

## **NWF Group plc**

### **STATEMENT RE: DISPOSAL OF COUNTRY STORES**

#### **Chairman's AGM Statement**

NWF Group plc ("NWF"), the diversified sales and distribution business, today announces that it is in final negotiations to sell its remaining five Country Store businesses to Countrywide Farmers plc, pending completion of TUPE employee consultations.

Graham Scott, Chief Executive of NWF, commented: "As previously announced, our retail strategy is to focus firmly on garden centres and, having closed our Managrakem Country Store on the Isle of Man, I am pleased to announce that we are close to concluding a deal to sell the businesses of our remaining stores (Wardle, Whitchurch, Market Drayton, Melton Mowbray and Wrexham) to Countrywide Farmers. We will make a more detailed announcement as and when the transaction has completed."

At the Annual General Meeting of NWF, to be held in Cheshire at 10.30 am today, the Chairman, Roy Willis, commenting on the first quarter performance will say:

"NWF Group's financial year is significantly skewed towards the second half when most of the businesses experience their peak trading. The first quarter is an extreme example of this and typically represents less than 10% of the full year's profit. I am nevertheless pleased to be able to report to shareholders that the year has opened satisfactorily."

For further information please visit [www.nwf.co.uk](http://www.nwf.co.uk) or contact:

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