

WITTERING CARE SHOP- WEBSITE PAGE FOR MAIN SELSEY COMMUNITY
FORUM WEBSITE

CONCEPT

New Wittering Care Shop to be opened in September 2026, Shore Road, East
Wittering

The Selsey Community Forum (SCF), in partnership with the Woodger Trust, proposes the establishment of a new Care Shop in East Wittering, opening September 2026, to extend vital community services beyond Selsey, as well as information, advice, and guidance services. Building on the proven success of the Selsey Care Shop, this project will deliver practical, emotional, and social support for residents. The Woodger Trust, will refurbish and equip the East Wittering building, while SCF will coordinate delivery of services.

East Wittering and Bracklesham have a combined population of approximately 6,500 residents, with more than 28% of the population over the age of 65, compared to a national average of around 19%. The coastal location makes it attractive for retirement, but it also increases demand for social care, transportation, and healthcare services. Local surveys highlight high levels of loneliness and limited access to employment opportunities for younger residents, with youth unemployment above county averages. Housing affordability remains a challenge, with average house prices more than 11 times the average local income. The area has limited public transport links to Chichester, further increasing the need for locally accessible services and volunteer-led initiatives. These factors underline the importance of establishing a dedicated Care Shop in East Wittering. The East Wittering Care Shop will serve as a local hub, creating stronger connections across the Wittering villages and facilitating partnerships with health, housing, employment, and voluntary organisations.

By 2030, the Wittering Care Shop will have evolved into a self-sustaining cornerstone of community life, providing essential services. The project will actively improve well-being, reduce social isolation, and strengthen connections across the Wittering villages, cultivating a more resilient, inclusive, and supportive community. Beyond immediate services, it will serve as a model for community-led initiatives in surrounding areas, demonstrating the transformative potential of locally driven, collaborative approaches to social care and engagement.

RELEVANT DATES:

17th March- Open meeting held to discuss plans for new Care Shop- well received with 50 attendees

16th March – 10th April- Wittering Care Shop job applications open for two part-time Charity Administrators.

20th April 2026- Interviews for posts to be held by invitation

April- September- ongoing sourcing of valued volunteers to support with the running of the Wittering Care Shop and within the community.

September 2026- Opening of Wittering Care Shop

VOLUNTEER ROLES AVAILABLE

VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES- WITTERING CARE SHOP

Do you have a small amount of time free each week and would be happy to support with working in the Care Shop in the Witterings, due to open in September 2026.

This could be just one morning or afternoon a week. Or are your strengths completing forms within the community? Support is always needed with completion of forms such as Attendance Allowance, Personal Independence Forms, Blue badge applications.

Full training will be given.

Wittering Care Shop- Main responsibilities:

- Ensuring all Community Forum policies have been read and are available in the Care Shop should they be required
- Opening and preparing the Care Shop daily, following opening and closing procedure. Checking answer phone messages
- Working alongside and supporting staff roles
- Checking generic and personal emails and replying as needed
- Creating Whatsapp Groups for buddies and volunteers and utilising these groups for requests such as prescription collections, small shops etc.
- Ensuring supply of forms are on the premises as necessary- registration forms, relevant local information, Community Hub information
- Logging of daily contacts and numbers. Face to face attendee names in main diary and on monthly spreadsheet log, telephone calls in and out recorded on spreadsheet with name, interaction method and reason.
- Updating of database as per each client interaction.
- Any onward referrals completed or Community Hubs identified and signposted to for support as necessary following interactions, such as:

Money Support- AA, PIP, Blue Badge, LPA, Energy

Employment and Housing Support

Carers Support

Well-being support

Good morning call service

Befriending support

- Supporting the community face to face or via the telephone/ email with their various needs such as requests for:

Travel info

Woods travel
Bus times

What's on

Time of groups activities run by the charity
Selling tickets for local events (by agreement only)

Carer information

Local carers/ care packages
Day care provision

Community Drop-ins

Service users popping in to the shop
An ear for those in distress
Seen as a safe place to come
Donations of money and equipment
Residents concerned about neighbours/family
Moving of furniture
Thank yous
Help with top ups of mobile phones
Help with domestic appliances.

TV licence enquiries**Foodbank voucher distributor****Banking of donations****Buddy Support base**

Prescription pick up requests taken and requests to volunteers for help
Small shops organised for those that cannot leave their home

Manhood Mobility Volunteer Service

Referrals/ signposting to local Service at Witterings Medical Practice

Help with 'Tell us Once' following a death**Linking with Solicitors for service users without NOK following deaths****Working with local estate agents for private rentals**

General information provided:

Is the launderette open?

Where can I get a dentist?

What time is the mobile bank/ local banks?

Where is xyz in the Witterings?

Asked for numbers for local tradesmen/ hairdressers/ cleaners/
plumbers/gardeners/electricians/ garages- **helpful to create a database on
Charity log with these names and numbers- always give at least three
numbers. We cannot recommend individual tradespeople**

Asked for information about preferred vets

Where can I do my will?

Requests for help when someone has collapsed in the local community.

Referrals from Medical Practice for advice:

Help completing e-consults for those that cannot use the internet

Help to apply for Med 3 certificates online

Installing medical apps and uploading photos of medical conditions.

Registering with medical practice using google translate.

Supporting people with changes to prescriptions.

ResPect documents/DNR/ End of life referrals

Supporting people to use cashpoints to obtain their own money

Supporting people who have difficulty with reading and/or writing

Enquiries about printing

With thanks

**For further information please contact Karen Pirks-
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