

Case study

Access to finance

Steeple Ashton Village Shop Association Ltd

Social aim

To provide a service to the community and act as a focal point for village life.

Trading activity

Village general store, Post Office and coffee bar/tea room.



Ownership

Industrial and Provident Society for the Benefit of the Community – over 200 village shareholders.

How Co-operative Futures helped

An advisor provided advice on appropriate finance and funding, and support with preparing a viable business plan. Co-operative Futures remained in touch with the group over the 3 year development period prior to the shop opening. Co-operative Futures also convened meetings for community shops from across Wiltshire to network and learn from each other.

The Shop Association successfully raised £57,000 from Rural Renaissance and obtained a bridging loan from the Charity Bank to cover the delay in receipt of grant funding. £12,000 was also raised by local fundraising. The shop has been open since September 2005, and is trading successfully, with the support of a paid manager and volunteers. Ongoing support from Co-operative Futures also enabled the group to remain positive when faced with challenges such as securing adequate premises, and liaison with funding bodies.

"Co-operative Futures is always available at the end of a phone whenever we need advice. They'll either know the answer, or put you in touch with someone who does and we've found it very helpful to compare notes with other community shops facing similar challenges."

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