

**NEWS UPDATE – MARCH 17,2022**

Next week marks another important milestone for our shop - the first anniversary of trading as a community owned enterprise. This could not have been achieved without the support of our investors, donors, staff and grant funders, nor indeed without the thousands of hours contributed by our volunteers. A big thank you goes out to all. We are also pleased to able to provide some exciting updates on what has been happening since our last bulletin:

**Planning consent given**

We are delighted to confirm that consent has been received from the Scottish Borders Council to our planning application for the refurbishment and extension to the premises. This is an important step forward in allowing us to transform the shop into a more attractive, functional and efficient space.

**Tender for the works completed**

A large part of the funding for the renovation works is being provided by a grant from the Scottish Government, which requires that a public tender be issued for the works. A number of contractors were approached for bids, and we are now working towards finalising a formal contract before the end of this month, as stipulated in the terms of the grant award. More information, including details of when the work will commence, will follow soon.

**Business Development Manager hired**

As we have previously reported, another important step in the journey of transforming the business was to advertise for and recruit an individual to manage and grow the shop business to the levels necessary to achieve sustainability. We are very pleased to announce that Louisa O’Brien will be assuming this role from March 21. Many of our customers will already know Louisa; she has been on contract with us since last December, and brings a wealth of experience from leadership roles with a major supermarket chain, as well as with a number of community projects. Reporting to the management committee, Louisa will be working closely with the committee, staff and volunteers in this new poition. She will be responsible for the day to day operations of the shop, expansion of our product range, and marketing. Please join us in welcoming Louisa into her new role.

**Management Committee**

**Yetholm Community Shop Limited**