

## Research Project Opportunity: The National U3A High Street Project

### What will our shopping areas look like and in the long term how will they affect our local communities in Sheffield?

#### Background:

This summer it has become very clear that the Lockdown due to Covid19 will lead to profound changes in shopping habits. Will the affects of Covid19 signal the deaths of our high streets?

This national U3A project is being managed by the Trust's Research Committee and is led by Peter Cox, U3A Research Committee. The plan is to produce a landmark report for publication by the Trust in 2022, so helping to raise the U3A's profile in our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Participation is being asked from as many U3As as possible

#### This Autumn

The Project will begin with a quick survey to give a baseline at the beginning of Lockdown in March 2020, against which changes will be measured.

The aim is to produce a report for the Board by the end of December 2020 that describes the pre-Pandemic state of Britain's shopping locations. In early 2022 the aim will be to construct a final report that looks in depth at the impact of the Pandemic, as part of wider research.

#### What will be required

On behalf of Sheffield U3A, the Shared Learning and Research Project Team are looking for 5-10 volunteers who are willing to participate in the data recording exercise during September. Participants can choose a small number of shopping streets in your locality. That may mean for example a main street, a local parade, and a small centre. You would walk along them, noting down three items of data about each property: street number, name, and type (e.g. 171-5, Budgens, supermarket), and photographing the shop front. The next stage is carried out at home. A list of 'property type' codes will be provided and a simple form on which you will enter the data and the matching code.

A virtual meeting will be arranged in August to introduce the project in more detail, to go through the protocols and address any questions volunteers may have

If you are interested in becoming involved in this very worthwhile and relevant project please contact:

Samina Aslam, SU3A Shared Learning & Research Project Team by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August**.  
[sammas1747@gmail.com](mailto:sammas1747@gmail.com)