

NEWS

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21 July 2008

NORTH DORSET HIT HARD BY POST OFFICE PROPOSALS

If the proposed Post Office change programme goes ahead residents in North Dorset will be hit harder than most as eight of the 15 rural post offices on the hit list are in the north of the county.

Five rural post offices have been ear-marked for closure, three to be reduced to an 'outreach service' and one town-based post office closed completely (see complete list attached).

Deborah Croney, portfolio holder for economy at North Dorset District Council, said: "The impact is going to be very significant in North Dorset where post offices and village stores provide essential services to local residents and are the heart of the community.

"It is vital that people participate in the consultation process and inform the Post Office how a specific planned closure will impact on their daily lives. Local people should actively and visibly show their support for their post office by getting involved in public meetings, marches and events being planned over the next few weeks."

A seven week consultation period, ending on 1 September, is taking place to enable interested parties to respond to the proposals. District Councils, Parish Councils and local organisations which rarely meet in August, because of the traditional holiday period, are organising special meetings to discuss and respond to the Post Office closure plan.

North Dorset District Council will be hosting a county-wide meeting, at the Council Offices on Wednesday 30 July, to discuss how best to respond to the announcement during the consultation period and what support can be given to the Sub Post Masters and communities affected.

Further information about the proposed closures can be found on the North Dorset District Council website: www.north-dorset.gov.uk and also on the Dorset Community Action website: www.DorsetCommunityAction.org.uk

The final decision will be announced on 23 September and formal closures will begin in October.

More follows ...

North Dorset hit hard by post office proposals continued...

For more information contact: Cllr Deborah Croney, portfolio holder for economy at North Dorset District Council, on 01747 812469 or the Communications Manager on 01258 484100.

Note to editors:

15 village Post Offices to close of which four will be reduced to 'outreach' as indicated.
North Dorset Post Offices indicated with an asterisk*

Kitt Whistle Nr. Broadwindsor
Owermoigne Nr. Dorchester
Buckland Newton Nr. Dorchester (Outreach)
Worth Matravers Nr. Swanage
*Chettle Nr. Blandford (Outreach)
*Milton on Stour Nr. Gillingham
*Charlton Marshall Nr. Blandford
*Blandford Camp Nr. Blandford
*Buckhorn Weston Nr. Gillingham (Outreach)
Holt Nr. Wimborne
Longham Nr. Ferndown
Stapehill Nr. Wimborne
*Todber Nr. Sturminster Newton
*King's Stag Nr. Sturminster Newton (Outreach)
Sandford Nr. Wareham

13 Town Post Offices to close

Fordington	Dorchester
Monmouth Road	Dorchester
West Bay	Bridport
Buxton Road	Weymouth
Broadwey	Weymouth
*Salisbury Road	Blandford
Wimborne Road	Ferndown
Lower Charminster Rd (Co-op)	B'mouth
Northbourne	B'mouth
Stour Road	Christchurch
Parkgates, 121 Parkstone Road	Poole
Penn Hill Avenue	Poole
Sandbanks, 8 Banks Road	Poole