

Friends of Rippingale Post Office Press Release
CUSTOMER PROFILES

Elderly/Disabled

Rose Doncaster, (73) Dovecot Estate, Rippingale, - 01778-440553. Rose is a familiar sight in the village, zipping round on her mobility trike. She led last week's protest march from Rippingale to Morton - "but I couldn't do that trip by myself, if our Post Office closed."

Rose visits Rippingale PO two or three times a week - she picks up her pension, pays all her bills - electricity, water, phone - and would pay her tv licence "but they took that away."

"I don't know where I would go or what I would do if they closed the Post Office - the bus is no good to me and it only runs once a week anyway. I haven no other transport to call on."

Business

Glen Cooper (40) and Kate Parker (37) - SL Autos, Main Road (A15) Rippingale, 01778-440000. Glen and Kate run a second hand car parts business. They have a family of four. One or the other of them use Rippingale Post Office every day with 40-50 parcels per week. They have a courier service daily for the heavier items like a gearbox, but the lighter items go by post because it's cheaper. Glen says "second hand cars mean the customer's working to a budget - if I had to courier everything it would probably put a couple more pounds on a £10 bill and they'd go elsewhere - I'd go out of business."

He's worked out that if he had to go to the next nearest PO, he'd be doing an extra 6 miles a day by car, 30 miles a week, 1500 miles a year, more outgoings in time, fuel, wear and tear on his transport - probably another £2k a year in overheads and the equivalent of 3 days a year he's not working productively.

Couple with one car

Paul Boyall (37) and Lisa Kell (36) Middle Street, Rippingale, 01778-440623. Paul and Lisa have three children ranging in ages from 17 to 2 and Lisa's expecting another child soon. They have one car but Paul has to use that to get to work, leaving Lisa and her youngest child isolated in their home. She gets to do her big shop at the week-end but uses the village store and PO regularly. "If the Post office closed and that meant the store closing, I don't know what I'd do - attempting to shop by bus into Bourne once a week with a two-year-old doesn't bear thinking about, but with the new baby as well , I'll be stuck."

Young Couple with no transport

Stef (33) and Michelle (27) Clarke, Middle Street, Rippingale, 07956-256982. Stef and Michelle have three children ranging from 8 to 3 - two of them have special transport to take them to school. They have no car and have to rely on public transport to get out of the village - a once a week bus service to Bourne or to Grantham, 15 miles away.

"We use the Post Office in Rippingale almost every day to withdraw money, pick up child benefits, pay all our bills, and while we're there we use the shop - it has everything and often cheaper than the big supermarkets," said Stef. "What we'd do if they close I just don't know - we'd be stuck. If we had to walk to Morton or Pointon, it would have to be with the kids - there are no pavements and they're busy, dangerous roads - we couldn't do it. Even if we use the bus, we have to go to our Post Office to draw money out for the trip."

Jim Latham 23.10.2006