

Nayland Community Store Ltd "Save Our Post Office" Campaign update 9th January 2018



naylandcommunitystores.co.uk
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The Nayland Community Store Ltd (NCSL) is delighted to report that, after a successful interview with Mr Alan Lusher of the Post Office on 14 December, we have been offered a contract to take over Nayland Post Office. Mr Lusher was very welcoming and grateful for our application. We are creating precedent with the Post Office and some legal decisions had to be taken by their most senior lawyer at Board level. This is a huge step forward in our plans.

We have scoped out next steps but, crucially, timing is not in our control. For example, completion of due diligence on the existing Post Office business relies on timely replies from Mrs Ford and her solicitors; the Post Office has a ten week project preparation timeline as standard and we are as yet uncertain when that period will start. So please continue to be patient with us; we will keep everyone informed of our progress.

Broadly our timeline is:

1. Sign Post Office contract conditional upon our ability to raise the necessary funds.
2. Complete due diligence and agree contract for acquisition of assets with Mrs Ford (Birkett Long [BL] engaged to undertake that work) by the end January/mid- February. We are very grateful to BL for a fixed fee accompanied by a good amount of pro bono work; and of course to the Community Council for a loan of £2,500 to enable this important legal step.
3. Exchange of contracts between NCSL & Mrs Ford by mid-end February with legal completion conditional upon a successful share issue (say 10 working days after receipt of target funds).
4. Distribute window stickers to Pledgees to thank them for their support and also to advertise the upcoming share issue. The current pledge total is £56,341. New pledges are still welcome! Our aim is for the broadest community ownership possible.
5. Issue Share Prospectus March with funds to be submitted within 15 days. A public meeting will be held for all to attend at the time of the share issue.
6. Following successful share issue proceed to completion of lease; transfer of business; stock valuation and payment for stock.
7. Formal meeting with LEADER to accept grant (subject to signed PO contract and completion of lease with Mrs Ford).
8. Building works commence. We will attempt to keep the Post Office open during the renovations if possible. Train volunteer staff in parallel.

This has proven to be a longer journey than expected, but gaining the PO contract was a massive milestone achieved. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support and encouragement.

Liz Mellon, Director, Nayland Community Store Limited

Working together to keep Nayland's commercial heart alive

This is the basis for saving the Post Office, but we **need the community** buy-in to make this work.

In brief:

- our Postmistress is retiring, which means the Post Office will close
- the village wants to **save our Post Office**, so an executive group was formed to make this happen
- a community company (Nayland Community Store Ltd) has been set up, to run the Post Office as a **community enterprise**

What we need from you, your friends and neighbours, and all local residents, is a pledge for shares in YOUR community company.

A share is £25 and we are appealing to everyone to make a pledge to extend the ownership of our venture as wide as possible throughout our community.

The money raised will be used to refurbish and secure the premises from the rest of the building, install new computer systems, pay staff wages, purchase stock and fixtures, and pay for rent and other overheads.

If you are reading this and you haven't already made your pledge, there is still time to become a valued supporter. Detailed information can be found on our website www.naylandcommunitystores.co.uk and pledge forms are available at the Post Office counter.

Completed forms can be placed in the Pledge Box in the Post Office or returned to the address given on the form; or you can text your pledge with your full name to 07970 968 882 or email ryanfamily@btinternet.com.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT

