

J Briginshaw

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF LITTLE LEIGH POST OFFICE

Little Leigh Parish Council wishes to object to the proposed closure of the branch at the Little Leigh Village Hall. LLPC would like to highlight the following points which they believe are relevant to any decision:

- Little Leigh would not be part of the 99.8% of the population within 1 mile of an alternative branch.
- There is absolutely no public transport at all to either of the proposed alternative post offices. The route to Barnton would be along a narrow footpath which borders a busy A road for nearly 2 miles. Comberbach is not within walking distance. For people without a car the branch is crucial.
- The Village Hall has parking on site for over 20 cars, and so, of the 2 alternative branches, is far more accessible to drivers.
- LLPC do not believe closing the branch would save money.
 - The postmaster is the sub-postmaster at Comberbach - so employee costs are already paid. Unless he is considering retirement or redundancy, one assumes he will still be earning a salary.
 - Rightly or wrongly the PO pays no rent paid to the Village Hall, unlike all other village groups. The PO also makes no contribution to electricity costs.
 - The Parish Council and Village Hall Management Committee manage the building.

Since overheads are already being covered by other parties, LLPC cannot see there is any significant saving to be made.

- The total opening hours on the Branch Access Report are wrong: the shorter opening hours were temporary for summer holidays and the office is again open for the full hours.
- With no shop or pub in the village centre, the Post Office provides one of the few focal points in the village.
- Little Leigh is not currently listed for Outreach, despite being aligned with the criteria that Outreach seeks to address – ie sharing of a sub-postmaster, located in

a shared community building, being easily accessible and so on. If Little Leigh were to be reclassified as an Outreach Post Office, then the closure targets could still be met, yet a service would still be provided to Little Leigh residents.

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