

Dear Hurst residents,

My wife and I are the Freeholders of Hurst Village Shop premises and flat above.

Our solicitors are currently negotiating the repossession of the whole from our lapsed tenants Bestway Retail after they ceased rental payments and closed the shop down without explanation or the legal notice required. This is typical of them as we have found them tricky and not straight forward to deal with over the length of our relationship.

We are therefore actively looking to re Lease or possibly sell the shop in a way that would allow the current tenants of the self contained flat above to remain in residence if at all possible and preferably to another shop keeper so that the residents of Hurst can continue to benefit the conveniences of having a shop in the heart of the village.

Alternatively, we ask you the residents, what would your wishes regarding the best use of the premises in the future be if not a convenience store?

We believe that in order for the shop to be viable to a new convenience store business owner or as a community owned store, it would need to be able to keep all or most of the facilities and stock the items that have made this a profitable and viable shop for the last 110 years or so, this would also need the continued support of the villagers.

We ask the residents to please be patient as the negotiations and legal paperwork is likely to take a little time to process. Hopefully our solicitor can persuade Bestway /Central stores not to continue being difficult and obstructive, then with our best efforts Hurst will not be without the business of their choice for long.

Kind regards,

C & J Paxton