



Dear Customer

Fingringhoe Post Office Service®
Previously located at: Methodist Chapel, Chapel Road, Fingringhoe, Colchester, CO5 7AU

Local public consultation decision

I'm writing to confirm that we have completed the local public consultation on the Fingringhoe Post Office service relocating to the new premises. This service relocated to operate from Church Green Trust, Church Road, Fingringhoe, Colchester, CO5 7BN on 4 September 2020.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to let us have their comments and provide information. All the feedback we received helped us to better understand the views of customers and their representatives and this was taken into account along with all other relevant factors, in finalising our relocation arrangements for the service. A summary of the feedback is enclosed along with an information sheet providing further details about the new service location.

After careful consideration of the feedback received, we remain confident that the service is continuing to meet customer needs and deliver an excellent service after relocating to new premises, whilst securing the long-term viability of Post Office services in the local community.

This information is also available on the Post Office Consultation Hub at: postofficeviews.co.uk

We're carrying out this notification in line with our Principles of Community Engagement. A copy is available at the end of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Lesley McNally

Lesley McNally
Regional Change Manager

postofficeviews.co.uk

comments@postoffice.co.uk

FREEPOST Your Comments

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.

Appendix A

Response to Local Public Consultation

Consultation started 6 August 2020

Consultation ended 17 September 2020

Consultation responses

- 2 responses from customers

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Key issues raised

- Parking
- Access

Response to issues raised

Parking

While I acknowledge the concerns raised about parking in the area, it is fair to say this is a problem faced in many locations nationwide. When looking at Post Office service provision in an area, we are mindful of the needs of our customers, although as I am sure you will understand, the availability of parking and road conditions are outside the direct control of Post Office Limited.

However, I have conducted a further review which has confirmed that free off-road parking is available approximately 20 metres from the entrance of the new premises. If a customer is unable to cover the distance, then parking directly by the entrance can be made available, however the customer needs to confirm it prior arrival with the postmaster.

Additionally, the new premises has a car park in close proximity, which Post Office customers can use. I am therefore satisfied there is adequate parking provision in the vicinity of new service location to meet the needs of customers using the Post Office.

Access

I can confirm that a ramp has been installed at the entrance to enable disabled customers to access the service. If any customer needs further assistance to access the service, the postmaster will be able to assist by request.

Fingringhoe Post Office information sheet				
	New Post Office location			
Address	Church Green Trust Church Road Fingringhoe Colchester CO5 7BN			
Post Office opening hours		Mon	10:00 – 13:00	
		Wed	13:00 – 16:00	
		Fri	10:00 – 13:00	
Distance	Approximately 700 metres away from the previous service location, along varied terrain.			
Products & Services	The same wide range of products and services are still available.			
Accessibility	Access and facilities The new premises has a wide door and a ramp at the entrance.			
	Parking Off road parking is available approximately 20 metres from the new premises. Additionally, a car park is available nearby.			
Service relocation date	4 September 2020			

Principles of Community Engagement on changes to the Post Office network

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 **Notify** - where we are informing customers of changes around:

- Opening hours
- Temporary closure¹/ temporary service interruption
- Re-opening of a temporarily closed branch in the same site
- Opening a new branch unrelated to a previous closure
- Location used by a Mobile Post Office within a community

We will display a poster in branch (or nearby if appropriate) to notify customers of the above changes, providing four weeks' notice. Where four weeks' notice is not possible, we will provide notice as soon as we are able to. For temporary closures we will include details of the nearest alternative Post Offices and our customer helpline/textphone.

We will **Engage** - where we are seeking feedback on a decision that has been made on:

- Re-opening of a temporarily closed branch in a new location (where the branch has been closed for more than three months)
- Franchising of a Directly Managed branch in its existing site

While the decision to proceed will have already been made, we will welcome suggestions about specific aspects of the change such as access arrangements and the internal layout. We will provide four weeks' notice or, where extenuating circumstances prevent this, we will provide as much notice as possible.

During this period we will display a poster in branch and provide information online. We will contact locally elected representatives², the Consumer Advocacy Bodies and selected charities³, providing clear information on any changes to services or access arrangements at the branch. We will ask locally elected representatives to share information with other key community outlets (such as notice boards, local charities, magazines, GP surgeries etc.). We will publish the outcome of the engagement online and in branch, providing a summary of key issues raised with a clear response to each and any changes made to our original plans.

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

- Permanent closure of a Post Office branch⁴
- 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-week⁵ 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, Citizens Advice Scotland and the General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland; the independent statutory consumer watchdogs.

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 watchdog (Citizens Advice, Citizens Advice Scotland or the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland) if you're not satisfied with our response. The watchdog 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
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¹We will provide an update to locally elected representatives if the status of the temporarily closed branch has not changed after 12 months.

² Locally elected representatives include but are not restricted to the Member of Parliament, Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly, or Northern Ireland Assembly, Local Authority Chief Executive, Ward Councillors, Parish or Community Council.

³ Selected charities are local Citizens Advice, Age UK, Northern Ireland's Disability Action and Northern Ireland's Rural Community Network. All parties referred to in 2 and 3 above are encouraged to share all information with local groups and organisations who they believe have an active interest in changes to their local Post Office.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.