



Dear Customer

## **Local public consultation - Have your say**

**Clapham Post Office  
48 High Street, Bedford, MK41 6DN**

We are proposing to move the above Post Office branch to a new location - Clapham Discount Food & Wine, 76 High Street, Clapham, Bedford, MK41 6DN, where it would continue to operate as one of our local style branches, subject to consultation.

### **Why are we proposing this move?**

The current postmaster has resigned, and the premises would be withdrawn for Post Office use, however we are pleased to inform you that a new operator has been appointed, who has identified an alternative location to operate Clapham Post Office.

Our priority is to safeguard our services in the locality in the longer term and the relocation of Clapham Post Office would enable us to maintain a Post Office service to our customers in the community.

### **We'd like your help**

We're now starting a period of local public consultation, and your feedback is important to us as it will help to inform our decision. For more details of the proposed services and accessibility, please see the branch information summary later in this consultation document.

### **What exactly are we consulting on?**

- **How easy is it to get to the proposed new location?**
- **Are the new premises easy for you to get into and are they easily accessible once inside?**
- **Are there any other local community issues which you believe could be affected by or affect the proposed Post Office move?**
- **If the move were to proceed, is there anything we could do to make it easier for customers?**

Please note the proposed change of management of the branch is a decision for Post Office Ltd and therefore we are not seeking feedback on this aspect of the change.

Local Public Consultation starts	<b>25 April 2025</b>
Local Public Consultation ends	<b>6 June 2025</b>
Proposed month of change	<b>June/July 2025</b>

You can share your views on the proposed change through our easy and convenient online questionnaire via [postofficeviews.co.uk](https://postofficeviews.co.uk). When entering the website, you can use the search function to find the consultation for this branch either by branch name, postcode or the unique branch code **063106**

### **How to share your views:**

#### **Consultation Hub ([postofficeviews.co.uk](https://postofficeviews.co.uk))**

[comments@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:comments@postoffice.co.uk)

Call: 03452 66 01 15

Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

FREEPOST Your Comments – N.B. This is the full postal address. Items sent by Freepost take 2 working days, please allow enough time for responses to be received.

**Want to tell us what you think right here and now? Scan here.**

If you don't have a QR code scanner on your phone, you can find one in your app store.



### Good to know

- Customers would access Post Office services at a low-screened, open-plan, modern serving point that's part of the retail counter.
- Working with the postmaster, we'd adapt the current store layout, fixtures and fittings to accommodate the Post Office till if needed.
- The Post Office would offer the same products and services over longer opening hours so customers can access their branch when it's convenient. Customer satisfaction with local style branches is high, and many customers visit outside traditional opening hours.
- All staff employed to work in the proposed new branch would be trained to the highest standards with on-going training on products and services, as well as operational and service-related matters.
- Works would be undertaken to replace the current ramp at the side entrance of the proposed premises with a new ramp.
- Posters and leaflets will now be displayed in branch to let customers know about the proposal and to ask their views.
- Any information we receive will be carefully considered as we finalise our plans.
- If you are a local representative, we will write to you again at the end of the consultation to respond to the main issues raised and to explain our final plans for the branch.
- This consultation is being carried out in line with our Principles of Community Engagement which have been agreed with Citizens Advice, Consumer Scotland and the General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland - the independent statutory consumer advocacy bodies. An extract relating to Consultation is available at the end of this letter.

If you are a local representative, it would be helpful if you could share this information through your social media channels and with any local groups or organisations that you know within the community, for example on noticeboards, local charities and in GP surgeries, to help our customers and your constituents understand the changes we are proposing to Clapham Post Office. If you would like a supply of posters, please let us know. Our contact details can be found at the bottom of the first page.

Thank you for considering our proposal.

