

COUNCIL - 10 JULY 2008

Please note that the Motion is recirculated as the final sentence (identified in BOLD & ITALIC) was not printed within the original Summons.

POST OFFICES - (REPLACEMENT MOTION)

Council notes with dismay and condemns the decision by Post Office Ltd to close five post offices in Harrow following a cosmetic consultation exercise where well-argued cases and the real views of Harrow residents were totally ignored and the results were predictably predetermined. Council believes that these decisions will have disastrous consequences for many local shopping centres and as well as for many vulnerable people who rely on their local post offices, and no account has been taken of potential residential developments such those in the Town Centre and, for example, on the Kodak site.

Council regrets that the former Mayor of London's initiative to instigate a judicial review of the decision by Post Office Ltd on the grounds of their failure to consult properly in terms of the timescale has been unsuccessful

Council notes that the Town Centre Post Office is currently quite unfit for purpose being far too small with long queues and will be even more so in the light of proposed residential developments in the Town Centre.

Council also notes that Post Office Ltd is willing to enter into agreements with Local Authorities to take over the running of local post offices.

Council resolves:

1. To communicate the above resolution to Post Office Ltd, the two Harrow MPs, the Brent and Harrow Assembly Member and to the appropriate Government minister.
2. To seek a meeting with Post Office Ltd to discuss the Town Centre Post Office and the need for other post offices in Harrow in the light of plans for residential development throughout the Borough.
3. To ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, building on the work it has already done, to urgently set up a review group to consider the possibility of the Council ***taking over the running of the post offices currently threatened with closure and/or opening its own post office.***

Cross-Party Amendment to the POST OFFICES Motion

To be moved by Councillor Bill Stephenson and seconded by Councillor David Ashton:

Delete everything after “Council...” and replace with:

... This Council strongly deplores the decision by Post Office Ltd to close five post offices in Harrow following a cosmetic consultation exercise where well-argued views and serious concerns of Harrow residents were totally ignored and the predetermined outcomes were achieved which most adversely affect vulnerable people who greatly rely on their local post offices.

Council notes that the Town Centre Post Office is currently quite unfit for purpose being far too small with long queues and will be even more so in the light of the closures and of the proposed residential developments in the Town Centre.

Council also notes that Post Office Ltd is willing to enter into agreements with Local Authorities to take over the running of local post offices.

Council resolves:

- (1) To communicate the above resolution to Post Office Ltd as well as to the Harrow MPs and to the appropriate Government minister.
- (2) To further explore the feasibility of Council running some local post offices.
- (3) To seek a meeting with Post Office Ltd to discuss the Town Centre Post Office and the need for other post offices in Harrow in the light of plans for residential development.