

*Statement from Doveridge Parish Council regarding Post Office -Village Stores planning Application 24/00972/FUL December 2024*

*Many residents will have seen a planning application for the conversion of much of the old post office and village shop into an integral part of the attached private residence. The proposal includes retaining the old Chinwags Cafe area and WC as a community shop and storage area.*

*The Parish Council is consulted by Derbyshire Dales District Council on planning applications within the parish. The District Council is the responsible planning authority and comments the Parish Council make have no more precedence than a representation made by any member of the public. At the Council's meeting held on 3rd December, a number of residents spoke in favour of the application, and no-one spoke against it. After consideration and debate, the Council decided unanimously not to submit any comments on this application for the following reasons:*

*The Parish Council welcomes the fact that the application, if passed, will ensure retail premises are retained in the village. The availability of premises does not, however, guarantee that any individual or organisation would be able to make a commercial success of a retail store in the village, particularly in the light of the representation received from the previous operators of the village store. Neither does it guarantee that those premises would remain available for the balance of present Parish Council's term of office. It is also clear that there is no prospect Post Office Limited reopening a facility within the village.*

*In contrast, the Parish Council have contracted with a local business to site a milk shack and food vending facility in the centre of the village and this facility is presently in build and will be delivered in the first quarter of 2025. The Councillors were concerned that any public statement of support for shop premises may be interpreted as a lack of confidence in the ability of our partner to deliver the milk shack which is not the case.*

*Based on this, the Parish Council resolved not to comment on the planning application but urged all the individuals who had spoken at the meeting, to submit their comments to the District Council planning portal.*