

Sandford Talking Shop Ltd

What is it?

Talking Shop's volunteers, all locals, have been bringing people a buzzing weekly market and café since 2011. The organisation is community-led and community-owned for people in and around Sandford, Littlemore, Rose Hill, Kennington and the Leys. It was incorporated in May 2014 as a Community Benefit Society.



What are we aiming to do?

At the heart is a growing social hub: our community cafe, shop and garden at the Village Hall, Henley Road, Sandford-on-Thames. From here we aim to:

- * Bring people together, as customers and volunteers, through our established Saturday market and cafe, our monthly lunch club, a bike mechanic team, weekly table tennis sessions, a garden team and various workshops.
- * Create opportunities to learn – community education, work experience, volunteer training, mentor partnerships, building pathways to employment, sharing skills, nurturing and rebuilding confidence.
- * Offer a network of support to more vulnerable groups in our communities – through our Good Neighbour scheme, by supporting people of all abilities to volunteer and through community meals and open social events.

How is it structured?

The Society is a membership organisation, open to any individual, group or business that agrees with its aims. They do not have to be based in the area we cover. The Society is organised and promoted by a Board of Directors, initially self-appointed, drawn from the membership. The Board will be elected annually at the AGM.

Why do we think this will work?

- It combines the strengths of business, public, community and voluntary sectors.
- It is based on effective partnerships with eg. The Oxford Academy, Restore, Mind, local businesses.
- It promotes responsive social regeneration through a healthy mix of services and facilities.
- It is community-based, owned and managed so has a better understanding of local issues.
- It is independent, aiming to be self-sufficient, not for private profit.

Why become a member?

Communities and volunteers who support each other, build friendships and break down barriers can transform lives. With our own space we can do so much more of this. The more people who are involved and who have a say as members, the better we will be able to understand and meet our communities' challenges.

Just £10 makes you a member for a year

- * Get a quarterly newsletter
- * Come to Talking Shop socials
- * Vote in the Board
- * Vote on key decisions
- * Most importantly 'Have Your Say' on the shape of the project

Membership Fee

The annual membership fee of £10 includes a £1 share in the Society and gives membership to 30th November 2017. It is renewable annually on 1st December unless a minimum holding of share issues through the investment offer are held. See also legal details overleaf.

Active Talking Shop volunteers are exempt from the administration fee and can join for just the cost of one share, £1.

Note: every member has one vote, irrespective of the number of shares held.

Sandford Talking Shop Ltd: the legal details

Sandford Talking Shop Ltd is a Community Benefit Society registered in England & Wales with register number 32389 R. The registered office is 50 Church Road, Sandford-on-Thames, OX4 4XZ.

Objects of the Society

The Society's aims are for public benefit including but not limited to Sandford-on-Thames, Rose Hill, Littlemore, Greater Leys and the surrounding areas by either all or any of the following means:

- a)** The advancement of education, training or retraining;
- b)** The creation of workspace, buildings, and/or land for use on favourable terms;
- c)** The maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities;
- d)** The provision of recreational facilities for the public at large or those who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social circumstances, have need of such facilities;
- e)** The protection or conservation of the environment.

Membership

The Society is owned by and accountable to its members. All members have an equal say based on the principle of one member one vote. Membership is open to all persons and organisations that support the objects of the Society. Individuals must be at least 16 years of age to be a member. The Board may refuse any application for membership at its absolute discretion.

Members participate in decision-making at general meetings elect the Board of Directors to oversee the work of staff, volunteers and / or contractors. Members will be kept informed of the work of the Society (as a minimum) via the Annual General Meeting and via the annual report. All members will receive a full copy of the Society's rules.

Membership Fee

For the first year of membership, a £1 share in the Society is included. The remaining £9 covers the first year's annual subscription fee. The membership year runs from 1st December to 30th November the following year and anyone joining from September 2016 (until November 2017) will be a member until 30th November 2017, unless they hold more shares bought through the separate investment offer (to be launched within 12 months of the first). Any addition beyond the £10 membership fee will be considered a one-off donation. Only one share is issued per member (except for the separate investment offer) regardless of amount paid over £1. The minimum shareholding of £1 will not be refunded where a member withdraws (the cost of administering the refund would exceed the £1 value of the share).

The Board shall review the level of the annual membership fee each year.

Sandford Talking Shop Ltd - Membership Application Form

Membership is open to both individuals and organisations

Name of applicant

Contact name (where applicant is not an individual)

.....

Address

.....

..... Postcode

Telephone

email

I/we wish to apply for membership of Sandford Talking Shop Ltd.

I/we agree to be bound by the rules of the society.

The full Rules of the society are available from Contacts.talkingshop@gmail.com - or hand your contact details in at the Saturday market

For Active Volunteers

I am an active Talking Shop Volunteer and I enclose cash £1 (minimum £1) OR I am including a donation and enclose £.....

For all other Talking Shop Membership

I/we enclose cash £10 (£10 as a minimum) OR I am including a donation and enclose £.....

OR a cheque for £10 (£10 as a minimum) / £20 / £50 / £100 / £200 Other

Please make cheques payable to Sandford Talking Shop Ltd

Signed Date

Position in organisation (if applicable)

Please detach at perforation and return with membership fee to:

Talking Shop, The Village Hall, Henley Road, Sandford-on-Thames, OX4 4YN