

Re: 15 August 2017 EGM to be
Munited.

18 July 2017

OPEN LETTER FROM THE RESIDENTS OF NEWHAVEN TO MR SELVA MUTTIAH WHO HAS PUT HIMSELF FORWARD AS A PROSPECTIVE FRANCHISEE TO OPERATE A PRIVATE FRANCHISE POST OFFICE PROPOSED BY POST OFFICE LIMITED AT 1-2 NEWHAVEN SQUARE, NEWHAVEN, BN9 9OS TO REPLACE NEWHAVEN'S STATE-OWNED CROWN POST OFFICE AT 46 HIGH STREET, NEWHAVEN, BN9 9PD.

We formally and respectfully request Mr Selva Muttiah to please immediately give up his plans to run a private franchise Post Office within a retail unit in Newhaven Square, as we would then automatically lose our cherished High Street Crown Post Office with its excellent facilities and location; including the very important Biometric Enrolment Service, which would be axed by Post Office Limited.

Mr Muttiah did confirm at Post Office Limited's 26th June 'forum' at the Hillcrest Centre, that he had not realised that if he did NOT put himself forward as a franchisee and there was no alternative franchisee, that Newhaven would automatically keep its Crown Post Office and the well-known and respected Crown Post Office Staff who have been highly vetted by the Home Office because of our Biometrics' facility, would not lose their Crown P.O. jobs. As Mr Muttiah knows, it has been confirmed by P.O. Ltd. that his Staff would not be vetted by the Home Office, as he would not have a Biometrics' facility.

Maria Caulfield MP also attended 26th June Hillcrest public 'forum' and when Mr Muttiah was told that Newhaven Businesses had made a conscious decision not to put themselves forward as franchisees [with one known exception already turned down by P.O. Ltd.] because businesses wished to keep the Crown Post Office; he then asked if this was true and Maria Caulfield MP confirmed that this was the case. Mr Muttiah said he had not known this either.

When Mr Muttiah was quizzed as to why he would be opening a Newsagents as we already had an excellent Newsagents of 40 years' standing in the High Street, Mr Muttiah said he did not know we already had a Newsagent and asked where it was situated. A number of residents explained that it was near the Jobcentre and close to the High Street Crown Post Office.

We asked Mr Muttiah if he would consider giving up the idea of a Newsagents and a private franchise Post Office as [as far as we knew] he had already signed a lease with Lewes District Council and we further stated that we needed all sorts of other shops, but we definitely did not require another Newsagent, nor the loss of our Crown Post Office to be replaced by a private franchise in smaller premises with less facilities and less Staff. Mr Muttiah then surprised everyone at the Post Office public 'forum' by saying that he had not actually signed a lease; which it was felt was great news indeed for the residents and businesses of Newhaven.

Whilst on the subject of franchises, we mentioned that Alfriston Village was in great need of a franchise as theirs had just closed without warning and without an alternative [3.8 miles from one of Mr Muttiah's franchises at Seaford]. Mr Muttiah said he was very surprised to hear this and added that Alfriston was a lovely village. We agreed and commented that residents there would welcome him with open arms and asked if he would consider going to Alfriston where a private franchised Post Office is desperately needed by its residents and businesses and to completely give up on Newhaven Port Town, where the franchise idea being put forward [for all the foregoing reasons] is not wanted; nor needed.

Now that we have had an opportunity to put the facts to Mr Selva Muttiah at the Hillcrest Centre on 26th June, Residents are formally requesting in this 'open letter' that Mr Selva Muttiah calls a halt to his proposed plans to come to Newhaven Town, as by doing so, he is able to help us call a halt on Post Office Limited's current private franchising ideas; completely against the wishes of its residents, businesses, Newhaven Town Council itself and Maria Caulfield MP. Thanking you anticipation.

Yours sincerely

J Jones [Miss]

Spokesperson on behalf of the Residents of Newhaven.