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Dear Mr Simmonds

**Proposed closure of branch - 4, Central Avenue, West Molesey**

East and West Molesey together make up a single busy conurbation of about 20,000 residents. Until two years ago there were four Post Office branches serving this large community. One branch was then closed and one, at Hurst Park, is now temporarily closed for an unspecified period, as the site is to be demolished prior to a supermarket build. This has left Molesey with but two Post Offices and now one of those, in Central Avenue, is under threat of closure.

Should that closure take place the whole of Molesey will be left with but one branch – that in Walton Road. That branch has always been constantly busy (even when there were three Post Offices in Molesey) with queues regularly stretching from counter to street door. The effect of that branch being the sole Office available does not bear thinking about.

Even when the Post Office branch is re-opened in Hurst Park the geography of the area is such that two thirds of the population will have to make use of the Walton Road branch. The massively increased business for the Walton Road Office can only mean an even slower and more uncomfortable service for customers as well as exerting undue pressure on the staff.

Further, the area generally served by the Central Avenue Office is one of the least affluent areas in Elmbridge with many of its residents elderly and less mobile than in other areas of the Borough. A local Office is a necessity for these people - its closure would cause real hardship.

We, the under signed, as local Borough Councillors for East and West Molesey, urge Post Office Ltd to reconsider its proposal to close the Central Avenue branch. Outweighing any commercial reasons for such a closure must be the very real impact that closure will have, not only on its immediate area, but on Molesey as a whole.

.....Nigel Cooper, M.R.A. Chairman and Councillor for Molesey East Ward

.....W. Burgess, Cllr, Molesey North and retiring Mayor of Elmbridge

.....A. Hopkins, Cllr, Molesey North and Leader of Elmbridge Borough Council

.....V. Eldridge, Cllr, Molesey South and Cabinet Member of Elmbridge Council

..... M. Axton, Cllr, Molesey South

.....I. Donaldson, Cllr, Molesey North

.....P. Parker, Cllr, Molesey North

.....A Popham, Cllr, Molesey East