

**From:** Lee Ellis **Sent:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023 10:32 AM  
**To:** Town Clerk <info@wem.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Pop up shop project

Good morning,

I hope you don't mind me contacting you? I am writing with a proposal for Wem and need some assistance please.

In 2018, I set up a free pop up shop at Meeting Point House in Telford called Nu-2-u Telford. It was run in my spare time and I opened once a month, sometimes more if I had more time and the room was available. We gave away free clothing and toiletries to absolutely anybody in need in the community, there was no judgement, everyone was made welcome regardless of their circumstances and no money was ever exchanged. The items in the shop, including the shelving was donated by members of the public, the room was very kindly donated by Meeting Point House. In June 2019, I returned to teaching and joined a wonderful, small SEMH school near Harmer Hill in Wem called Smallbrook School. With permission from management, I started to take our students to the shop each month to work in the shop and this was a huge success, since then I have taken around 50 different students and we have helped hundreds of people. We have helped the homeless, families struggling financially and many more, including numerous charities and Telford & Wrekin Council events. With the current cost of living crisis, the shop was more popular than ever. We have seen people from every single background, culture and religion, its been a real eye opener.

In April 2022, I took 2 willing students during the Easter holidays and opened the shop to help the newly arrived Ukrainian refugees in Telford. BBC Midlands Today called and asked if they could come and film and I am very proud to say that my students were interviewed and were on the news. The shop has been a huge help to the community and to my amazing students, their confidence has grown so much and they have seen and helped people who are also vulnerable and this has been a great way for them to gain vital life skills.

Sadly, due to commitments at that time and the manager from Meeting Point House leaving, in September 2022, I closed Nu-2-u Telford. Since then, I have been considering opening up again, so that our school can build important links with its surrounding community. I was hoping that we could meet when it is convenient for you to discuss whether we could work together to set up Nu2u in Wem community hubs or somewhere central to maximise the amount of people who we can help. I do not need any funding, I would just need a space to open the shop once a month or more frequently, if that suited you more and possibly somewhere to store the items, although this isn't essential. I am so confident that our school can help the local area in so many ways and would be keen to speak to you about any other projects that we can work on to help local people.

I have attached a link to the new story here [Telford pupils run pop-up shop to help struggling families - BBC News](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope that we can meet to discuss this project.

Very kind regards,

Lee Ellis  
Science Teacher  
SMALLBROOK SCHOOL

Unit 1-4, Sleaf, Harmer Hill, Shrewsbury, SY4 3HE