

# Bid for Hughenden shop a step closer

PLANS to reopen a community shop have been given a boost following news that it can be sited at the heart of a village.

Hughenden resident Louise Jones, of Trees Avenue, is a step closer to achieving her dream of opening a shop in her village after Hughenden Valley Village Hall trustees gave the project approval in principle to open on its site in Coombe Lane.

Mrs Jones, 39, a personal assistant, had the brainchild of opening her own village shop after a previous one closed down two years ago.

She said: "I always used to use it and buy a

pint of milk and then it closed down and I just heard so many people saying they were disappointed about it."

Mrs Jones, a mother-of-two, created a steering committee with fellow residents who hope to be able to open a shop in a temporary building on ground next to the village hall.

A planning application for the shop was due to be submitted to Wycombe District Council this week.

Chairman of the committee Tony Horton, a retired managing director, said: "The whole object is to try to recreate the ethos of village life and to bring people back in to the village."

Mrs Jones, added: "Rather than go in a car to a supermarket, it's environmentally friendly to be able to walk somewhere."

District councillors for Greater Hughenden Richard Pushman, John Gibbs and David Carroll presented a cheque totalling £1,000 from their community fund - provided for community schemes - to the project two weeks ago.

Cllr Carroll said: "All three local councillors are behind the project and are supporting it."

The group has currently raised almost £6,000 out of an estimated £22,000 and hope to open this summer.