

**WILSFORD POST OFFICE & STORE**  
**HERITAGE STATEMENT**



Wilsford Post Office and Store was once patronised by a large percentage of the village. In the days before internet shopping and supermarkets within walking distance, the villagers were grateful to have a shop on the doorstep that sold an eclectic and diverse mix of everyday items you didn't know you needed. However, in recent years, as the older generation give way to newcomers who desire the full range of products and services that only a supermarket could offer, or simply prefer to have everything they buy delivered, enabling some degree of anonymity, we have sadly seen our footfall and profits decrease considerably. The same can also be said for the Post Office as they move more and more services on-line or discontinue altogether.

Unfortunately the shop is no longer financially viable. I'm afraid the rot set in as soon as the Co-op in Ancaster was allowed to open in 2016. Suddenly people had more of a choice just a short distance away. The only part of the business that returns any profit is the delivered news service. That will continue as we are in talks with another local business to take over the rounds. Our operating costs are spiralling with the price of diesel (we cover a 40 mile round trip every day) and our electricity prices have doubled. We have already cut our Sunday hours to save on overheads.

Between us we work approx. 110 hours per week over 7 days. This cannot continue as we both get older and suffer from the inevitable age related illnesses. Mike also has a heart problem so we would like to retire and enjoy any life that we may have left with our family.

The property has been on the market since August 2019. We have tried our best to sell as a going concern, originally on the market with Ernest Wilson commercial agents, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Once they realise the location, the size of the shop and the turnover they quickly lose interest.

Wilsford has approx. 400 residents. As the older generation sadly depart, the percentage that use the shop is getting smaller. With that in mind the change in use to residential will have little effect on the majority of the villagers.

The change in use would also see the removal of the obtrusively bright post office and lottery signage and pavement clutter which will only enhance the original building and the surrounding environment.

We very much hope the council will agree to the change of use enabling us to sell but whatever happens the shop will be closing and it would be a shame to have it left as an empty shell.

Mike and Sally Boddy