



Dear Customer

Thurcroft Post Office®
GT News, 63 Green Arbour Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9DD

Local public consultation decision

I'm writing to confirm that following a period of local public consultation and review, we have made the decision and proceeded with the move of the above Post Office into – Spar Stores at Units 1-2, 1 Green Arbour Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9LA, where it is being operated by a retail partner.

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.

In order to maintain Post Office services to our customers in Thurcroft, the new-look Post Office service opened at the new premises on Wednesday 8 May 2019 at 13:00 and the current Post Office branch closed on Tuesday 7 May 2019 at 17:30.

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

Damien Haydock

Damien Haydock
Multiples Account Executive

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 12 March 2019

Consultation ended 23 April 2019

Consultation responses

- 4 responses from customers and local representative

Key issues raised

- Location & Disabled Parking
- Counter Positions

Response to issues raised

The customers and local representative welcomed our plans to operate this service from within the Spar Stores. They felt that the new service would safeguard Post Office services to the local community, especially with the new extensive opening times and the central location. Customers would now be able to access Post Office services in a modern open plan environment.

Location & Parking

The proposed new premises are located approximately 300 metres from the current site along varied terrain. With any relocation it is inevitable that whilst some customers will have an easier journey to the new location, regrettably others will have further to travel.

Generally parking is a problem faced in many locations nationwide and I am sure you will understand the availability of parking spaces is outside the direct control of Post Office Limited. I can confirm time restricted parking is available in the car park outside the new branch with designated marked disabled bays. I am therefore satisfied that parking at the proposed new branch will continue to meet the needs of customers using the Post Office.

Counter Positions

Internally, the new branch has been built in line with Post Office specifications, making sure there is sufficient space for the style local Post Office to operate alongside the retail offer.

We have worked closely with the operator to plan the interior layout of the Post Office counter area, to ensure optimum use of the space within the store and that access into and inside the store is kept clear and free of obstacles. This will ensure the Post Office counter area is easily accessible and customers have sufficient space to move around the store. Also staffing levels are aligned to meet customer demand particularly at peak times.

The local style Post Office will operate from a Post Office serving point located at the shop counter, enabling customers to carry out a wide range of Post Office products and services alongside retail transactions.

Appendix B

Thurcroft Post Office information sheet															
Address	Spar Stores Units 1-2 1 Green Arbour Road Thurcroft Rotherham S66 9LA														
Opening hours	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Mon</td><td>06:00 – 23:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Tue</td><td>06:00 – 23:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Wed</td><td>06:00 – 23:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Thu</td><td>06:00 – 23:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Fri</td><td>06:00 – 23:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Sat</td><td>06:00 – 23:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Sun</td><td>06:00 – 23:00</td></tr> </table>	Mon	06:00 – 23:00	Tue	06:00 – 23:00	Wed	06:00 – 23:00	Thu	06:00 – 23:00	Fri	06:00 – 23:00	Sat	06:00 – 23:00	Sun	06:00 – 23:00
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Sun	06:00 – 23:00														
Distance	Within 300 metres away from the current branch, along varied terrain.														
Products & Services	The same wide range of products and services will still be available.														
Serving positions	There will be a Post Office serving point provided for use at the retail counter and available during shop opening hours.														
Accessibility	<p>Access and facilities The new branch has wide automatic doors and level access at the entrance. Internally, there will be a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair.</p> <p>Parking Time restricted parking is available in the car park outside the new branch with designated marked disabled bays.</p>														
Retail	Convenience store														
Date of move	Wednesday 8 May 2019 at 13:00														

Thurcroft Post Office® services available

For information about product availability call 03457 223344 or to provide you with details of maximum value of transactions please speak to the operator. Customers can also shop online at www.postoffice.co.uk

	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	Express 24 & 48
British Forces Mail (BFPO)	✓
International letters & postcards (inc. signed for & Airsure)	✓
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	✓
Personal & Business Banking cash withdrawals, deposits & balance enquiries using a card. Also enveloped cheque deposits and barcoded deposit slips.	✓
Postal orders	✓
Moneygram	✓
Change giving	✓
Bill payments	
Automated bill payments (card or barcoded)	✓
Key recharging	✓
Driving	
Car tax	✓
Licences	
Rod fishing licences	✓
Travel	
Pre-order travel money	✓
On demand travel money	Euros/Dollars
Travel insurance referral	✓
Mobile Top-ups & E vouchers	
	✓
Payment by cheque	
Car tax only	
<p>Products marked ✗ are available at Wickersley Post Office, 274 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham, S66 1JY</p>	
<p>Opening times: Mon – Thu 08:30 – 17:30 Fri 09:00 – 17:30 Sat 09:00 – 12:30</p>	

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
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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.