



Dear Customer

Local public consultation – Decision

Watling Street Post Office
91 Watling Street, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 2YX

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 Nisa Local at 80 - 82 Watling Street, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 2YW.

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 Monday 1 September 2025, and the new branch opened at Nisa Local at 80 - 82 Watling Street, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 2YW on Saturday 13 September 2025.

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

Jason Collins

Jason Collins

Regional Change Manager
Post Office Limited

comments@postoffice.co.uk

postofficeviews.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: Thursday 17 July 2025

Consultation ended: Thursday 28 August 2025

Consultation responses

- 32 responses from customers and local representatives

Key issues raised

- Crossing Busy Road
- Internal Space

Responses to issues raised:

Crossing Busy Road

In terms of accessing the new location, I can confirm there is a pedestrian crossing within 50 metres on Watling Street from the new site that will allow customers to cross the road safely. In these situations, there will always be some customers who are more inconvenienced than others and we can only apologise for this. Equally, there may be some customers for whom the premises are more convenient than at present. I am satisfied that the new branch will remain accessible and that the move will not significantly impact on customers using the Post Office.

Internal Space

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

Appendix B

Watling Street 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

New Location																	
Nisa Local, 80 - 82 Watling Street, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 2YW																	
<table><tr><th colspan="2">Opening times</th></tr><tr><td>Monday</td><td>09:00 – 17:30</td></tr><tr><td>Tuesday</td><td>09:00 – 17:30</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>09:00 – 17:30</td></tr><tr><td>Thursday</td><td>09:00 – 17:30</td></tr><tr><td>Friday</td><td>09:00 – 17:30</td></tr><tr><td>Saturday</td><td>09:00 – 17:30</td></tr><tr><td>Sunday</td><td>Closed</td></tr></table>		Opening times		Monday	09:00 – 17:30	Tuesday	09:00 – 17:30	Wednesday	09:00 – 17:30	Thursday	09:00 – 17:30	Friday	09:00 – 17:30	Saturday	09:00 – 17:30	Sunday	Closed
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Services available																	
The same products and services will still be available.																	
Serving positions																	
There will be two serving positions in total; one combi and one open plan.																	
Access																	
The new premises will have a wide automatic door and level access at the entrance. Internally, a low-level serving counter, a low-level writing desk and a hearing loop will be available.																	
Getting there																	
The new branch will be located 30 meters away from the current branch, along level terrain. Time restricted roadside parking is available nearby on Holmside Street.																	
Store retail available	Convenience store.																

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 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 branch⁵
- 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-week⁶ 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

Call: 03452 66 01 15

Comments@postoffice.co.uk

Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

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⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.