



PRESS RELEASE

One Stop Shop Coming to Shipston

Monday 4th January was a "Red Letter Day" for Shipston.

Directors of Shipston Town Management Partnership attended the meeting of the Stratford District Council Cabinet to hear the outcome of deliberations concerning the former Area Office in Telegraph Street, which had previously been ear-marked for sale as a residential property by the Council's Resources Committee.

Such had been the scale of the lobbying by the Partnership, the Town Council, District Councillors, together with individuals and voluntary groups from within and around Shipston and South Warwickshire, that the District Council completely changed their mind and have now given the building on a long lease to the Partnership in order that it will become the much-vaunted "One Stop Shop", so desperately needed for the town and local district.

District Councillors "queued up" to speak in support of this proposal; Cllr Gill Roache, Chairman of the Council commented that in her years as a councillor, she had received more correspondence on this matter than any other topic previously discussed.

In a press interview on the following day, Graham Williamson, Chairman of the Partnership expressed his delight at the decision of the District Council.

He said that the combined efforts of the Partnership, the Town Council and the groups and individuals had shown that the power of persuasion can and does work in local democracy

Graham continued, "It is the role of Community Interest Companies, such as Shipston Town Management Partnership, to work with the local community for the betterment of facilities and services in areas that they serve. In the case of the Telegraph Street office, not only have we succeeded where the District Council failed to read the views of the majority, we are also bringing back to life the much needed resource for the people of the town and its surrounding villages"

The next steps are for meetings to discuss the details of the operation of the facility to be discussed with the councils and other potential organisations who have indicated their wish to take advantage of the office. It is hoped that before too long the boards can be removed from the windows and the office be re-opened.

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On hearing of the success of the campaign to re-open the office, John Maples, MP, who had written to the District Council to support the Partnership's plans, send a message of congratulation to everyone who had fought for this outcome.

Local District Councillor, Richard Cheney, who again had been a major supporter of the proposals from the Partnership, similarly expressed his delight in the success, as did the Town Council who, themselves, have battled for the "One Stop Shop" concept to be created in Shipston.

More information will be announced shortly.

ENDS

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