

Gerry Duddy
Secretary of PBFI
(Public Banking Forum of Ireland)
16 Fergus Lawn
Tulla Rd
Ennis
Co Clare

The Meetings Administrator,
Chief Executive's Department,
Block 4, Floor 4,
Civic Offices,
Wood Quay,
Dublin 8.



11-9-18

Re: Council Motion on the closure of Post Offices.

Dear Meetings Administrator,
I would be grateful if you would bring the following to the attention of the Lord Mayor, the Chairman and all Councillors for your next meeting.

Dear Chairman and Councillors,

Under the new Post Office deal, 390 Post Offices were not offered a new contract, so they stay on the old contract with reducing income or take the redundancy/retirement package on offer. This in reality means that 390 Post Offices will inevitably close; this is an average of 15 offices per county. Several have already closed throughout the country. 159 Offices have decided to take the retirement package, but the question remains should the community lose its Post Office for this reason. The long-term future of the remaining 690 PO's is far from secure - their Government Social Welfare contract expires at the end of 2019 and will then go to tender under E.U. procurement law with no guarantee An Post will win it.

New Zealand developed the Kiwi(post)Bank model of community banking in 2002; described as a phenomenal success, returning a profit of over \$7m in its third year of operation and returning profits of circa. \$100m in recent years. The adoption of a similar model in Ireland can prevent many Post Office closures and secure the long term future of the Network. Kiwi Bank now has 20% of the NZ banking market and 25% of all bank customers.

2016 Private Members Dáil Motion:

A Private Members Dáil Motion on saving the PO network and securing its long-term future was passed by the Dáil in Nov 2016. The motion includes the introduction of the Kiwi model of community banking to the Irish Post Office Network. (Please find a copy included with this letter.)

One of the most relevant extracts reads as follows;

That Dáil Éireann - calls on the Government to:

“implement a new community banking service operated by An Post to be made available in all post offices throughout the country; this post community bank could be based on either the New Zealand Kiwibank model or the German Sparkassen model, both of which have been found to be valid models.”

Post Banking is not new territory for An Post as it ran a bank through the network from 2007 to 2010. It had 200,000 customers & 260 employees. Postal Banking operates successfully in France, Switzerland, Israel, Korea, India, New Zealand, Japan and China.

This brings us to the Council Motion on this issue:

Please find enclosed a Council motion in relation to the closure of Post Offices. Ideally this would be put before your Council.

This Council Motion calls on Government to,

1. Enact the ‘Private Members Dáil Motion of the 17th November, 2016’.
2. Postpone the closure of Post Offices while the Kiwi Post Bank model for the Irish Post Office network is developed.

Ideally the motion would be put with the stipulation that if adopted, it will be circulated to all Councils in the country, seeking their endorsement by way of a Motion. This way it can be dealt with quickly by other Councils.

Alternatively you could opt to support the motion on this issue passed by West Clare Municipal District Council on the 27th August 2018. I believe it has been circulated to all Councils nationally seeking support. (Please find a copy of their motion enclosed)

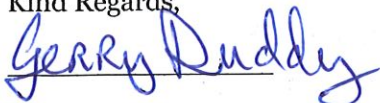
Commercial banks operating through the Post Offices: At least three commercial banks will operate through the Irish Post Office network; this arrangement has failed the PO network in the UK, where Bank of Ireland take huge profits through the network while the Post Offices struggle to survive. It is estimated it will cost the UK taxpayers £2bn to buy out the BoI contract.

March to the Dáil:

A march to the Dáil on the Post Office closures issue will take place on Tues 18th Sept – please see the poster included.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this most important issue.

Kind Regards,



Gerry Duddy

Secretary PBFi – Public Banking Forum of Ireland – Banking in the Public Interest!

e-mail admin@republicirelandbank.com Ph: 086-329-6806

**COUNCIL MOTION ON POST OFFICE CLOSURES AND
THE POST OFFICE NETWORK - July/Aug 2018**

Reference - The prevention of Post Office closures and the long-term survival and prosperity of the An Post, Post Office Network.

