



PRESS RELEASE

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Tools help communities build business

AN ENTERPRISING rural community is launching their own shop in one of the most remote areas of Cumbria, and more local people are being encouraged to develop their own business solutions.

Nenthead Community Shop is the latest social enterprise to set up business with the support of Voluntary Action Cumbria's Community Solutions and partner organisation Village Retail Services Association.

After the village shop closed, residents in Nenthead came together to find a way of creating the services they had lost for themselves.

Voluntary Action Cumbria's Community Enterprise Officer, Lorraine Rockminster said: "We are working with communities and social enterprises, such as the team behind Nenthead Community Shop to help them create their own business and develop a sustainable future for their businesses.

"Through our work with a wide range of enterprises over the past four years, we have built up a bank of knowledge that we have use to create an on line reference area for others looking to start up a community business.

"Our website now provides a host of tools which local groups can use to plan and develop their social enterprises. The service is free and accessible 24/7 by logging onto www.enterprsiecommunities.org.uk and clicking on "tools".

"The site provides the tools to check the feasibility of a project, ways of developing shared aims and objectives and setting out a clear, shared vision that will give a strong foundation to the development of the business.

"Further support and help is available from VAC."

- Ends -

Photo:

Voluntary Action Cumbria's Community Enterprise Officer, Lorraine Rockminster viewing the online support now available 24/7.

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