

Community Hub, Café & Shop

North Muskham

*It's not just what you buy -
it's who you meet along the way*



Our purpose

why are we doing this ...

Our 'why' is to strengthen village life and weave a tighter village fabric so that meaningful connection, belonging, and flourishing happens



Our vision

what do we see happening ...

A thriving, inclusive space where every resident can access:

- life-bringing community and belonging
- essential services and goods
- enriching social possibilities

in a shared, welcoming new-build

Survey results

224 people undertook the survey
193 people did the survey online, 31 used the printed version

Almost all participants were aged over 25,
and twice as many women participated as men
Not everyone answered every question (which is fine)

Approx 85% of people supported the idea of a café

Approx 85% supported the idea of a shop

Around 75 people said they would invest in a
Community Benefit Scheme

The ideas suggested for the café and shop were welcomed. A village shop and café could serve as a vital hub, serving a diverse range of groups, supporting a wide-range of activities

Any proposed shop should focus on essential everyday items. 60% would shop there weekly, but concerns were raised about the ability to support a shop, making it crucial to ensure sustainability.


Strong support for a café to meet and socialise in and access activities not otherwise available locally



Our quest

what we are hoping to do ...

1. Build and operate a new purpose-built community Hub, Café and small retail facility adjacent to the current village community centre
2. Establish a legal vehicle to achieve this – perhaps a Community Benefit Society (CBS) or similar



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Our mission

what are we hoping to achieve ...

To nurture a stronger, more connected community by providing a welcoming village Hub, Café, and Shop - where essential goods and services meet meaningful human connection.

Our aims

Social impact:

Increase connectedness and reduce social isolation

Stimulate local economic and volunteer activity:

Operate a financially stable enterprise that complements existing businesses

Community ownership:

Operate as a member-led organisation, empowering local people, ensuring local decisions reflect local needs.

Better physical and mental health, and well-being:

Encourage healthy, supportive and resilient lifestyles

Adaptability and meeting needs:

Evolve services based on feedback and changing demands



Our values

what is really important to us ...



Founding partners...

1. **North Muskham Parish Council** – who own the land
2. **Muskham Rural Community Centre:** the village recreation field and centre – who currently lease the land
3. **North Muskham Methodist Chapel** – who plan to provide most of the investment funding needed for the project

Parish Council perspectives

More than a building... More than a café... a place where people can meet, can talk, can learn, can be supported

We will consult again as the project viability assessment and plans are developed

The MRCC has been a fantastic success. So much so, access in the week is limited. We believe the Café/Hub will support use of the MRCC and provide a place of social interaction and development throughout the week

A place where the community of North Muskham can grow and become resilient to the many pressures and challenges that as individuals, as a nation, and indeed as a world, we face

Future project updates will be on the N Muskham village web site

Possible activities and services

Community Hub Programming

Information, gathering and connecting point. Offering things like: hobby groups, book clubs, mental health support sessions, youth clubs, weekly/monthly themed events, seasonal events, and a place for the Methodist Church to meet and serve the community.

Community Cafe

Affordable, good-quality food and drink; a place to meet, chat, and relax; Pay-it-forward scheme for those in need.

Skills Development

Practical workshops (budgeting, tech help for seniors, parenting), creativity, spirituality.

Small Retail

Staple groceries (milk, bread, eggs, newspapers), local produce, over-the-counter goods.

Additional Services

Parcel collection, visiting Post Office, community noticeboard, informal drop-in support, advocacy and advice services.

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It's about people

1. Creating a space where everyone belongs, whether they need milk, a cup of tea, or a friend
2. Making daily life easier and village life richer - one conversation, one coffee, one loaf of bread at a time
3. A lifeline for those who need it, and a home for those who seek it - more than a hub, more than a café, more than a shop
4. For the Methodist Church - a new place, for new people that welcomes, serves and loves

Governance

- Robust business plan and risk register
- Protections essential for all parties
- Consultancy support from the Plunkett Foundation
- We will test the financial viability of the facility
- Use of volunteers and possible use of appointed/employed persons
- Community Benefit Society is the suggested preferred model BUT subject to advice of Plunkett Foundation
- There are some 1500 CBS initiatives in the UK- community ownership
- For the community, by the community
- Members own shares and that gives them 1 vote - election of a management board



www.plunkett.co.uk



Due diligence

Steering Group

Volunteers who have stepped forward from the community are steering early development of the project. We'd welcome more residents to this group, particularly those with experience of business management and or competence around retail or community projects

Ongoing Consultation

We have been talking to and visiting other projects to learn from their experience and further consultations are planned

Specialist Advice

We are working with solicitors, legal teams, an architect, compliance officers and church officials to ensure the project meets all necessary requirements

Neighbourhood Planning

Via the Parish Council, we will ensure the project complements the work being done on the plan for North Muskham



