

16/17 05 08

ITEM 3 APP F

23 Earls Road,
Bransty,
Whitehaven,
CA28 6BE
Cumbria
22 March 2008,

Dear Sir,

Re: Proposed Closure of Post Office Tangier Street Branch
12 Tangier Street, Whitehaven CA28 7UX

I write to oppose the proposed permanent closure of the Post Office's Tangier Street branch in Whitehaven. My reasons are as follows:

Your argument in support of closing this branch ignores the impact which the closure of two other branch post offices – in Parton and Bransty – in recent months has already had on people living in the north of the town. No mention is made of these closures, a serious omission which in my view invalidates your case.

As a result of the omission, when you speak of people who currently use Tangier Street branch only having to walk an extra 0.3 miles to one of two other branches in the town in the event of its closure you grossly under-state the true position.

The real situation is that because of the earlier closure of the Parton branch people living in that area already have to travel in excess of two miles to the Tangier Street branch which you propose to shut down. For them your suggested substitutes – Market Place branch and Whitehaven branch – will in fact add an extra 0.3 miles on top of that.

A similar, if slightly less powerful, argument applies to the effect which your proposal would have on people living in the Bransty area, which is about half way between Parton and the town centre.

Your consultation note also gives the impression that whereas the Market Place and Whitehaven branches have adequate car parking spaces available within 100-200 yards Tangier Street branch does not. That is not true. It is equally well served as far as car parking is concerned.

As to public transport. Tangier Street is close to a bus stop used by buses travelling between that part of Whitehaven and Parton. People from Parton using public transport to get to and from the Market Place and Whitehaven branches will be deposited at the bus station in the town, giving them even further to walk.

Your reference to there being other post office branches in the area – i.e. Mirehouse, Moresby Parks and Cleator Moor – is irrelevant as far as your case for the closure of Tangier Street branch, in the middle of Whitehaven, is concerned.

Finally, I find it extraordinary that the Tangier Street branch post office, now facing closure, has only recently had money spent on it to meet standards which you have imposed, including the provision of a wider doorway, a ramp for disabled access and a more spacious interior.

By contrast, the two post offices which you propose to retain as an alternative to Tangier Street branch, do not have these facilities. Will you now be spending money on these branches to bring them up to scratch?

I trust that you will consider the points I have made and withdraw your proposal, which is ill conceived.

Yours faithfully



Rita Johnston

Richard Lynds,
Network Development Manager,
Post Office Ltd.,
c/o National Consultation Team.
FREEPOST CONSULTATION TEAM