

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Gofynner am / Please ask for:

Fy nghyf / My ref:

Llinell Uniongyrchol / Direct Line: 07548 041387

Dyddiad / Date: 17/05/23

E-bost / E-mail: LewDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Statement: Reopening the Village Shop and Post Office

Dear Residents,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the efforts to reinstate our post office & village shop and share both the challenges we have encountered and the opportunities that lies ahead.

Let me begin with the good news. Transport for Wales is currently engaged in discussions with CK Foodstores regarding the occupation of the village shop. Negotiations are underway to finalise the terms of this occupation, and Transport for Wales hope to instruct solicitors imminently. This represents a significant step forward in our journey towards bringing back essential services to our community.

However, I understand the frustrations many of you have experienced due to the closure of our Post Office. When a postmaster decides to leave, the Post Office undertakes a thorough review to determine the necessary services for the area. This review includes an assessment of nearby service provision, current and potential future customer demand, replacement costs, and the overall sustainability of a new branch for both the Post Office and potential operators.

The economic climate has posed immense challenges for the Post Office and postmasters alike. The limited funding received from UK Government prevents the Post Office from financing the build costs for every new branch. Furthermore, the absence of nearby retailers willing to operate a Post Office in Ferryside adds to the complexity of the situation. The usage of Ferryside Post Office has declined, and the Post Office has suggested that customers who previously relied on the branch have sought alternative arrangements to access the services they require.

After careful consideration and consultation with Calon y Fferi Community Centre, the Post Office, our local MP, and the Community Council, it has become evident that the most viable route to reintroduce the Post Office to our village is through the reopening of our local shop. By combining the Post Office services with the village shop, we can create a sustainable and thriving hub that caters to the needs of our community.

Cynghorydd | Councillor

Lewis Eldred Davies

Neuadd y Sir Caerfyrddin, Sir Gâr SA31 1JP | County Hall Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire SA31 1JP

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While there is still work to be done, I remain optimistic about the future. We will continue engaging with all relevant stakeholders to ensure the successful reopening of our village shop and the return of Post Office services within our community.

Thank you for your patience and understanding throughout this challenging time. Together, we can revitalise our village and create a thriving space that meets the needs of each and every one of us.

Sincerely,
Lewis

Cynghorydd | Councillor Lewis Eldred Davies 

Cyngor Sir Gâr | Carmarthenshire County Council

Cynghorydd Sir Cydweli a Llanismel | County Councillor Kidwelly and St Ishmael Ward

Cynghorydd | Councillor

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