This council:

1. Is deeply concerned of the imminent threat of closure of up to 390 Post Offices throughout the country and the threat to the long-term future of the remaining 690 Post Offices.
2. Believes the decision as to whether a community has a Post Office or not, should not hinge on a Postmaster wishing to retire.
3. Recognises there is an alternative and superior solution to the Post Office issue available to An Post and to Government in the form of the Kiwi (Post) Bank model that was established in New Zealand in 2002, and now has 20% of the banking market and 25% of all banking customers in New Zealand. It has been described as a phenomenal success having made over \$7m profit in its third year of operation and nowadays posts annual profits of circa \$100m.
4. Supports the Dáil Private Members Motion of 17th Nov 2016 -

The Dáil Motion of the 17th November, 2016, passed by the Dáil - (no amendments)

“Calls on the Government to:

- implement a new community banking service operated by An Post to be made available in all post offices throughout the country; this post community bank could be based on either the New Zealand Kiwibank model or the German Sparkassen model, both of which have been found to be valid models;”

Therefore, this Council calls on Government to,

1. Enact ‘Private Members Dáil Motion of the 17th November, 2016.’
2. Postpone the closure of Post Offices while the Kiwi Post Bank model for the Irish Post Office network is developed.

The results of this Council motion to be promptly conveyed to the Minister for Communications, Climate action and Environment and Deputy Hildegard Naughton, Chair of Committee on Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

Councillors to lobby Government, TD’s, Political Parties and Media to promote and develop the Kiwi Bank community bank initiative.

West Clare Municipal District Council Motion:

Following communication between the Cathaoirleach & the organisers of the Public Meetings regarding the Rural Post Office Closures it has been decided to slightly amend the Motion agreed by the Members at our Special Meeting on 27th August last to that outlined hereunder:-

We the West Clare Municipal District Councillors Ian Lynch, Gabriel Keating, Christy Curtin, Richard Nagle, Bill Slattery, Bill Chambers, PJ Kelly and Michael Hillary unanimously agreed at a Special Meeting of the Municipal District Council held on 27th August 2018 calls on ,

The Government enact the Dáil motion passed in November 2016 in support of protecting and developing the Post Office network and its services.

In doing so we ask that they,

- 1. Postpone the closures of post offices for a 3 year period, to facilitate a restructure of the post office services.*
- 2. Ensure that the necessary budget provision is included in Budget 2019 and thereafter to subsidise the Post Office Network while it is being developed.*

West Clare Municipal District Council plan to circulate this motion to all Councils seeking national support for the motion.

DÁIL ÉIREANN

Fógra Tairisceana : Notice of Motion

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

“That Dáil Éireann:

recognises that:

- post offices serve a vital social and economic role in their communities;
- there is a very specific commitment in the Programme for a Partnership Government to protect the postal network;
- rural and small urban post offices, which are mostly run by independent postmasters, have had their income and footfall greatly reduced;
- many small post offices are now operating on the equivalent of the National Minimum Wage;
- if this is allowed to continue, Grant Thornton has predicted that 450-500 offices will cease to exist by 2017; and
- if footfall and incomes are not improved then the post office network will be decimated; and

calls on the Government to:

- act on its commitment as outlined in the Programme for a Partnership Government;
- implement an action plan for the post office network within three months;
- implement a new community banking service operated by An Post to be made available in all post offices throughout the country; this post community bank could be based on either the New Zealand Kiwibank model or the German Sparkassen model, both of which have been found to be valid models;
- consider a once-off Capital Investment Fund for the further modernisation of the post office network to enable the widespread provision of banking services in rural and disadvantaged urban areas, most of which have been completely abandoned by the current banking model;
- ensure that the provision of all over-the-counter services relating to Government departments must be tendered for on the basis of both social and economic grounds, to include rural Ireland in any future growth;
- ensure that all business previously identified by Grant Thornton, the former Oireachtas Joint Committee on Transport and Communications and the Post Office Network Business Development Group must be implemented;
- establish a working group to identify the potential for local post offices to act as hubs to facilitate other services such as health, transport, agriculture, etc., and to act as a one-stop-shop for Government services as committed to in the Programme for a Partnership Government;
- strongly consider committing funds, while the above measures are being implemented, to ensure no more downward pay reviews to post offices which will make them uneconomical and have the effect of closure by a thousand cuts;
- ensure that a five-year holding plan will be put in place while these changes are being implemented or there will be no network left to salvage; and

recommends that An Post be invited before the Committee of Public Accounts to outline their plan for the future of the post office network.” — *Mattie McGrath, Michael J. Healy-Rae, Michael Collins, Noel Grealish, Michael Harty, Danny Healy-Rae, Michael Lowry.*

[11 November, 2016]

SAVE OUR POST OFFICE NETWORK

March to the Dáil

STOP THE CLOSURES

#Enact2016Motion
Passed by ALL TD's
Kiwi Model of Community
Banking in Every Post Office

Tuesday 18th Sep.

Trinity College 2p.m. to the Dáil

**INDEPENDENT
POSTMASTERS
GROUP** 

**SAVE
RURAL IRELAND
& URBAN COMMUNITIES**


PBFI
PUBLIC BANKING
FORUM IRELAND