

Press Release



11 February 2021

AGREED MOVE FOR STAPLEHURST POST OFFICE & SIGNIFICANTLY LONGER HOURS

- **Move to SPAR 9-11 The Parade, Staplehurst, TN12 0LA**
- **Open seven days a week**
- **110 hours of Post Office service a week**
- **74 hours of extra Post Office service a week**
- **End to lunchtime closing**
- **Modern open-plan retail environment**

The Post Office has agreed to relocate Staplehurst Post Office to SPAR, 9-11 The Parade, Staplehurst, TN12 0LA in April.

It will operate as a local style branch with Post Office services provided from a Post Office counter alongside the retail counter.

Opening hours would be Monday to Saturday: 7am – 11pm; Sunday: 8am – 10pm – offering 110 hours of Post Office service a week.

This will be an additional 74 hours of Post Office service than currently offered, including opening all-day Sunday, plus Saturday afternoon. It will also mark an end to lunchtime closing. The branch will also open significantly earlier and it will close much later every day. All these changes will make it far easier to visit the Post Office.

The current branch at 3 Milestone Buildings, High Street, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, TN12 0AB will close on **Thursday 22 April at 5.30pm** and the new branch is due to open on **Friday 23 April at 1pm**.

During the brief transfer alternative branches include:

- Headcorn Post Office, 28 High Street, Headcorn, TN27 9NE
- Marden Post Office, High Street, Marden, TN12 9DP

Blakemore Retail Post Office Controller Stewert Waldron said: "As a community retailer we are delighted to soon be able to offer post office services in this convenience store; local residents can access a wide range of Post Office services during our shop opening hours – 110 hours a week."

The move is part of the ongoing modernisation of our branch network. We are confident that introducing a local style branch alongside a successful retail store is the most effective way to safeguard sustainable Post Office services in the local community.

Jason Collins, Post Office Network Provision Manager, said: "We want to make it as easy as possible for customers to pay their bills, withdraw cash from their bank accounts, and send and collect their mail at a time and place that suits them best. We know how important our services are to customers, and we are confident that this vibrant new-style Post Office at the heart of the local community will meet customer needs."

Ends

Issued by:

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Notes to editors

- With over 11,500 branches, Post Office has the biggest retail network in the UK, with more branches than all the banks and building societies combined.
- Post Office is helping anyone who wants cash to get it whichever way is most convenient. Partnership with over 30 banks, building societies and credit unions means that 99% of UK bank customers can access their accounts at their Post Office.
- Cash withdrawals, deposits and balance enquiries can be made securely and conveniently over the counter at any Post Office; and the biggest investment by any organisation or company in the last decade is being made to safeguard 1,400 free-to-use ATMs across the UK.
- Post Office is simplifying its proposition for Postmasters with a focus on its [cash and banking](#); [mails and parcels](#); [foreign exchange](#); and [bill payments](#) services.
- [Research](#) has found that visits to the Post Office help drive another 400 million visitors to other shops, restaurants and local businesses equating to an estimated £1.1 billion in additional revenue for High Street businesses.
- 99.7% of the population live within three miles of a Post Office; and 4,000 branches are open seven days a week.

Staplehurst Post Office information sheet															
Address	SPAR 9-11 The Parade Staplehurst TN12 0LA														
Opening hours	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Mon</td><td>07:00 – 23:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Tue</td><td>07:00 – 23:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Wed</td><td>07:00 – 23:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Thu</td><td>07:00 – 23:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Fri</td><td>07:00 – 23:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Sat</td><td>07:00 – 23:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Sun</td><td>08:00 – 22:00</td></tr> </table>	Mon	07:00 – 23:00	Tue	07:00 – 23:00	Wed	07:00 – 23:00	Thu	07:00 – 23:00	Fri	07:00 – 23:00	Sat	07:00 – 23:00	Sun	08:00 – 22:00
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Fri	07:00 – 23:00														
Sat	07:00 – 23:00														
Sun	08:00 – 22:00														
Distance	Within 110 metres of the previous branch, along level terrain.														
Products & Services	A wide range of products and services will still be available.														
Serving positions	There will be one Post Office serving point provided for use at the retail counter and available during shop opening hours.														
Accessibility	<p>Access and facilities</p> <p>The new premises will have a wide automatic door and level access at the entrance.</p> <p>Internally, there will be a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair.</p> <p>Parking</p> <p>Parking is available outside the new premises.</p>														
Retail	Convenience store														
Date of opening	Friday 23 April 2021														

Staplehurst Post Office® services available	New branch
Mail	
First & Second Class mail	✓
Stamps, stamp books (1 st class 6 & 12 only, 2 nd class 12 only)	✓
Special stamps (Christmas issue only) & postage labels	✓
Signed For	✓
Special Delivery	✓
Home shopping returns	✓
Inland small, medium & large parcels	✓
Express & contract parcels	✓
British Forces Mail (BFPO)	✓
International letters & postcards (inc. Tracked & Signed)	✓
International parcels up to 2kg & printed papers up to 5kg	✓
Parcelforce Worldwide International parcels	✓
Articles for the blind (inland & international)	✓
Royal Mail redirection service	✓
Local Collect	✓
Drop & Go	✓
Withdrawals, deposits and payments	
Post Office Card Account	✓
All personal and business banking cash withdrawals, deposits, balance enquiries & enveloped cheque deposits (card, barcoded or manual).	✓
Postal orders	✓
Moneygram	✓
Change giving	✓
Bill payments (card, barcoded or manual)	✓
Key recharging	✓
Driving	
Car tax	✓
Licences	
Rod fishing licences	✓
Travel	
Pre-order travel money	✓
On demand travel money	Euros/Dollars
Travel insurance referral	✓
Mobile Top-ups & E vouchers	✓
National Lottery Terminal	x
Payment by cheque	✓
<p>Products marked x are available at Headcorn Post Office, 28 High Street, Headcorn, TN27 9NE</p> <p>Other Products are available at Marden Post Office, High Street, Marden, TN12 9DP</p>	