Yours faithfully

*Allison Wallace*

**Allison Wallace**  
**Regional Change Manager**  
**Post Office Limited**

## Clapham Post Office Information Summary

There are times our branches may need to make changes to its opening hours. The latest available branch information can be found on our website [www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder)

Current Location		Proposed New Location	
48 High Street, Bedford, MK41 6DN		Clapham Discount Food & Wine, 76 High Street, Clapham, Bedford, MK41 6DN	
<b>Current opening times</b>		<b>Proposed New opening times</b>	
Monday	09:00 – 12:00 13:00 – 17:30	Monday	08:00 – 18:00
Tuesday	09:00 – 12:00 13:00 – 17:30	Tuesday	08:00 – 18:00
Wednesday	09:00 – 12:00 13:00 – 17:30	Wednesday	08:00 – 18:00
Thursday	09:00 – 12:00 13:00 – 17:30	Thursday	08:00 – 18:00
Friday	09:00 – 12:00 13:00 – 17:30	Friday	08:00 – 18:00
Saturday	09:00 – 12:00	Saturday	08:00 – 18:00
Sunday	Closed	Sunday	Closed
<b>Products and Services</b>			
The same products and services would still be available.			
<b>Serving positions</b>			
There would be one serving positions in at the retail counter.			
<b>Access</b>			
There would be two entrances to the premises, one at the front with steps and another entrance to side of the premises with a ramp, works would be undertaken to replace this ramp with a new ramp at the side entrance to the proposed premises. Internally, there would be a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair.			
<b>Getting there</b>			
The proposed new branch would be located approximately 120 metres away from the current branch, along mostly level terrain. Layby parking is available within 15 metres for several cars and time restricted roadside parking is available within 10 metres of the proposed premises.			
Public transport is available to and from the surrounding areas.			
<b>Store retail available</b>		Convenience Store	

**To get this information in a different format, for example, in larger print, audio or braille call 03452 66 01 15 or Textphone 03457 22 33 55.**

## **Principles of Community Engagement on changes to the Post Office network (extract)**

A full version of this document is available on our Consultation Hub - [postofficeviews.co.uk](https://postofficeviews.co.uk)

**We are committed to engaging and supporting our customers and their representatives as we make changes to the Post Office network. The following Principles will be adopted when communicating about changes to your local Post Office branch.**

We will **Consult** - where we are seeking feedback on proposals prior to a decision being made on the:

- Permanent closure of a Post Office branch<sup>5</sup>
- Permanent relocation of a Post Office branch (including the franchising of a Directly Managed branch to a new site)

We will carry out a six-week<sup>6</sup> local public consultation, informing customers, locally elected representatives, Consumer Advocacy Bodies, and selected charities of the proposal. This information will also be made available online and for a Directly Managed branch a press release will be issued to local media. We will ask locally elected representatives to share information with other key community outlets (such as notice boards, local charities, magazines, GP surgeries etc.).

The consultation will ask specific questions on areas where we would like feedback on access to Post Office services and will confirm when the change will happen if the decision is made to proceed. We will provide clear information on any changes to services as well as access to and into the new branch.

We welcome all feedback with the following factors being taken into account in making our decision, which we expect to make within four weeks of the close of consultation:

- Customer access to, into and inside the new or alternative branch/branches with particular regard to vulnerable consumers
- Any local community issues which could be affected by or affect the proposal

At the end of the consultation process we will write to locally elected representatives, Consumer Advocacy Bodies, and respondents to the consultation (where practical) to confirm our decision and provide a summary of key issues raised with a clear response to each. This information will be made available online and in branch (where possible).

**These Principles have been agreed with Citizens Advice, Consumer Scotland and the General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland, the independent statutory consumer advocacy bodies.**

### What to do if you feel these Principles haven't been followed:

Please get in touch so we can investigate your complaint. We'll explain in our reply whether we believe we have followed our Principles of Community Engagement and will provide you with the contact details for the relevant consumer advocacy body (Citizens Advice, Consumer Scotland, or the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland) if you're not satisfied with our response. The consumer advocacy body will independently assess whether we have followed the Principles of Community Engagement process (rather than the decision itself) and recommend any actions with respect to the complaint.

**Postofficeviews.co.uk**  
**[Comments@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:Comments@postoffice.co.uk)**  
**FREEPOST Your Comments**

**Call: 03452 66 01 15**  
**Textphone: 03457 22 33 55**

<sup>5</sup> There may be a small number of cases where due to circumstances outside our control we have no option other than to permanently close a branch in a particular location. In these cases, the consultation will seek feedback on alternative Post Office service provision in the area.

<sup>6</sup> If the consultation includes more than four weeks in July in Scotland and Northern Ireland or more than four weeks in August in England and Wales, we will extend the period by one calendar week. We will not start any local public consultation during the two-week period which includes the Christmas and New Year bank holidays.