

Caroline Green  
Senior Caseworker to Rob Butler MP  
Member of Parliament for Aylesbury

Dear Caroline,

Your recent email has been forwarded to me for response to the issues raised by Mr James in connection with Speen Village Shop and Post Office.

Firstly, I would like to confirm the Association's support for the village shop and post office in Speen to continue to operate after the current leaseholders have relinquished their lease. This will, of course, depend upon someone being forthcoming who is able and willing to enter into a new lease of the premises and I understand from the current leaseholder that there is such an interested party..

The upper floor of the building has been used for many years by a local hairdressing business but this business came to an end at the beginning of lockdown, with, we understand no plans to re-open. We have therefore submitted a planning application to establish whether the Local Planning Authority would be sympathetic to a change of use of the currently very under-used upper floor from commercial to residential.

If approved, we believe that having living accommodation on the first floor of the building would actually improve the marketability of the commercial entity as a means of providing a "living over the shop" arrangement or, alternatively, simply to increase the supply of rented accommodation for market rent, intermediate rent or social rent in what is a very high value location with very little rented accommodation available for local people. We do acknowledge that the plan initially submitted with our planning application did not specifically incorporate a WC or emergency exit for the sole use of the ground floor shop and we have therefore subsequently submitted revised drawings including these additional provisions. I hope this will alleviate any concerns that our planning application is, in any way, intended to frustrate the feasibility of the ground floor of the building continuing to operate as the local village shop/post office.

I hope this response is helpful but please don't hesitate if you require any further information. I will, however, be away on annual leave between 9<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Green  
Chief Executive

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