

Mark Partington
National Consultation Team,
Post Office Limited,
FREEPOST
CONSULTATION TEAM

October 3rd 2008

Re: Proposed Post Office closure – Rushwick, Worcestershire

Dear Mr. Partington

I am writing to you about the proposed closure of the Rushwick Post Office.

I object to the closure of Rushwick Post Office because of the following serious consequences for the parish:

1. Rushwick is a distinct rural community outside the Worcester City limits. You are proposing in your network change programme that residents travel to St. John's, Worcester Post Office instead. There is a major physical obstruction between Rushwick and St. John's – the dual carriageway ring-road. The government requires you to consider major physical and topographical barriers in its access criteria and your branch access report does not refer to this.
2. The distance between Rushwick Post Office and St. John's Post Office is in fact 1.7 miles – a 3.4 mile round trip.
3. The bus service is infrequent. There is a bus in to St. John's at 0928, 1059, 1259 and 1335.
4. The bus service is expensive for adults under the age of sixty. A return journey for a mother with two children over 5 would be almost £7.
5. The South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy proposes a growth point West of Worcester near the village of Rushwick. These 3,500 homes will need a Post Office.
6. The Rushwick Post Office serves other rural parishes such as Cotheridge, Leigh and Bransford, which no longer have a Post Office. The government's access criteria require you to try to provide a Post Office within 3 miles for 95% of the population. Can you provide the
7. The Post Office is also a general store selling day to day items such as bread, milk, eggs and other grocery items. Closing the Post Office will close the only shop in the heart of the village.
8. There are several residential care homes in Rushwick. Most of these elderly residents no longer drive and do not have internet access for their financial services.

9. A range of small businesses operate in the Rushwick area. They rely on the Post Office's banking services.

Yours sincerely,

Harriett Baldwin
Conservative Parliamentary Candidate
West Worcestershire

Cc: Cllr Aubrey Tarbuck
Cllr Alwyn Davies,
Cllr Don Hull
Cllr Serena Croad
Sir Michael Spicer MP
Jenny Hepworth, Postwatch

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