

Petition:

Closure of Rippingale Post Office:

To Mark Partington, Network Development Manager, Post Office Ltd.

We, the undersigned, call on Post Office Ltd to reconsider their proposal to close the Post Office branch at the Rippingale Stores, 5 Middle Street, Rippingale, Bourne, PE10 0SU.

The service is widely used by the residents of Rippingale and surrounding villages for both domestic and business purposes, including a number of 'mail order' companies. Rippingale has a large retired and elderly population who rely on the Post Office for their pensions and other services; the limited local bus service makes it impractical, if not impossible for those without transport to reach another local Post Office. An 'Outreach' service with limited hours will not in any way serve the needs of the village and the current clientele.

The loss of a full-time Post Office counter will dramatically affect the viability of the shop and may well lead to its closure, to the enormous detriment of the residents of Rippingale and surrounding villages. Not only will this cause great hardship to those without transport, but it will also lead to an enormous increase in the number of car journeys made for small purchases. This is a direct contradiction of the Government's policies on global warming.

The figures used in making the decision to close Rippingale's Post Office are thought to be suspect. The turnover of the shop and Post Office has increased significantly since it was refurbished in 2006.