**St Breward Community Shop Limited**

**Travel Plan Statement**

**November 2023**

**Background**

According to the 2021 census, St Breward has a population of 1,015 in approximately 500 households. The village is linear in nature, comprising two main areas of Row and Churchtown with outlying hamlets of Coombe, Cooksland and Fentonadle and covering a distance of some 1.5 miles from one end to the other.

In June 2023, the village shop and post office, based in Churchtown, closed. The shop had been operated for the past six years by the landlord of the successful village pub, the Old Inn and Restaurant.

Village facilities include a Church, two GP practices, a Village Hall, a Memorial Hall, a primary school with 50 pupils, a well-equipped children’s play area, a football club and a community bus service.

The nearest large supermarkets are in Bodmin and Wadebridge, 6 and 8 miles away, respectively. A smaller supermarket is some 5 miles away in Camelford.

There are no current public transport links to and from St Breward. A community bus service, run by volunteers, operates a limited timetable for just 15 passengers to various shopping and leisure destinations offering an average of one trip each week.

Whilst the village population continues to grow, its numbers are further boosted by an influx of seasonal visitors looking to experience the beauty of this moorland setting.

**Why a Community Shop?**

St Breward Community Shop Ltd is being established with the objective of meeting the needs of its entire community.

Following the closure of the only village shop, a steering group of volunteers came forward and a detailed village questionnaire was hand delivered during June 2023 to all 500+ households in the Parish:

* 97% of respondents supported the proposal to set up a community run shop and said they would use it at least weekly
* 55% felt that the main benefit of a community shop would be as a community hub
* 40% felt that convenience was the most important factor
* 40% felt that not having to use any form of transport to get to a shop was the most important factor for them

It is hoped that the shop will become an important social hub for the community, operating from a central location and involving the whole village through the extensive use of volunteers and share ownership.

As well as the sale of essential goods, the shop will provide a communication and social centre for the village. It will give people the opportunity to be better informed and involved in village life, to create informal support networks and, for some people, to provide a sense of belonging, purpose and self-worth.

It will provide a warm space, open to all.

This will be especially important for the vulnerable or isolated groups in our community including some older people, carers, people with mobility issues and those experiencing loneliness, such as parents with pre-school age children or people working from home.

It is intended that the shop will provide a wide range of affordable products and that it will endeavour to use local suppliers wherever possible, both to boost the local economy and to minimise ‘food-miles’.

**Travelling to the proposed Community Shop**

We believe that the introduction of a community shop in St Breward will save many thousands of unnecessary car journeys each year.

**Walking**

It is anticipated that the majority of customers will walk to the new community shop. The proposed location in Chyryn Drive, St Breward, places the shop at the heart of the most densely populated part of the village in Row. This location compares favourably with that of the previous shop in Churchtown, which was within walking distance for only a small proportion of village residents. We estimate that well over 50% of St Breward residents live within easy walking distance of the proposed new community shop in Chyryn Drive.

The Chyryn Drive location is on the edge of the largest housing development in the village which is home to a number of young families. The proposed Community Shop will be on the pedestrian route for many parents taking their children to and from St Breward Community Primary School as well as events at the Church and the Village Hall.

The shop will provide free drinking water. This will be advertised via the national ‘Refill’ scheme which members of the public can accessed via the Refill App.

To promote the exercise benefits of walking and to encourage dog-walkers to call in to the shop whilst out walking, dog water bowls and a tie-up loop will be provided at the shop entrance.

**Cycling**

Cycling is popular locally both as a means of transport and a leisure activity. Several well-defined cycle routes pass through and around the village and the surrounding area. To encourage the use of cycling as a means of getting to the shop, a bicycle rack will be installed outside the shop.

**Public Transport**

There are currently no public transport options available in St Breward

**Car Clubs**

There are no known car clubs in St Breward but we do have a volunteer-run community bus service which offers low-cost trips to local destinations. If our planning application is successful, we will approach the management committee of the St Breward Community Bus to request a regular community bus service to and from the community shop. This will be especially helpful to some older residents in the outlying areas of the village, some of whom may not have access to their own transport or be in a position to walk to the shop.

**Electric vehicles**

As electric vehicles become more popular, the St Breward Community Shop would actively consider the installation of an electric vehicle charging point outside the shop, subject to any required permissions.

**Private fossil-fuelled vehicles**

We know, from our village-wide consultation exercise, that the ability to access a shop without using transport was the most important factor for 40% of respondents. The planned opening hours for the shop are a standard 9am to 5pm, with reduced hours on Sundays. This will mean that any cars parked nearby will be there during the normal working day and when the surrounding streets are naturally quieter. Unit 1, Chyryn Drive has a small parking area/driveway. It would be useful to be able to designate part of this area as an accessible parking space.

**The history of the village shop in St Breward**

Prior to the closure of the St Breward Stores in Churchtown, the previous village shop was located in Row, at the more densely populated centre of the village. For some 20 years, the St Breward Stores were run by Denis and Christine Lusby. Now retired, Denis is currently chair of the St Breward Parish Council.

A conveyance document from a Mrs Catherine Billing to a Mr Ezekias Spare dated 30th November 1859 describes the sale of water grist mills and a plot of land in Mill Lane, St Breward for the grand sum of £31 10s. Soon after, this plot would become the site of a general stores, butchers, post office, garage and doctor’s surgery.

Throughout the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, St Breward and its outlying hamlets of Wenford and Keybridge have boasted several shops, a post office, garages and public houses.

Now, in 2023, only the pub remains.

**Our Structure**

It is the intention of the management committee of the St Breward Community Shop Limited to harness the very tangible sense of community within St Breward by re-introducing a village shop using the Community Benefit Society model. For the first time, the shop will be largely staffed and operated by volunteers from within the community.

In July 2023, St Breward Community Shop Limited became a member of the Plunkett Foundation, a national charity which offers support to rural communities seeking to establish community shops and business.

St Breward Community Shop Limited has been registered by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) as a Community Benefit Society No. 9113 under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. The purpose of such a society is to carry on business for community benefit.

The present Management Committee is made up of nine St Breward residents with a mixture of skills and professional and business experience.

**Our Purpose, Vision and Values**

**Purpose:**

St Breward Community Shop Limited strives to meet the retail convenience needs of our community. It will be owned and run by the community of St Breward. We aim to provide a wide range of affordable and sustainable products, using local suppliers wherever possible. We are a not-for-profit company, so we will re-invest any surpluses carefully into the business.

**Vision:**

We want to be a key social hub for the community, providing a welcoming and inclusive communication and social centre for the village. We hope to not only survive, but to thrive for many years for the continued benefit of our community.

**Values:**

* Our community’s needs
* Member and community involvement
* Transparency – we will communicate openly where we can, balancing openness with confidentiality
* Integrity – we will aim to do the right thing, even when it is difficult
* Enterprising – we will not be afraid to try things, but we will learn from our mistakes
* Professionalism – we want our Members and our community to be able to respect our decisions
* Sustainability – we will aim to minimise our environmental footprint and food-miles, balancing affordability and sustainability