

12 JULY 2007

NOTICE OF MOTION

SHIP STREET POST OFFICE CLOSURE

“This council notes the recent announcement by the Post Office that at least 70 crown branches nationwide are to be transferred as franchises to WH Smith.

This council notes with concern that the Ship Street branch, a key city centre post office, is one of those scheduled to be affected.

This council views the planned closure with particular concern in light of the fact that Brighton & Hove has already lost the post office at the Co-op in London Road. If the Ship Street branch closes, the Trafalgar Street branch will be left as the only central office in Brighton.

This council is mindful of the opposition expressed by Age Concern, the North Laine Traders Association and local MPs to the planned closure of the Ship Street branch. Concerns include the possible negative effect on service provision, and the possibility of job losses.

This council also notes the following comment from the Executive Director of the Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership: ‘It’s unfortunate the post office is moving because, in my experience, when dedicated post office services move into shops the service is not as good.’

This council further notes that AMICUS, the union representing WH Smith staff, has branded the transfer of the post office branch franchises: ‘an appalling move’.

This council therefore:

1. asks the Chief Executive to write to The Rt Hon John Hutton MP, Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Offices Ltd, outlining the council’s concerns over the proposed removal of post office services from Ship Street;
2. resolves to send a copy of this motion to the Argus.”

Proposed by: Cllr Vanessa Brown

Seconded by: Cllr Brian Oxley

