

Press Release



10 November 2017

MP "CUTS THE RIBBON" AT BRAND NEW HIGHCLIFFE POST OFFICE

- **Open at Occasions, 348 Lymington Road, Highcliffe, BH23 5EY**
- **Modern open-plan retail environment**
- **Wide range of Post Office® services available**
- **Banking services for personal customers and small businesses**

Christchurch MP Chris Chope has "cut the ribbon" today to mark the official opening of Highcliffe Post Office at Occasions, 348 Lymington Road, Highcliffe, Christchurch, BH23 5EY.

The previous Highcliffe Post Office at 286 Lymington Road, Highcliffe, closed temporarily in November 2016 due to the resignation of the Postmaster.

Chris Chope MP, said: "It is great news to have a Post Office in Highcliffe again. A Post Office is vital to a community and I know from my constituents how pleased they are with this new branch with welcoming and knowledgeable staff."

It is a modern mains branch with Post Office services delivered from three counters – two full-screened and a low screened counter alongside the retail counter of the convenience cards and stationery store. Opening hours are Monday – Saturday: 9am – 5.30pm.

Postmaster Stuart Britton, who has run Occasions with wife Jocelyn for 11 years, said: "Customers have been bowled over by their new branch. We have had lots of very positive feedback.

"We are absolutely delighted with how well it is going with the addition of the Post Office and how quickly we have become busy. Having a Post Office within a card and stationery shop is a nice traditional fit and it works really well. We have already seen big improvement in our retail sales. We have many experienced members of staff who have worked in Post Offices before, so we are all set for the busy Christmas period."

Highcliffe Post Office will be delighted to welcome customers to the branch, which offers a wide range of services including car tax, drop and go, passport check and sent, ID verification, foreign currency on demand, travel insurance and Post Office travel money card as well as online banking cash deposits and withdrawals for most banks. Other services include Post Office Card Account withdrawals, sending funds abroad using Moneygram. Customers can also pay bills, top up mobile phones. Mails services include Special Delivery and Parcelforce Express Service, Local Collect, home shopping returns. Plus there is a wide range of Post Office financial services products.

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Notes to editors

In 2012 we announced an investment of £1.34bn for the Post Office network to undertake a transformation programme across 6000 branches. In November 2013 the Government announced a further £640m investment in the Post Office network: as well as allowing us to modernise a further 2000 branches this funding also allows us to invest £20 million in around 3400 community branches, which are often the last shop in the village.

With over 11,500 branches, the Post Office network is the biggest retail network in the UK, with more branches than all the banks and building societies combined. 97% of Post Office branches are run with retail partners on an agency or franchise basis.

The Post Office provides services central to peoples' everyday lives; 99.7% of the population lives within 3 miles of a Post Office - 17m customers visit a Post Office branch each week, including a third of the UK's small businesses.

We offer the UK's largest fee free cash withdrawal network through our 11,500 branches and an additional 2,500 cash machines and 99 per cent of UK bank customers can access their accounts at the Post Office. We sell 170 different products and services spanning financial services including savings, insurance, loans, mortgages and credit cards; Government services; telephony; foreign currency; travel insurance and mail services.

Post Offices branches remain highly valued and trusted, and are the focal point of many communities. For more information, visit www.postoffice.co.uk and to find out about a Post Office business opportunities visit www.runapostoffice.co.uk