

BRING THE POST OFFICE BACK TO FAIRLIGHT



Petition to Bring a Post Office Back to Fairlight

Why Fairlight Needs a Post Office

For Fairlight, a Post Office isn't just a convenient place to buy stamps or send parcels, it's a critical connection to the outside world. Local transport to Ore or Winchelsea is not a viable option for many of our residents. We have just one bus an hour (frequently plagued by unscheduled cancellations), an average population age of 65, and over 40% of our residents have no access to private transport. Without a Post Office, our community is effectively left stranded and isolated.

With high street bank branches closing at an alarming rate across the region, the Post Office has become the only accessible physical bank left for our community. A significant portion of our over 65 population relies on cash for daily budgeting and prefers face-to-face transactions. Without a local branch, collecting pensions or withdrawing cash becomes an exhausting, day-long ordeal. Many residents rely on the Post Office to pay electricity, water, and council tax bills. Forcing these transactions online alienates those who are not digitally literate.

There is a massive demographic in Fairlight who are being left behind by "digital-by-default" services. From renewing a bus pass to checking identity documents and returning official forms, the Post Office provides an essential bridge to government services. Not every household in Fairlight has the technology, digital skills, or reliable broadband required to manage their lives online. The Post Office provides a human interface for complex bureaucratic tasks.

The social value of a village Post Office cannot be overstated. For a population with an average age of 65, isolation is a serious health risk. For some of our most vulnerable or widowed residents, a trip to the Post Office is their only face-to-face interaction of the day. Post Office staff get to know their regulars. They are often the first to notice if an elderly resident hasn't been seen for a few days, acting as an informal but vital safety net for safeguarding the vulnerable. To deprive Fairlight of its Post Office is to cut the vital cords of independence, financial inclusion, and social cohesion for nearly half our population. It is not an optional luxury, it's the infrastructure that holds our village together.

We, the undersigned residents of Fairlight, formally request the installation and operation of a Post Office counter within our local village shop.