

Press Release

£1.3 million refurbishment for Manningtree Co-op Supermarket

The East of England Co-operative Society announced today that it will shortly begin a £1.3 million project to refurbish its Fiveways supermarket in Manningtree, Essex.

Work on the improvements to the store will commence in a few weeks' time and will be carried out on a phased basis to ensure the store can remain open, and a service is maintained to customers. Completion is expected before Christmas.

Richard Samson, Chief Executive, said: "Our commitment to refurbishing our supermarket in Manningtree is the latest stage in our multi-million pound, self-funded development programme right across East Anglia. Although we are still awaiting planning permission for our proposed store extension we are determined to provide a modern, state of the art supermarket for the people of Manningtree and so we will now begin a major refurbishment of the store which will be completed this year."

New features at the improved store will include a 'food to go' section with hot food and a salad bar. There will also be new trolleys and trolley bays in the car park – which is also set to be improved.

Inside the modern new look supermarket there will be a new ceiling, energy efficient lighting, new refrigeration units and fixtures, and a new till scanning system, as well as retaining the in-store Post Office.

The enhanced store will offer extended ranges of fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh meat, chilled and frozen food, groceries, beers, wines and spirits, as well as regular special offers including multi-saves and buy one get one free. There will also be a wide range of Fairtrade, 'Truly Irresistible' and locally sourced products, with the new "Co-operative" range of products being highlighted.

The new Co-op Supermarket will also display the East of England Co-operative Society branding which is being rolled out to the Society's stores across the region, as well as internal and external redecoration of the store.

A year ago the Society applied for planning permission to build an extension to the store, in Riverside Avenue East, close to the river Stour. However, queries from the Environment Agency over the flood risk of the planned extension have prevented Tendring District Council from progressing the application.

As the Society is committed to providing a service to the residents of Manningtree and the surrounding area, it is progressing with the refurbishment of the store, whilst waiting for the planning consent on the store extension.

The £1.3 million investment in the Manningtree store is part of an ongoing development programme across the East of England Co-op's trading area involving building, refurbishment and rebranding existing stores, whilst also planning for new developments in the future.

The Society has just relaunched its Felixstowe development where more than £1.2 million was spent on the Supermarket, Pharmacy, Optical, Home Store and Petrol Forecourt, as well as completing a £1.4 million extension and refit of its Food Store in Elmswell, and is about to embark on an upgrade to its Wivenhoe Food Store costing upwards of £200,000.

Mr Samson added: "The news of this latest financial investment at Manningtree comes shortly after we have announced our intention to acquire Wherstead Park, Ipswich, which we anticipate will become our new head office and a prestigious regional business centre."

For further information:

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