

Charfield Neighbourhood Plan question - today's topic is Retail.

If the village is to grow in the way the JSP lays out, what retail units does the community wish to see? Should there be a "shopping area" with a number of retail units (and maybe a cafe and library) or is it better to have shops dotted around the village? Supermarket or small specialist retailers (butcher, baker etc)? You tell us what you like to see.

A number of suggestions have already been made in other threads, so the aim here is to bring together these into one thread.

We got a costcutter, hairdressers and a chip shop in 1 location.. maybe a similar sort of thing in the new proposed 121 houses estate. Maybe a one stop, cafe and butchers. Then a small supermarket in another location such as co-op or tesco express. Doctors and a new primary school is a must for me if the propped 1100 houses goes ahead in the forthcoming future.. also the train station is looking more and more positive to re open.

Another butcher? Use tortworth farm shop. Support our local growers not big chains

Independent retailers yes, Tesco etc NO.

Small independent shops would be more welcome. A bakery come deli come cafe but not a Greggs! A cafe like the one in Wickwar and a deli like the Cicada that used to be in Wotton or like Relish.

Independent retailers, cafe, library yes. Absolute no to supermarket of any size.

Aldi.

A pharmacy, and shops to help the community,

Without wishing to put a dampener on the thread, much will depend on which retailers would think it worthwhile to open a business here. You only have to look at Wotton to see how many businesses have started up and then folded over the last few years. I would also say that I have known Charfield since the early 60s when it was much smaller. There was a fruit and veg shop on the side of the Tavern, opposite as I recall was a small Lloyd's Branch, superseded by an insurance broker. There were other things but all gone now. An enlarged village clearly means a greater need but we need to focus on how we might encourage new business to migrate here.

Drs with a pharmacy... library would be good but not sure it would be viable with some that have already closed. Independent retailers would fit our area .. maybe a Cafe linked to a or not far from a local walking area that could be promoted to walkers/ramblers.

Definitely a cafe

A cafe and a pizza takeaway would be great!

The public library service has never been so decimated as it is under the current government, close to 500 closures and 1000's of job losses, would be amazed if a library opened in Charfield. Good luck to anyone trying to make a living as an independent retailer as local governments force out indies through rate increases. A GP service and pharmacy should be a priority IMO.

Cafe or coffee shop please. So needed!

Coffee shop! I'll open one. also agree a GP and pharmacy!

Definitely GP and Pharmacy. Dog friendly cafe or tea room.

I'm happy to go to Tortworth or Wotton for cafes and shops, new ones in Charfield would impact on existing businesses in the area. If another 1100 houses are approved for the area then road/traffic improvements, the reopening of the Charfield railway station, increased school capacity and health services will be the priorities.

I agree, Charfield needs a cafe! and a decent food shop on the Wotton side of the bridge..garage shop is ok but a bit limited being small. Drs, pharmacy, dentist and maybe even optician would also be good somewhere in the village, perhaps in 1 health centre location? Wotton healthcare services are already v stretched.

OK, I think this thread has petered out. I agree that there are other, higher priorities, but the point of these questions is to find out your opinions on these topics. Whilst any developers are putting houses up, what else should they be building? To summarise, what I'm getting from this is that we would much prefer provision of small clumps of retail units intended for small independent businesses, perhaps 2 or 3 units at a time, not too near existing retailers, but close to where new houses would make use of them (without driving). Cafe/Coffee shop and Pharmacy have been explicitly mentioned, but we can't necessarily control this. All we can do is try to ensure that the infrastructure is in place to attract this sort of business.