



Minister
Margot James MP
House of Commons
LONDON
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Town Council Offices
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24th August 2017

Dear Ms James,

Newhaven Crown Post Office

I am writing to you as minister with responsibility for the Post Office, to ask if you could give support to the local campaign to save Newhaven's Crown Post Office. Newhaven Crown Post Office is facing the threat of closure, like many other Crown Post Offices throughout the Country.

Post Office Ltd have carried out a consultation exercise on proposed changes to Post Office services in Newhaven and the Town Council sent two letters within the consultation period, raising grave concerns regarding the proposal to franchise the post office services to a new shop premises in Newhaven Square.

In brief the objections related to:

- The significant growth planned for Newhaven (some 1700 homes), which would increase the sustainability of a Crown Post Office
- Loss of cash machines, especially as there are no longer banks in the town
- Loss of services in a town which has been designated an Enterprise Zone with a growth forecast in business floorspace, employment and employees.
- Loss of Biometric Enrolment Services (though at the time of the consultation period, no figures of its use were available).
- A reduction in the range of services for this port town.
- Loss of areas where more 'personal' conversation about finance can currently be undertaken.

At the time of the consultation, the Town Council did not have the figures for the use of the Biometric Enrolment Service. These have now been supplied by Post Office Ltd and information identifies that there has been a steady increase year on year of this service, with 2016-17 seeing 2,330 Biometric Enrolments taking place at Newhaven.

Lewes District Council's adopted Joint Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1) recognises the importance that the regeneration of the coastal towns has, on stimulating and maintaining a buoyant and balanced local economy. Retaining the Crown Post Office and all the post office services that it provides in Newhaven (including the Biometric Services), will contribute

significantly to the footfall in the town and therefore be an important factor in the regeneration of the town, meeting the needs of the existing and projected population and business sectors.

Whilst the closure of Crown Post Office services may be appropriate in some circumstances, the Town Council sincerely believes that the retention of the Crown Post Office in Newhaven is defensible for the reasons set out above and with the planned growth of the town, be sustainable.

The Town Council would be most sincerely grateful for any support that you can bring to bear on the local campaign, to prevent the closure of Newhaven's Crown Post Office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'June Dyer', written in a cursive style.

Cllr June Dyer
Mayor of Newhaven