



BRANTHAM Parish Council

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07 September 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Closure of Brantham Post Office

It has come to the attention of Brantham Parish Council that the Brantham Co-operative is proposing to close its branch of the Post Office, despite the significant investment that it has made in this branch over recent years.

The Parish Council have received many queries from local residents via email, social media and at our Parish Council meeting highlighting how concerned residents are about the loss of this service in our village, particularly for the elderly and/or infirm who may not otherwise be able to travel to access a Post Office branch.

As I am sure you are aware Brantham is a thriving, and potentially growing village with a diverse population. There has been a Post Office in Brantham for many years and it has been a service that is well-used by many members of the community. The Parish Council has been informed that this closure is as a result of increased use of online postal services, however we are concerned that the users who will be most affected by this closure will be those who do not have easy access to online resources.

Your website states that "As a Co-op we are dedicated to supporting our local community" and that the purpose of your business is "To be a business for people and communities not just for profit". It seems, however, that the decision to close the Post Office in this instance has been made simply by thinking about profit and does not take account of the ways that your business can, and should support its local community.

It is likely that a significant number of the residents who will be affected by this closure are also members of the Co-Operative group who are entitled to have a say about how the Co-operative is run. On their behalf Brantham Parish Council would like to strongly urge you to

reconsider your decision to close the Post Office branch in Brantham. Your decision is extremely detrimental for our local community, it is not in line with your stated ethos and purpose and has been a major cause of distress and concern for many local residents.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further, and if you would like to contact me you can telephone me on the number at the top of this letter.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours Sincerely,

Sarah Keys

Parish Clerk (Brantham)

cc. Roger Grosvenor, Joint Chief Executive, East of England Co-Op
Babergh District Councillors Alastair McCraw & Harriet Steer
Suffolk County Councillor Dave Wood
MP James Cartledge