable future.

The possible future scenarios are as follows:-

- Someone comes forward to take it on as a commercial venture.
- The Post Office remains as it is now and when the Postmistress retires it ceases trading.
- It is taken on in some form by the Community.

We have met with the Post Office Authorities, and are currently in dialogue with them to ascertain what the future possibilities are regarding community involvement, and it appears there may be two options. Either of these would no doubt mean a lengthy and detailed application process where we would have to demonstrate that we have the financial capability and the ability to run it successfully, the level of community support, and being able to meet various criteria, including evidence that no other business is interested in taking it on, etc. etc. We would also need a Business Plan and the compilation of a fairly lengthy document as a Presentation Document.

If in the future the village decides on proceeding with a form of community Post Office, there are certain things to consider. Primarily, we would need to have a strong team in place both during the application stage and also - if we were to be successful - for the running of it, where everyone would be expected to play a role.

We are investigating the financial implications of running a community branch under both available options. We are also gathering information from business stakeholders to see whether they wish to register an interest in running the Post Office business.

We need to speak to possible funding sources and are already in contact with an organisation who provide practical assistance in going down a 'Community Route'. We have also started speaking to other villages who have gone down a similar route.

In order to move forward, and to ensure we have all the facts and figures etc. we really need some more people to join us who would be prepared to get involved with the many aspects, including doing research, making contact with others, establishing the pros and cons of various scenarios, so that we can all make an informed decision about how we move forward.

At some point in the near future the community of Nayland will have a big decision to make regarding the Post Office, and which route, if any, we go down and we need to be happy that we not only have the support of the village but that we also have the team in place at all stages.

In the meantime flyers have been distributed to make everyone aware of the services available at the Post Office, so please use it whenever you can.

We are intending to hold an Open Meeting at the Anchor on Wednesday July 20th, 7.45 for 8pm where we will give an update of where we are.

But we do need your help so if you would like to join us please get in touch as soon as possible with one of the following team members:

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Nayland Post Office Campaign Team