



Dear Customer

Wells Post Office®
Market Place, Wells, BA5 2RA

We are proposing to move the above Post Office branch to a new location – Peacocks, 9-13 High Street, Wells, BA5 2AA where it will operate as one of our main style branches.

Why are we moving?

As you may be aware a previous consultation was carried out on this branch in July 2019 to relocate it to the Spar, 19-21 Tucker Street, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2DZ. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, we did not proceed with the relocation at that time. Since then we have been working alongside the local representatives to identify a solution that would enable us to secure long-term sustainable access to Post Office services to our customers in Wells.

The current operator has decided to resign and, as no other suitable alternatives have been found, we are now proposing to relocate the Post Office to the Peacocks store. We have taken in consideration the feedback from previous consultation regarding the need for centrally located new location – the Peacocks store is only approximately 120 metres from current Post Office on High Street alongside variety of other shops. Therefore we are confident that this relocation is the best way of safeguarding Post Office services to the local community. The proposed new operator may start to refurbish the premises during consultation, however the Post Office branch move is subject to our consultation decision.

Your new Post Office branch

Customers would access Post Office services in a modern, open-plan environment alongside the operator's retail. Working with the operator, we would adapt the current store layout, fixtures and fittings to accommodate the Post Office. It would be in a dedicated area of the store with one screened and two open-plan positions. A full range of Post Office products and services will be available over longer opening hours. Customer satisfaction with main style branches stands at 95 per cent.

Consulting on the proposed new location

We're carrying out a local public consultation and we'd welcome your views on the proposal. We welcome feedback and comments that can help inform our plans, particularly on the following areas:

- How easy is it to get to the new location?
- Are the new premises easy for you to get into and is the inside easily accessible?
- Are there any other local community issues affected by the move?
- If the move were to proceed is there anything we could do to make it easier for customers?

I've enclosed an information sheet that provides more details about the new location. If you have any comments or questions, please contact our National Consultation team, whose contact details are below. Any information we receive will be considered as we finalise our plans for the new branch. If you are a local representative and others in your organisation are interested in the proposal, please feel free to let them know about it.

You can share your views on the proposed change through our easy and convenient online questionnaire via the link below. When entering the site you can use the search function to find the consultation for this branch either by branch name, postcode or the unique branch code 321504 postofficeviews.co.uk

Dates for local public consultation:

Local Public Consultation starts	12 February 2020
Local Public Consultation ends	25 March 2020
Proposed month of change	April 2020

We are committed to engaging with and supporting our customers and their representatives as we make changes to the Post Office network. This consultation process is being carried out in line with our Principles of Community Engagement which have been agreed with Citizens Advice, Citizens Advice Scotland and the General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland - the independent statutory consumer watchdogs. A copy is available at the end of this letter.

Thank you for considering our proposal. At the end of the consultation we'll let you know our final plans by displaying a poster in the branch or if you are a local representative I'll be in touch again.

Yours faithfully

Jason Collins

Jason Collins
Regional Change Manager

How to contact us:

postofficeviews.co.uk

comments@postoffice.co.uk

Call: 03457 22 33 44

Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

FREEPOST Your Comments

Please note this is the full address to use and no further address details are required.

Want to tell us what you think right here and now? Scan here.

If you don't have a QR code scanner on your phone, you can find one in your app store.



Items sent by Freepost take 2 working days to arrive. Therefore, responses by Freepost should be sent in sufficient time to arrive before the end of the consultation period. Working days do not include Saturdays or Sundays. Responses received after the deadline will not be considered.

Wells Post Office information sheet				
	Current Post Office location		Proposed new Post Office location (subject to local public consultation)	
Address	Market Place Wells BA5 2RA		Peacocks 9-13 High Street Wells Somerset BA5 2DZ	
Post Office Opening hours	Mon	09:00 - 17:30	Mon	09:00 - 17:30
	Tue	09:00 - 17:30	Tue	09:00 - 17:30
	Wed	09:00 - 17:30	Wed	09:00 - 17:30
	Thu	09:00 - 17:30	Thu	09:00 - 17:30
	Fri	09:00 - 17:30	Fri	09:00 - 17:30
	Sat	09:00 - 12:30	Sat	09:00 - 17:30
	Sun	Closed	Sun	10:00 - 16:00
	Distance	Approximately 120 metres away from the current branch, along varied terrain.		
Products & Services	The same range of Post Office products and services will still be available.			
Serving positions	There will be one screened and two open plan positions in dedicated area of the shop.			
Accessibility	Access and facilities Current branch has a wide door and level access. Internally, there is a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair.		Access and facilities The proposed premises would have a wide door and level access at the front entrance and ramp with handrail at the back entrance. Internally, there would be a hearing loop, a low level writing desk and space for a wheelchair.	
	Parking There is a pay & display car park outside of the branch.		Parking There is a Pay & Display car park including disabled parking at the back of the proposed premises.	
Retail	Cards and stationery		Clothing store	
Local Public Consultation starts	12 February 2020			
Local Public Consultation ends	25 March 2020			
Proposed month of change	April 2020			

To get this information in a different format, for example, in larger print, audio or braille please call 03452 22 33 44 or Textphone 03457 22 33 55.

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 22 33 44
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.