

Local public consultation – Decision

Maesgeirchen Post Office Maesgeirchen Go Local, 26 Llys Dylan, Penrhyn Avenue, Maesgeirchen, Bangor, LL57 1LT

I'm writing to confirm that following a period of local public consultation and review, we have made the decision to proceed to restore the Post Office service in Maesgeirchen. This will be in a new location: Costcutter Store at 90 Penrhyn Avenue, Maesgeirchen, Bangor, LL57 1LT, where it will be operated by a retail partner, as one of our local style branches.

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 making our decision. A summary of the feedback is enclosed along with an information sheet providing further details about the new branch.

After careful consideration of the feedback received, we remain confident that the layout and location of the new branch will continue to meet customer needs and deliver an excellent service, whilst securing the long-term viability of Post Office services in the local community.

As you will be aware the previous branch at Maesgeirchen Go Local, 26 Llys Dylan, Penrhyn Avenue, Maesgeirchen, Bangor, LL57 1LT, closed on Monday 20 February 2023, following the resignation of our temporary postmaster and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use. We would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused during the temporary closure period.

We are pleased to confirm the new Post Office branch will open at the new premises, at Costcutter Store at 90 Penrhyn Avenue, at 13:00 on Monday 14 August 2023. If there are any unforeseen circumstances which mean the opening date changes, posters will be displayed in Costcutter Store to let customers know.

During this closure period customers requiring Post Office facilities may use any convenient Post Office service. Details of two alternative Post Office branches are provided below for your convenience:

- Bangor Post Office, WHSmith, 264 High Street, Bangor, LL57 1PB
- Menai Bridge Post Office, 7 High Street, Menai Bridge, LL59 5EE

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. An extract relating to Consultation is available at the end of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Sarah Cottrell

Sarah Cottrell Network Provision Manager Post Office Limited

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 5 January 2023 **Consultation ended** 16 February 2023

We received an individual response from a customer during the local public consultation period, who supported the move of the branch and welcomed the retention of Post Office services to the local community in Maesgeirchen.

We are confident that the new Post Office service will be suitably located and will meet customer needs, whilst helping to provide future sustainability for the branch.

We recognise that the Post Office plays an important part in the lives of customers, and we want to make our services as accessible as possible. Access at the entrance to the new premises will be level with a wide automatic door. Internally, there will a hearing loop and space for wheelchair. The local residents will continue to benefit from the same opening hours.

We are pleased to confirm the Mobile services will continue to be operated by the new operator and these services will remain the same.

Further details of the new branch are provided at the end of this letter.

Appendix B

Maesgeirchen Post Office Information Sheet

Costcutter Store 90 Penrhyn Avenue Maesgeirchen Bangor LL57 1LT

New opening hours

Monday - Saturday	08:00 - 20:00
Sunday	10:00 - 16:00

Some branches may need to make changes to their opening hours. The latest available branch information can be found on our website www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder

Products & Services

The same range of products and services will continue to be available. Additionally, rod fishing licence applications previously available until 15 January 2023, will now be available through the Environmental Agency on the link below: <u>https://www.gov.uk/fishing-licences/buy-a-fishing-licence</u>

Serving positions

There will be a Post Office serving point at the retail counter.

Access

Access will be level with a wide automatic door at the entrance to the new premises. Internally, there will be a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair.

Getting there

The new branch will be located approximately 150 metres away from the previous branch, along level terrain.

Roadside parking will be available outside the new premises and nearby.

Retail Convenience store

Date of opening Monday 14 August 2023 at 13:00

Maesgeirchen Post Office services available				
For information about product availability call 03457 223344.				
For details of maximum value of transactions, please speak to the operator.				
			New branch	
Mail				
First & Second Class mail			✓	
Stamps, stamp books (1 st class 6 & 12 only, 2 nd class 12 only)			✓	
Special stamps (Christmas issue only) & postage labels			✓	
Signed For			✓	
Special Delivery			✓	
Home shopping returns			✓	
Inland small, medium & large parcels			✓	
Express & contract parcels			✓	
British Forces Mail (BFPO)			\checkmark	
International letters & postcards (inc. Tracked & Signed)			✓	
International parcels up to 2kg & printed papers up to 5kg			✓	
Parcelforce Worldwide International parcels			✓	
Articles for the blind (inland & international)			✓	
Royal Mail redirection service			✓	
Local Collect			✓	
Drop & Go			✓	
Withdrawals, deposits and payments				
Post Office Card Account			✓	
All personal and business banking cash withdraw	•	enquiries &	✓	
enveloped cheque deposits (card, barcoded or manual).				
Postal orders			✓	
Moneygram			\checkmark	
Change giving			✓	
Bill payments (card, barcoded or manual)			✓	
Key recharging			✓	
Travel				
Pre-order travel money			√	
Travel insurance referral			✓	
Mobile Top-ups & E vouchers			√	
National Lottery Terminal			✓	
Payment by cheque			✓	
Other Products are available at Bangor Post Office, Other Products are available at Menai Bridge Po			i Bridge Post Office,	
WHSmith, 264 High Street, Bangor, LL57 1PB Menai Bridge, LL59 5EE				
Opening times:	Opening times:			
Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:30	Monday to Friday	09:00 - 17:30		
Saturday & Sunday Closed	Saturday	09:00 - 12:30		
	Sunday	Closed		

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

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 Officebranch.

We will **<u>Consult</u>** where we are seeking feedback on proposals prior to a decision being made on the:

- Permanent closure of a Post Office branch¹
- 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-week² local public consultation, informing customers, locally elected representatives³, Consumer Advocacy Bodies and selected charities⁴ 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 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 webelieve we have followed our Principles of Community Engagement and will provide you with the contact details for the relevant consumer watchdog (Citizens Advice, Consumer 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.ukComments@postoffice.co.ukFREEPOST Your CommentsCall: 03452 66 01 15Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

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.

² 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.

³ Locally elected representatives include but are not restricted to the Member of Parliament, Scottish Parliament, Welsh Parliament, or Northern Ireland Assembly, Local Authority Chief Executive, Ward Councillors, Parish or Community Council.

⁴ 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 ³ and ⁴ 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.