



## Grafham Community Shop Limited

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### Report From Village Shop 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026 for Grafham Assembly *submitted Post meeting*

1. A new team/committee has been running the shop since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. This is the third report from this team. After a first year of many changes, a second of consolidation this has been a year of business as usual while looking forward to and planning for a permanent building.
2. The key points of note are:
  - a. It is worth noting that in the nature of similar community shops, Grafham is at the low end of viability and is only viable as result of substantial visitor traffic as a result visitors to Grafham Water and to the two campsites.
  - b. Having proven the financial viability of the shop – it does need to stand on its own two feet - it was felt appropriate to make steps towards establishing a permanent facility given that planning permission expires for the current “temporary structure” in 2029.
  - c. Coordination meetings looking at various options/scenarios were held with the different stakeholders involved with the site i.e. The Grafham Trout, The Village Hall and our landlords: the Parish Council.
  - d. It was agreed that the best option was for the shop to remain in a separate building that would be built over the existing site.
  - e. Various options and designs were considered that were aesthetically pleasing, meet planning requirements, suited the shop needs and were affordable.
  - f. Planning permission has now been obtained and a substantial grant from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been allocated however additional funds are needed from other sponsors and shop fund raising activity.
  - g. In the background to the above the Shop signed a new ground rental agreement with the Parish Council. This will need to be amended when the new building has been completed.
  - h. The two current co-chairs Debbie Bleasdale and Patrick Goldsworthy have announced that they will be standing down from their roles after the shop’s autumn AGM. Two replacements are being “trained up” to step on their roles.
3. Donations and support for raffles continue to be gratefully received from residents, as reported above a CIL grant has been allocated but no grants were directly received in the 2025/26 financial year. However, the Parish Council has funded, submitted and supported the successful application for planning permission for a new permanent building. Thank You

4. In the financial year 2024/25 the shop made a profit of £2,240. This is a dramatic turnaround from past year's losses. Overall sales and margins have improved, staff have been retained and depreciation costs have been reduced. Draft figures for 2025/26 suggest a similar level of profitability suggesting that the shop has turned the corner and thank losses in past years we will be avoiding having to pay Corporation Tax for a little while.
  
5. And finally, a HUGE word of thanks firstly to all the volunteers and shop assistants (Belinda and Janice) who help make the shop work and provide a friendly face to residents and visitors alike, and a special mention despatches for David Russell Martin Joyner and Patrick Curran for their work in developing the plans for the new building and liaison with Parish Council.

Debbie Bleasdale and Patrick Goldsworthy

Co-Chairs, Grafham Shop Committee