

The Revd. Anne Le Bas, St Peter and St Paul's Church, Seal (The Vicarage, Church Street Seal, TN15 0AR)

**To: Gary Herbert, Network Development Manager, Post Office Ltd.**

### **PROPOSED CLOSURE OF THE POST OFFICE IN SEAL, KENT**

We, the undersigned, wish to record our deep concern at the proposed closure of our Post Office in Seal. If the Post Office is not able to remain open in its present form, we urgently request that you explore with local people the possibility of providing a mobile, partnered or hosted service in the village on a regular basis.

- Nearly 12% - 1 in 9 - of the households in the ward have no car (2001 census figures), and the village contains several blocks of sheltered accommodation for the elderly as well as an area of social housing for families. There are over 230 pensioners in the ward. On national averages around 50 could be expected to draw their pensions in cash locally.
- The local bus service is infrequent – roughly half-hourly through the morning, but becoming more patchy in the afternoon - and there are no bus shelters either in the centre of Seal or at the nearest alternative post office sites. Waiting for long periods for buses can be a cold and uncomfortable experience for the elderly, disabled, or those with young children.
- The road into Sevenoaks is extremely busy and dangerous, as it is used by many large lorries.
- There are no safe cycle routes to the cited alternative post offices at Kemsing and Bat & Ball, and many feel endangered walking on the narrow pavements in close proximity to heavy and fast moving traffic.
- For many in the village, and especially for those without the option of using a car, the local post office has been a lifeline. As well as providing access to benefits and for posting parcels, it is the only place locally where it is possible to withdraw cash. There is no ATM in the village.

**Our post office matters to us. Please do not close it without making alternative provisions.**

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Address</b>

*Please return completed petition sheets to Anne Le Bas by 1<sup>st</sup> Nov at the latest and I will forward to Gary Herbert.*