



NO SHOP – NO HEART



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## Getting Started

By Duncan Ion

So... The shop is gone! Long live the (*community*) shop! At the meeting last Monday, it was suggested that, in parallel with the ongoing potential sale of the shop premises, that we as a community look at developing a community shop 'enterprise'.

### Speed is important

If we are to develop a working plan for the community shop, we should act with speed. Not doing so will allow the village to 'slide' into a village *without a heart* – and that will have a significant impact on both the immediate and longer term character of the village. The owner of the shop premises will, of course, be making all efforts to sell the property as a going concern – however, should there not be the response he is hoping for, there is always the possibility that the building may then be sold for redevelopment as a private house – with the village then losing a remarkable opportunity to 're-invent' itself as an inclusive community.

### Llanarmon-yn-Iâl

We are fortunate in that we have an excellent example of the benefits of a coordinated, vibrant community just next door to us. This village had exactly the same issues presented to them in October 2012. Fortunately, they

quickly gathered the village talents and successfully jumped a large number of hurdles to produce the much vaunted 'Community Pub and Shop' that elicited the recent Royal visit and TV exposure.

It's notable that the concerted efforts to save their shop has resulted in a very closely bound community that boasts, among other things – a 100+ chorus!!

Patrick Kingsley-Williams was one of the many people involved in that successful venture – he attended the meeting last Monday and provided a number of helpful advises. Since then, I've been in contact with Patrick and he's passed a number of really useful documents to me that might guide us in our efforts.

### Plan to succeed

So please, come along to the next meeting where we can look at planning the planning for the community shop. It will be:

7:30PM  
MEMORIAL HALL. MONDAY  
24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST



### Norma & Martin

Our heartfelt thanks go to Norma & Martin who have run the village shop for the last 19 years, providing the heart of our village and a much appreciated service to our community. Let us all wish them a long and happy retirement.



### In the News

We're in the news already! The Denbighshire free press ran an article about our hopes to save the shop – you can view the full item at

<http://www.denbighshirefreepress.co.uk/news/151340/community-shop-hope-for-village-post-office.aspx>

# Our first meeting

By Peter Smith

## WANT TO HELP?

At our first 'emergency' meeting in the memorial hall 23 people kindly offered their help: **WE WILL NEED MORE!**

We need to plan, then execute the plan! There are many, many people in the village who have the skills to support our bid to create a village community shop. *Please help.*

Contact  
Duncan Ion: 790-386 or d.ion@llandegla.com



On Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> August we had our first village meeting, chaired by Martyn Holland, our County Councillor. Also present were members of the village council led by Peter Smith, chairman as well as Jane Timms of the Post Office.

## The meeting was very well attended by nearly sixty members of the village who demonstrated the wide support for this issue.

Martyn started off proceedings by providing a résumé of the situation. In essence; whilst the closing of the shop and post office has been known about, commercial discussions relating to the sale of the business had been in train for some time but unfortunately, they came to naught in the last week or so resulting in a leaflet being distributed by councillor Audrey Lockyer calling for the meeting.

The discussion included a review of the benefits of the shop and naturally moved to the position of the Post Office. The current contract between Norma & Martin and the Post Office appeared to be based on a 'local contract' Jane Timms explained that any new arrangement with the Post Office would be based on a 'Community contract' – the main thrust of which appeared to be that Post Office section of the shop had to be open for 60 hours a week. This was met with some incredulity as the arithmetic shows that, with the Post Office possibly being closed on Sunday, the shop post office section had to be staffed for at least 10 hours per day. Clearly this was felt to be an onerous situation for a two-person team, but a 'Community Team' would, I'm sure, be able to deal with this... As was mentioned, this is the currently managed position in Llanarmon-yn-lâl. A further reflection suggests that if the shop were to provide newspaper services (at say, 7:00am) through to late shoppers (say 7:00pm) then this may not be as ridiculous as first considered....

### Just a thought...

Llanarmon-Yn-lâl, with an overall average price of £188,750, was similar in terms of sold prices to nearby Llandegla (£187,566).

Will this change with reduced community facilities?

[REF:  
[HTTP://WWW.RIGHTMOVE.CO.UK/HOUSE-PRICES/LLANARMON-YN-LAL.HTML](http://www.rightmove.co.uk/house-prices/llanarmon-yn-lal.html)]

A consideration of the commercial aspects of the shop were discussed at length with a range of opportunities for this 'Offa's Dyke' stopover – the premises might accommodate several Bed & Breakfast places as well as a coffee shop, newspaper & post office facilities. This latter was deemed to be important as the standing contract might provide a much-needed part of the shop income.

Finally, a show of hands gave us a promising start to this exercise with 23 members of the audience showing an interest in helping with this village community problem.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August at 7:30PM

## PLEASE!

## EMAIL THIS TO A LLANDEGLA VILLAGE FRIEND!

WE'RE GOING TO LEAFLET THIS  
IN THE VILLAGE, BUT EMAIL  
REACHES FURTHER!

# Meeting Agenda



*Date / time* 8/24/2015 7:30 PM *Location* Memorial Hall

Meeting called by	Duncan Ion
Type of meeting	Open Community meeting

## Agenda Items

- Welcome
- How do we secure the shop future?
- How do we raise money?
- As customers of the shop what goods & services would we like to offer?
- How can you help?
- Who is willing to help?
  - Election of committee
    - ➔ Chairman
    - ➔ Secretary
    - ➔ Finance
    - ➔ Website
    - ➔ Governance
    - ➔ Grants
- Next steps

## Other Information

I've put together a 'Mind Map' of issues that we might discuss – it's not prescriptive and if you see any omissions/errors, do please let me know at the meeting. I intend to update this as we move along our journey...

