

Council – 23 September 2013

Notice of motion – Post offices

Set out below is a notice of motion to Council on 23 September 2013 from Councillor Creaney, Illmann-Walker, S. Coughlan D. Coughlan and Oliver:

"Council wishes to place on record its opposition to the process of privatisation taking place within the Royal Mail and the threat to the 'six day, one price goes anywhere' delivery. We believe that these proposals will lead to higher prices and a worse service for Walsall residents.

In particular, Council opposes proposals to franchise and/or close the Crown Post Office currently located in Willenhall. The downgrade of the status of Willenhall Crown Post Office by attempting to franchise it into another retail business will lead to an inferior customer service and will have a negative impact on the local economy.

Council urges all Walsall MPs to join the campaign to save these Crown Post Offices and to oppose the sell-off of Royal Mail."

Details

To understand the current position, Mr Richard Lynds at the Post Office was contacted. His response was that;

"The options for the Willenhall Post Office are still at consultation stage, with the Post Office remaining positive about the office remaining in the area. He sees the key changes as being focused around improvements to the services, rather than creating a negative impact."

Richard added that;

"He is very happy to attend any meeting to answer any questions from Members, if this provides a helpful solution and to include the council in the consultation process moving forward".

Proposed way Forward

To secure the Council's continuing involvement , the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel will be asked to pick up this work stream and add to its work plan for the year ahead.

The Scrutiny Panel will be asked to contact the Post Office, requesting them to attend its next meeting to present and discuss their proposals with panel members.

It will be reported back once this consultation has been completed and the Post Office have detailed their proposals for the future of Willenhall Post Office.

Simon Neilson,
Executive Director, Regeneration
13th September 2013