



Dear Customer

Sandown Post Office®
4 Albert Road, Sandown, PO36 8AN

Local public consultation decision

I'm writing to confirm that following a period of local public consultation and review we have made the decision to proceed with the move of the above Post Office into Bestway Retail Ltd at 12 Avenue Road, Sandown, PO36 8BN.

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.

The current branch closed on 31 March 2019, with the new branch opening, at Bestway Retail Ltd, at 13:00 on Friday 12 April 2019. If there are any unforeseen schedule changes which mean these dates change, posters will be displayed in branch to let customers know.

During transfer of the branch 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:

- Lake Post Office, 1 Lamorby Road, Lake, Sandown, PO36 9NG
- Shanklin Post Office, 42 Regent Street, Shanklin, PO37 7AA

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

Dean Morris

Dean Morris
Multiples Account Executive

postofficeviews.co.uk

comments@postoffice.co.uk

FREEPOST Your Comments

Appendix A

Response to Local Public Consultation

Consultation started 31 January 2019

Consultation ended 14 March 2019

Consultation responses

- 30 responses from customers

Key issues raised

- Parking
- Location
- Internal space within store
- Security

Response to issues raised

Parking

With regards to traffic and parking in the area, it is fair to say that this is a problem faced generally in many locations nationwide and when looking at service provision in an area, we are mindful of the needs of our customers. I have further reviewed parking and this has confirmed that there are dedicated spaces for approximately 10 cars directly outside the branch and further roadside parking within 50 yards. I am therefore satisfied that there is adequate car parking in the area surrounding new branch to meet the needs of customers using the new Post Office.

Location

I appreciate that the proposed location is approximately 350 metres from the current site and that for some of our customers this will mean a slightly longer journey. In situations like this there will always be some people who are more inconvenienced than others for which I apologise. Equally, as we know from feedback received, there are other customers for whom the new location will be slightly closer and more convenient to access than at present.

Internal space within store

Inside the store, the new branch will be in line with Post Office specifications, making sure there is sufficient space for the new style local Post Office to operate alongside the retail offer. We will be working closely with the new operator on the internal layout and some fixtures and fittings will be removed or re-aligned to make sure there is clear access into the premises. Shopping aisles and the queuing area will be kept free from obstructions and adequate room will be provided for customers and a wheelchair to move around without difficulty.

Security

There will be strict guidelines and measures put in place to safeguard customers, staff and the cash and stock entrusted to the operator's care.

Sandown Post Office information sheet															
	New Post Office location														
Address	Bestway Retail Ltd 12 Avenue Road Sandown PO36 8BN														
Post Office opening hours	<table> <tr><td>Mon</td><td>09:00 – 17:30</td></tr> <tr><td>Tue</td><td>09:00 – 17:30</td></tr> <tr><td>Wed</td><td>09:00 – 17:30</td></tr> <tr><td>Thu</td><td>09:00 – 17:30</td></tr> <tr><td>Fri</td><td>09:00 – 17:30</td></tr> <tr><td>Sat</td><td>09:00 – 17:30</td></tr> <tr><td>Sun</td><td>Closed</td></tr> </table>	Mon	09:00 – 17:30	Tue	09:00 – 17:30	Wed	09:00 – 17:30	Thu	09:00 – 17:30	Fri	09:00 – 17:30	Sat	09:00 – 17:30	Sun	Closed
Mon	09:00 – 17:30														
Tue	09:00 – 17:30														
Wed	09:00 – 17:30														
Thu	09:00 – 17:30														
Fri	09:00 – 17:30														
Sat	09:00 – 17:30														
Sun	Closed														
New opening times of Post Office Service at retail counter	<table> <tr><td>Mon - Sun</td><td>07:00 – 22:00</td></tr> </table>	Mon - Sun	07:00 – 22:00												
Mon - Sun	07:00 – 22:00														
Distance	350 metres away from the previous branch, along varied terrain.														
Products & Services	The same wide range of products and services will still be available														
Serving positions	There will be four serving positions, which will be a mixture of one screened and two open plan and a Post Office serving point provided for use at the retail counter and available during shop opening hours.														
Accessibility	<p>Access and facilities</p> <p>The new premises will have a wide door and a level access.</p> <p>Internally, there will be a hearing loop, a low level writing desk, a low level serving counter and space for a wheelchair.</p> <p>Parking</p> <p>Time restricted roadside parking available directly outside the new premises.</p>														
Retail	Convenience store														
Planned date of change	12 April 2019														

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
comments@postoffice.co.uk
FREEPOST Your Comments
Call: 03452 66 01 15
Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

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.