

Dear MrBurton,.

I am a long time resident of Cuckfield, a former District Councillor for Cuckfield (1997 -2003) and would like your Council to participate in a project to purchase the Chemist shop on behalf of the residents.

I have already spoken to Andrew Symonds, my Council member, and it may well be that he has spoken to you about this. However, here is a summary of my proposal.

1. A group of village members purchase the existing chemists shop and then rent it to a suitable pharmacist, who would serve the village.
2. We should talk to the people who bought the Half Moon in Balcombe and learn from their experience. (Covering, fundraising, legal considerations , financials,)
3. I imagine that the property will be incorporated into a trust along the line s of the New England Wood Trust.
4. I do not see any financial commitment on behalf of the Parish Council, but believe they would wish to be associated with such a project, give its impact on the village.

Perhaps the first step is to get your agreement to the scheme, and then set up a group of, say, two Councillors and two "Movers and Shakers" from the village.

By way of encouragement I would point out that if Balcombe, with a population of 1600 can buy its pub, then Cuckfield with a population of 3200 can surely buy its Chemist.