

Sustainable travel plan for East Boldre Post Office and Shop

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August 2021

East Boldre Post Office and Shop lies within a rural location, serving the population of East Boldre, which has a population of around 800 people, and a geographical area of 12.47 kilometres.

Within the centre of the Parish lies the village post office and shop, pictured below.



The shop currently has a floorspace of around 66 square metres, and it is proposed to increase this by around 48 square metres.

To ensure village shop remains trading, East Boldre Community Stores need to grow the business to make it financially viable in the long term. Without East Boldre Community Stores' plan to take over and grow the business in a considered manner, the shop would close and the number of journeys across the forest for convenience items and access to banking and bill payment would increase significantly. The distances involved are typically a 10-mile round trip. This is the most significant contribution which the Community Stores' plans for the shop are making to assist sustainable travel.

The shop presently has around 6 car parking spaces. There is a gravel lay-by on the opposite side of the road to the shop, and there is in addition some capacity for on-road parking. In the interests of sustainability and minimising carbon emissions, the not-for-profit organisation which will be running the shop does not want to increase private car movements, or encourage residents to drive to the shop, and therefore does not want to significantly increase private car movements.

Its plans for growing the business focus primarily on using additional internal space to expand the shop's goods and services, to increase the spend per customer. Campsite deliveries will further grow turnover, without any increase in village footfall. The existing business closes for lunch with small peaks in traffic before and after this period. By remaining open over lunchtime, these peaks will be smoothed and these additional trading hours are expected to mitigate any increase in footfall with its attendant parking.

There are no on-street parking restrictions in the immediate vicinity of the shop, and the speed limit is 30 miles per hour. The shop is opposite the bus stop.

The new owners wish to create a welcoming, community environment where villagers can primarily walk, cycle or ride to the stores in its existing location, close to the centre of population.

Walkers

For walkers, the new stores will carry across the existing provision of hot and cold snacks, sandwiches and a coffee machine. Accessibility arrangements into the front of the shop will be improved.

Cyclists

For cyclists, the aim is to provide a cycle repair station at the shop, where people can use a free bike stand to carry out basic bike maintenance, for example to tune their gears or pump their tyres, whilst out on a ride. Two small bike stands, angled against the wall of Matthews Lane, will be provided. The existing Calor gas store will move to the back garden to allow room for this. The stands chosen will allow the bikes to be angled so they don't protrude into Matthews Lane.

Horse riders

There is potential for a small, raised horse tie-up, to potentially be incorporated onto one of the existing structures opposite the shop (such as the back of the bus shelter). This will enable horse riders to stop at the shop. The potential for this will be investigated further.

Electric vehicle and deliveries

The new owners do not intend to increase turnover simply by increasing passing trade, or attracting more people to the shop. They also intend to offer delivery services from the shop to local destinations, such as nearby campsites, via a small electric vehicle. This new and additional business stream will help to increase turnover without generating additional private car movements to and from the shop.

In conclusion then, the increase in shop floorspace is not going to equate to an increase in private car movements, or increased car parking demand.

The measures set out in this sustainable travel plan will be implemented, in order to ensure that the business runs sustainably and improves the viability of the enterprise, but without any greater impact upon the surroundings.