

Democratic Services
Salisbury District Council
PO Box 2117
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 2DF

direct line: 01722 434250
email: ptrenell@salisbury.gov.uk
web: www.salisbury.gov.uk

Report

To : City Area Community Committee
From : Paul Trenell
Date : 22nd January 2008
Subject : Post Office Closures

1. Background

The list of proposed Post Office closures for West Berkshire and Wiltshire was released on 11th December 2007. Further details on the closure programme can be accessed via:

<http://www.postoffice.co.uk/portal/po/jump2?catId=63400714&mediaId=57600693>

The consultation period has been extended to 10 weeks, meaning the deadline for responses is now 31st January 2008. This report is intended to inform the response of the City Area Committee to the consultation.

2. Reason for closures

The Government has claimed that the current Post Office network is unsustainable because people have begun to use Post Offices differently. Alterations to the way in which key services such as pension payments, television licensing and car tax are accessed and the rise in internet use has resulted in 4 million fewer people using Post Offices each week compared to just three years ago. Despite an annual Government subsidy of £150 million the Post Office network is losing around £4 million a week. The national closure programme is an attempt to address this problem.

3. Branches affected

The sole affected Post Office within the city area is the Victoria Park branch (74 Castle Road, SP1 3RR) which is proposed for outright closure. The Post Office's 'Branch Access Report' is attached as appendix 1.

4. Options for Consideration:

The committee has the opportunity to respond on to the public consultation. The Democratic Services Officer will take responsibility for coordinating and drafting any response the committee wishes to submit. It would be appreciated if councillors in the affected ward would take responsibility for gauging the feeling of residents with relation to the closure and the likely impact on the community, and for relaying this information to the Democratic Services Officer.

Any relevant information that can contribute to an informed consultation response would be welcomed.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



A further issue is that there is no scheduled meeting of the Southern Area Committee before the deadline of 31st January. For ease of coordination and to ensure that the response deadline is met it is suggested that the committee elect a delegate or delegates to take responsibility for consulting with the Democratic Services Officer in the composition of responses and for approving the final responses on behalf of the committee. The member for the affected ward would be a logical candidate for this position, but nominations will not be restricted.

5. Recommendation(s): That:

- (1) the committee determine whether it wishes to submit a consultation response and if so what response;
- (2) the drafting of any response is to be produced by the Democratic Services Officer in consultation with relevant members to be determined by the committee.

6. Background Papers:

Post Office Ltd, *Network Change Programme – Area Plan Proposal for West Berkshire and Wiltshire* (December 2007)

Wiltshire County Council, *Post Office Closures – Briefing Note* (December 2007)

Department of Trade and Industry, *The Post Office Network – Government Response to Public Consultation* (May 2007)

7. Implications:

Financial : None

Legal: The council has adequate powers to pursue this issue.

Human Rights: The council is making no decision that would impact directly on any persons Human Rights.

Council's Core Values: Supports all.

Branch Access Report

	Branch Proposed For Closure				1st Alternative Branch				2nd Alternative Branch			
Branch Name	Victoria Park				Churchill Way West				West End			
Address 1	74 Castle Road				Waitrose Ltd				143/145 Wilton Road			
Address 2					Churchill Way West							
Address 3												
Address 4	Salisbury				Salisbury				Salisbury			
Address 5	Wiltshire				Wiltshire				Wiltshire			
Postcode	SP1 3RR				SP2 7TS				SP2 7JH			
Branch Type	Co-op Welcome Supermarket & SPSO				CFPO				SPSO			
Branch currently open	Yes				Yes				Yes			
OPENING HOURS	Open	Lunch Start	Lunch Finish	Close	Open	Lunch Start	Lunch Finish	Close	Open	Lunch Start	Lunch Finish	Close
Monday	09:00	13:00	14:00	17:30	08:30			20:00	09:00			17:30
Tuesday	09:00	13:00	14:00	17:30	08:30			20:00	09:00			17:30
Wednesday	09:00	13:00	14:00	17:30	08:30			20:00	09:00			17:30
Thursday	09:00	13:00	14:00	17:30	08:30			20:00	09:00			17:30
Friday	09:00	13:00	14:00	17:30	08:30			21:00	09:00			17:30
Saturday	09:00			12:30	08:00			20:00	09:00			12:30
Sunday	Closed				10:00			16:00	Closed			
Total Opening Hours	41				76.5				46			
Customer Serving Positions	2				3				2			
Additional Products	Travel Insurance On Demand and On Line Lottery.				On Demand Bureau de Change, DVLA, Travel Insurance On Demand and On Line Lottery.				None			
Constituency	Salisbury				Salisbury				Salisbury			
Population Age Profile (within 1 mile of branch)	Population- 17843; Population Aged 0-15 - 17%; Population Aged 16-Retired - 60%; Population Retired - 21%; Households with 1 or more car or van - 74%				Population - 23251; Population Aged 0-15 - 17%; Population Aged 16-Retired - 60%; Population Retired - 22%; Households with 1 or more car or van - 71%				Population- 16433; Population Aged 0-15 - 18%; Population Aged 16-Retired - 60%; Population Retired - 21%; Households with 1 or more car or van - 71%			
Retail Type	Co-op Convenience Store and Newsagent				Waitrose Food and Home Superstore				Londis Convenience Store			
Ease of Access to Branch	The branch has level access.				The branch has level access with wide automatic doors. Internally there is space for a wheelchair.				The branch has level access with automatic door. Internally there is space for a wheelchair.			
Retail Environment	None, it is the only retailer in the area.				Out of town shopping centre. Comet and JJB sports.				2 Garages and Antique warehouse nearby.			
Proximity to ATM	There is a free ATM located on the outside wall of the branch.				There are 2 ATM's on the outside wall of the branch.				None			
Terrain / Geography between branches					The terrain between the two branches is hilly.				The terrain between the two branches is hilly.			
Road Distance from Proposed Closing Branch (miles)					0.70				1.60			
Parking at Branch	There is a car park available outside the branch.				There is a car park available outside the branch.				There are parking facilities available nearby.			
Bus Operating Company	Wilts & Dorset				Wilts & Dorset and Waitrose				Stagecoach and Wilts & Dorset			
Bus Route Number					8, 78, 70, 69A, 6, 62, 5				No direct bus service between offices but numerous combinations of services with 1 change would give you a journey time of 30 minutes.			
Bus Service Frequency					Every 10-15 minutes				Generally every 1/2 hour			
Location of Bus Stop	There is a bus stop located 80 yards from the branch.				There is a bus stop within 770 yards of the branch.				There is a bus stop located within 80 yards of the branch.			
Bus Journey Length					12 minutes.				30 minutes			
Disabled Access to Bus	Most buses have easy access but cannot be guaranteed.				Yes				Yes			
Free/Concessionary Bus	All residents of Salisbury, who are over 60 or have a long term disability are entitled to free travel at all times of day.								Yes			
Other Transport Links	None				Store has it's own free bus service that picks up, in and around Salisbury, throughout the week.							
External Posting Facilities	There is a free standing pillar box outside the branch.				There is a free standing internal post box within waitrose.				There is a free standing pillar box outside the branch.			
Additional Branches												
Branch Name	Salisbury				Bishopdown				High Street			
Address 1	24 Castle Street				35 Barrington Road				56 High Street			
Address 2					Bishopdown							
Address 3												
Address 4	Salisbury				Salisbury				Salisbury			
Address 5	Wiltshire								Wiltshire			
Postcode	SP1 1AB				SP1 3JD				SP1 2PF			