

Lack of volunteers blamed for charity shop's closure

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A charity has announced it will be pulling out of Tenterden after 36 years of serving the town.

Save the Children will close its Ashford Road shop at the end of the year. It is thought that the business had been particularly affected by the move to the High Street of former neighbour, the Pilgrims Hospice shop.

Town councillor Sue Ferguson said that with the number of charity shops in town there was a struggle to get enough volunteers to staff them.

She said: "The shop was not in the best position, particular as the Pilgrims Hospice shop has moved to the centre of town, but a lack of volunteers is a problem.

"If you look at the charity shops in town there are posters for volunteers – but Tenterden is volunteered out, there just aren't enough people to go round."

Ann Nelson, of legal practice Nelson McLean in Bells Lane, has previously spoken out about



Tenterden town councillor Sue Ferguson; Save the Children shop closing down

Picture: Lewis Brockway



the large number of charity shops and the effect on other businesses, but she said she was sad to see the shop go as it helped to keep a less busy part of town more vibrant.

"The Save the Children shop was not on the main drag and because the Pilgrims Hospice has moved I think business must have suffered.

"But I'm disappointed it has had to close."

A spokesman for Save the Children said that it owned the premises and all staff were volunteers so there would not be

redundancies of permanent staff. The charity has been in Tenterden since 1980, and issued a statement regarding the closure.

It read: "It is with great sadness that we will be closing our shop in Tenterden, after 36 years of service, at the end of this year.

"Our shops exist to raise money for children, but sadly the costs required to maintain the building outweigh any income that we could raise in that location, meaning the shop is no longer a viable means of raising money."

"Save the Children greatly values its volunteers and is open

and transparent about shop performance with them.

"The key team members have been made aware of the situation and we are holding a thank you event with all volunteers in December to celebrate their great achievement raising money to improve children's lives in the UK and across the world.

"There are no current plans to open another shop in Tenterden."

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