

# Wigmore Village Community Shop

## Membership Report May 2024

### Status

Membership opened to the community in February 2008. Membership fee was and remains £20 per person for one share. One share entitles members to one vote at members' meetings. A person ceases to be a Member of the Society in the following circumstances:

- 1.1.1 they resign in writing to the Secretary;
- 1.1.2 being an individual, they die;

As of today the status of the membership is as follows:

Total number of shareholder members = 103 (100%)

Number of current members (i.e. no change in address) = 72 (69%)

Number of members known to have moved away with no forwarding address = 31 (31%)

Former members (deceased) = 20

### Membership Strategy

The vast number of members joined in the first year of business, actually in the first three months of 2008. This enabled the Association to show to grant-giving bodies that there was local support for setting up a community shop.

Since then, so far as the records show, there has not been a dedicated effort to recruit more shareholding members.

According to the rules, both the former and current rules, it is only members who can vote at members' meetings and only members who can serve on the management committee. It is the management committee that manages the affairs of the Society e.g. employment of staff, ensuring the shop complies with relevant legislation, is responsible for the financial health of the business.

But the number of members is gradually going down and so the pool of people able to serve on the management committee is getting smaller. This situation has been going on for some time. Hence the need to encourage people to become members.

There are people in the community who like the fact that there is a shop in the village, especially as it is a community shop. In estate agent jargon it is an amenity that is a selling-point for potential buyers. Many residents show their support of the shop by being customers and volunteering. But not everyone has the time or inclination to commit to being a volunteer and this is where becoming a shareholding member might suit potential supporters. Many newer residents are not even aware that this is a community shop largely staffed by volunteers.

Since 2022 nine new people have become shareholders/members but they are largely drawn from volunteers who have been 'persuaded' to join the management committee. Most of these members are newer residents to the village who have found that volunteering in the shop is an excellent way to become involved in the community and they have brought with them valuable skills and talents that are benefitting the shop. Nevertheless we would like to encourage more new members from the community to help keep the shop a vibrant and successful enterprise.