

To Mr W Dalton, Chief Executive, Midland Bank plc, [Now HSBC]
Head Office, Poultry, LONDON EC2P 2BX.

Re: Threat to Branch at 47 High St., Milton-under-Wychwood.

Dear Mr Dalton,

It is with extreme regret that news reached me this week regarding the future of your branch in Milton-under-Wychwood [OXON].

It is my understanding that your lease on the branch's current site is on the point of expiring. It is also my understanding that the owners of this property extended the lease given by the late owners, to honour a verbal commitment given by the previous owner. I gather that it is this extension that now expires, and that the present owners offered to relocate the bank to one of their properties, once again in the centre of Milton-under-Wychwood, but without the traffic problems of the current site. As they wish to develop the considerable area that includes the property you use at present, I feel that they have acted in good faith, with the interests of the locality at heart.

I write to ask you to do the same. I realise that the cost of relocation would be of importance to your organisation. However, it is my information that the Midland Bank made no inquiries as to any details of a new lease, should relocation be considered. If the expiry of the present lease merely fits in with your long-term plans for the branch, I would beg you to think again. The people of Milton-under-Wychwood, Shipton-under-Wychwood and their environs value all our many facilities, very much including our local bank.

New government initiatives are very much in favour of maintaining this type of service in rural areas. I and, more importantly, the people of the Wychwoods, would be very grateful indeed, if you would consider doing the same. If a decision to close this branch has been made, please think again.

I look forward to a positive and pleasing reply.

Yours sincerely, Rodney Rose.

The Area Manager, HSBC, Mr. P. Simms visited Mr. Rose and said that moving the bank in Milton would be very costly and therefore unlikely to go ahead in view of the low profit margin of the branch. At that time the final decision had not been made, so anyone wishing to comment should write to Mr. W. Dalton at the above address. (Ed.)

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