

**Council: Tuesday, 16 July 2013**

**Non Executive Business Item:** Councillor Arjun Mittra

Protecting East Finchley Post Office

Council notes plans by the Post Office to franchise the Crown Post Office in East Finchley to a retail operator, which will mean closure of the branch as a flagship Crown Post Office.

Council believes this will result in a smaller space with fewer counters and services for local people and traders, who will have to travel all the way to Muswell Hill or North Finchley for Crown post office services.

Council also believes this will be a blow to the vibrancy of East Finchley High Street and the town centre.

Council notes that the Post Office do not yet have a retail partner for any of the 70 Crown Post Offices that have been earmarked for closure – including East Finchley Post Office.

Council also notes that when Finchley Central Crown Post Office was closed in 2005, a promise to re-provide the service in a local shop was not honoured, resulting in the loss of a post office in that high street.

Council is concerned that the current specialist trained staff in the Crown Post Office will be lost under the proposals to franchise the branch, and replaced with staff on significantly lower pay, terms and conditions and a narrower range of expertise.

Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to write to the Post Office asking them to re-think their proposals.

Council also asks the Leaders of all Party Groups to set out these concerns in a joint letter to Jo Swinson, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs with responsibility for Post Offices.

*Under Council Procedure Rule, Section 1, Standing Order 23.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting*