

Clophill Post Office - Bedfordshire

Clophill Post Office, Bedfordshire, officially re-opened for business in December 2004. The village can now proudly boast a modern purpose-built facility, incorporating not just a PO but a well-stocked general store.



For the owners, Mr and Mrs Chandarana, it has not been an easy year. A number of unforeseen setbacks severely hampered progress and threatened to jeopardize the project entirely. However, due mainly to Mr Chandarana's determination, plus some external financial assistance, the project can now be declared a success and, at the opening ceremony, everyone involved was keen to share the moment.

The situation in Clophill was not unlike that in many villages throughout the country - the existing sub-postmaster wished to retire but could not attract someone to buy both the business and the freehold of the building. To prevent Clophill losing its PO and shop altogether, the only solution seemed to be a completely separate amenity, and of course someone to embark on such a venture.

It was fortunate for Clophill that experienced retailers Mr and Mrs Chandarana were keen to take on the challenge.

A suitable site was found within the village to re-develop and, while the building work was in progress, the Chandaranas worked closely with the outgoing sub-postmaster to ensure continuity of service in the changeover period.

A key reason for the ultimate success of this project was the involvement and assistance of a number of local organisations, including the Parish Council, the Rural Community Council and the District Council.

Wendi Abraham, Economic Development Officer said: "Mid Beds (District Council) is delighted that there is now a new well stocked, purpose-built shop and PO in Clophill. It helps to secure the continuing provision of the vital village services upon which our rural communities depend. The project is an excellent example of effective partnership working, and we are proud to have been part of it."