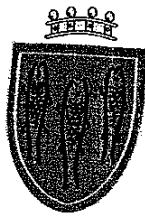


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EGREMONT TOWN COUNCIL

OSC ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
& ENTERPRISE
16/17 05 08
ITEM 3 APP G

Mr R Lynds
Network Development Manager
c/o National Consultation Team
FREEPOST CONSULTATION TEAM

17-Apr-08

Dear Sir

BIGRIGG & MOOR ROW SUB POST OFFICES
COPELAND DISTRICT OF CUMBRIA

Egremont Town Council are writing forcibly to object to the proposed closure of the above sub post offices and the Council request you to re-consider this proposal before the death knell has sounded on the Moor Row and Bigrigg communities.

Taking each post office in turn, the Town Council would like to make the following comments:

MOOR ROW

Within the consultation document, Moor Row is identified as having a bus stop 100 yards from the sub post office, there are only four buses going through the village - not a vibrant bus service in anyone's opinion.

9am bus into Moor Row goes on via Egremont to Ravenglass returning to the village at 10.50am.

1.40pm bus into Moor Row, again goes via Egremont to Ravenglass, returning to the village at 3.40pm.

Neither of these buses complements the alternative sub post offices that your proposal is suggesting this community should use which is Mirehouse and Cleator Moor.

If a Moor Row resident is unable to fit into the times these four buses call into their village, then they have to walk ½ mile to the road end which borders the A595, negotiate across one of the busiest junctions on this trunk road, to wait for a bus into Whitehaven, get another bus to the Mirehouse estate or Cleator Moor and to then return to Moor Row, they would have to get back to Whitehaven for another bus to Moor Row and then walk ½ mile back into their village.



This sub post office is the hub of the local community and it is vital this service is retained, it also helps tourism when visitors do the Coast to Coast walk. Moor Row post office and shop provide a service for some of the weary travellers and in a time when the Government is proposing sustainable communities this consultation document and its proposals are in complete opposition to what they are trying to achieve.

BIGRIGG

This is a self contained village with few facilities and the sub post office allows the residents to access the post office services and to purchase other essentials.

In a village which is still expanding and which has lost other vital facilities, the proposal to close this sub post office is unbelievable.

The post office/shop helps promote events organised in the nearby village hall which helps to provide a social and healthy lifestyle for young and old alike. Likewise the service they give to the ill and the elderly by delivering personally what they need to their homes is all part and parcel of the service they give to their community and killing this facility will take the life blood from this village.

Also in the consultation document, no outreaches are being proposed to counteract these closures, but outside Copeland, outreaches have been proposed, Egremont Town Council would like to know why no outreaches are being proposed for Copeland.

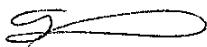
Copeland Borough Council have just launched a card system to enable people to pay their council tax, rent etc through various pay points including the post offices, and rural communities are delighted with this opportunity to pay in the sub post office in the village where they live, your proposals are now decimating this pay system.

The Egremont Town Council urge the powers that be to re-consider these two closures, they appreciate the subsidies that the government is having to pay but surely the profit from the more lucrative post offices should cushion the amount of subsidy the government is having to provide to keep some post offices alive.

Surely the viability of these two villages is essential to sustainable community life which all tiers of local government are striving to attain.

I look forward to receiving your comments on this matter.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Woodburn

A Town Clerk

c.c. Moor Row Post Office

Bigrigg Post Office

~~Mr Neil White - Scrutiny Officer at Copeland Borough Council~~