



Maria Caulfield MP
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24th August 2017

Dear Maria,

Newhaven Crown Post Office

As you will be aware, Newhaven Crown Post Office is facing the threat of closure.

Post Office Ltd have carried out a consultation exercise on the proposals to change 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 sector.

The ongoing change in the way post offices are run continues throughout the Country, with franchises replacing Crown Post Offices in many areas. Whilst this 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.

The Town Council would be most grateful for any support that you can bring to bear on the local campaign to prevent the closure of Newhaven's Crown Post Office, including liaison with Margot James in her role as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy with responsibility for the Post Office.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

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

Clr June Dyer
Mayor of Newhaven