



MORTON & HANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

MHPC

Winter
2006

RURAL POST OFFICE CLOSURES - Bad news for Country-dwellers

The Government have recently announced, after much speculation, that it is planning to close 2,500 branches, regarded as unviable.

Some facilities, such as television license renewal, have already been withdrawn by the Department for Work and Pensions and in 2010 the Post Office Card Account is being discontinued.

Especially in the more remote areas of the country, or in spread out communities, such as locally in the fens, the local Post Office is one of the few available essential services. Public transport is not always readily available, if at all.

Research shows that 91% of people feel that Post Offices play an important role in their communities. When seven out of ten villages in England no longer have a shop and rural Britain has lost over a quarter of its bank branches since 1995 Post Office closures are particularly poignant, set against these bleak realities, and have the potential to devastate the communities they serve.

The Government needs to understand that the real value of a Post Office cannot be measured simply by turnover, and it must recognise that the benefit to the community goes far beyond the doorstep of the Post Office. If you feel concerned about the loss of rural Post Offices write, giving your opinions, to Jim Fitzpatrick MP, the minister responsible for Post Offices -

Jim Fitzpatrick MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Employment Relations &

Postal Services,

Department of Trade & Industry,

1 Victoria Street,

London SW1H 0ET.

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A QUALITY COUNCIL

We are on the Web
morton-hanthorpe.org.uk

MEETING DATES

2007

Council Meeting Dates for
the first half of 2007 are as
follows:

January 16th,

February 20th,

March 27th (preceded by
Annual Parish meeting)

May 8th (Annual Meeting of
the Parish Council)

and June 19th

Unless otherwise advised
these meetings will be held in
the Church Hall and will be
preceded by a 'Public Forum'
at 7.15pm which all residents
are invited to attend

CONSUMER DIRECT **East Midlands**

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ADVICE LINE FOR CONSUMERS

Anyone in Lincolnshire in need of advice and information on a range of consumer issues can call Consumer Direct East Midlands for help.

The service aims to give consumers the knowledge, tools and confidence to resolve consumer problems themselves.

To help people get advice when they need it the service is available six days a week and advisors are on hand from 8am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays on 08454 040506.

Callers are connected to highly trained advisors, able to deal with all manner of enquiries, at a contact centre in Lincoln. From overcharging to faulty goods, from dodgy workmanship to reporting dishonest traders, the advisors are ready to offer solutions for individual problems and advise on consumers' rights.

Working in close partnership with local authority Trading Standards Services, Consumer Direct can refer cases on to them that may require further investigation. Consumer Direct enables Trading Standards officers to spend more time dealing with the most serious issues, tackling rogue traders and detecting scams. Consumer Direct provides Trading Standards with important intelligence information, enabling them to carry out targeted enforcement activity.

Consumer Direct is about helping people to help themselves by informing them of the possible pitfalls they face in buying goods and services and making sure they know their rights.

You can contact Consumer Direct on 08454 040506

Or via textphone on 0845 128 1384

Or online at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk