

Yes We Care! How Safe is Your Sub Post Office?

The Post Office is planning to change the structure of how it runs your Sub Post-Office. We would like you to be aware of these changes as they affect you. Do you care?

Sub Post Offices are not all run on the same lines. When we took over Shipton Post Office we continued to run it as it had been run by previous owners. As all our customer know, the Post Office hours are 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 12.30pm on a Saturday. We do not close for lunch nor do we have an early closing day. The Post Office pays for this service, some Sub Post Offices only get a commission on sales they make.

What No Post Office Counter?

The retail side of our business opens at 6.45am and closes at 7.30pm six days a week and 8am to 1pm on Sundays. The powers that be now want the PO to open the same hours as the retail side of our business, 83 hours a week. They will stop paying us a wage but will rely on increased commission from sales during the extra hours to compensate. They also want to abolish the secure Post Office counter and have the business run from the retail counter. With the extra opening hours it would mean taking on additional staff and security, privacy and confidentiality would be compromised. Other changes will mean that you will not be able to get your road-fund license here.



The Post Office has already taken away National Saving and investment, Child Bonds, TV licenses and Green Giros. Pensions are being reviewed to find alternative ways of paying them. The only thing that the Post Office has to offer now is postal orders,

banking facilities, and as Royal Mail has now been privatized, we are not even certain how long we will have stamps.

Our PO: A Thing of the Past?

In many cases if you are sending parcels or packets through the post, you can obtain pre-paid labels over the internet. It is not unusual for us to take in a sack of parcels that already have pre-paid labels on; the contents of the sacks are items sold on eBay. We have to accommodate these sacks until the Royal Mail collects them and also have to store delivery parcels which can be of any size. We get paid nothing for this service.

The argument the Post Office puts forward is that the retail side of the business may benefit from a sale. What they do not realise is that this will be at the inconvenience of our customers using the shop, as Post Office and retail customers will be using the same counter with resulting queues.

These barmy ideas may satisfy the shareholders, but the way things are going, the Post Office as we know it will soon be a thing of the past.

Shana Martin and Jacqui Roberts