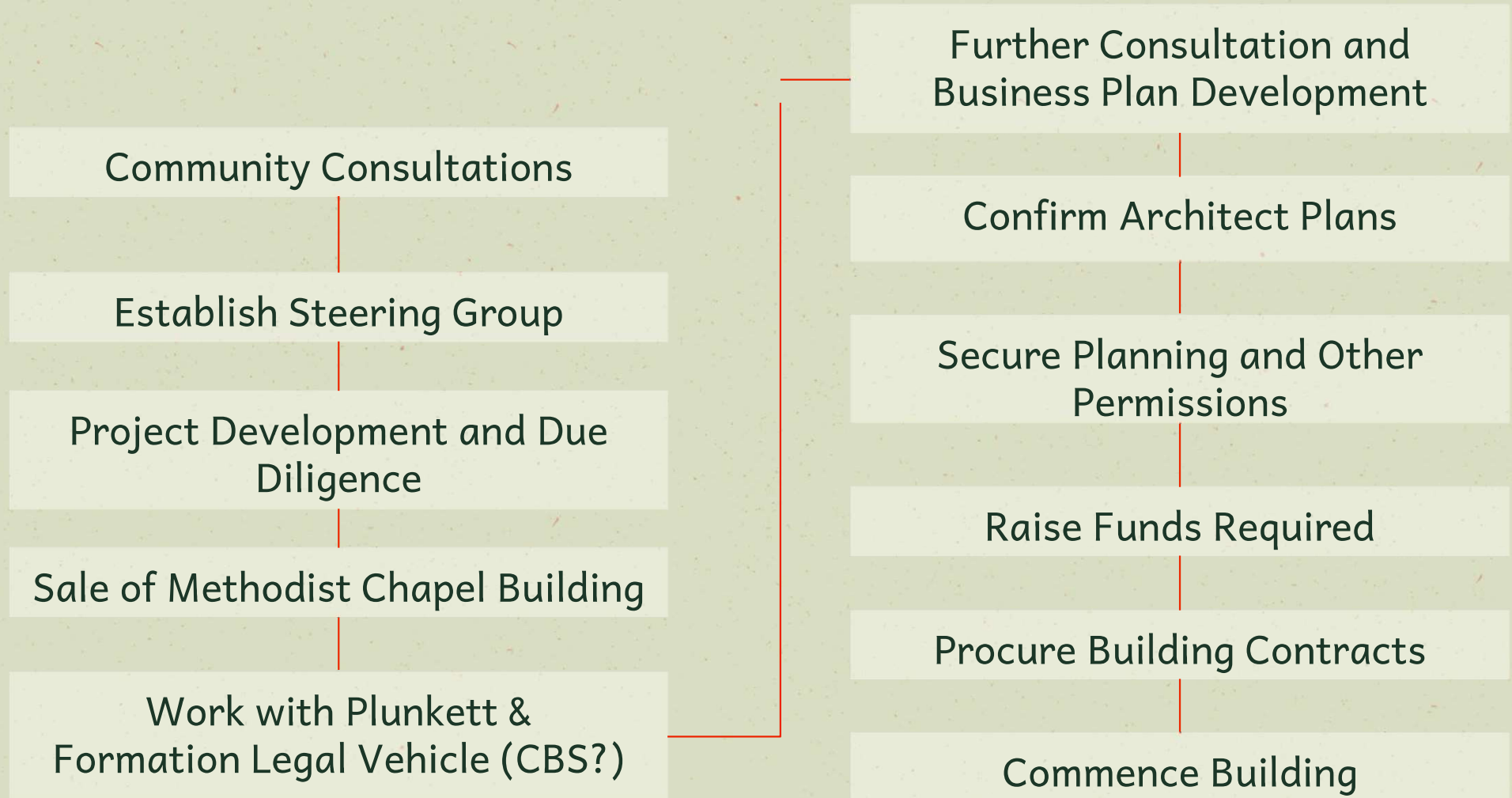
The new building

- Outline plans are being developed for the new build with the Café accommodating some 25 covers in a safe and welcoming space: an attractive venue – a place of destination
- It will be located immediately adjacent to the MRCC on the east end. It will be a separate facility but future-proofed to allow for physical integration should the need arise. We hope it will be open most days of the week and run largely by volunteers
- There will be toilets, a small food prep area and a patio door out onto an outside ‘green’ seating space
- Early estimates indicate the new build will cost towards £200,000

Timelines

There is no precise timeline ... it's going to take many months to turn our vision into reality
Planning, legal, due diligence, ongoing consultation, design, fundraising, building, furnishing, recruitment, and promotion work all need to be done before we can open

Development process



ManyThanks

Any questions? Please contact:

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and keep a look out for updates on the Nth
Muskham village website

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