

Joe Garner
Chief Executive
Nationwide Building Society
Nationwide House
Pipers Way
Swindon
SN38 1NW

7 February 2021

Dear Mr Garner,

We write as community representatives to ask you that you reconsider the ‘body blow’ to the neighbouring communities of Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint from the proposed double closure of the Nationwide branches in April of this year. In each case these are the last remaining bank or building society branch available meaning that local residents’ will no longer be able to pop in to seek advice about making payments, saving for the future or perhaps buying a first home.

At a time when trust in financial institutions is at an all-time low, these closures appear to breach at least the substance of the Nationwide ‘branch promise’ made as recently as November 2020 which said that you “would not close branches until at least January 2023 except where there is another in the same town or city”. We would like to understand how this proposal is consistent with that ‘branch promise’, the BBA Protocol, FCA guidelines and the statements in your Annual Report about social purpose, building society and investing in local communities.

Whilst we do understand that Nationwide has to think about the interests of its members at a time when there is significant growth in the use of online banking and cashless payments, the organisation also has a responsibility to the communities in which it operates. This is particularly the case at this time of the national COVID-19 pandemic and we consider that you should as a very minimum suspend any closures until after the West Sussex economy has fully re-opened.

We - and our local residents - look forward to receiving your reply.



Cllr Joy Dennis



Parish Councillor, Alex Simmons



Andrew Griffith MP

Cllr Malcolm Llewellyn CBE, Chairman
 Cllr Bob Sampson
 Cllr Allan Brown
 Cllr John Lowman
 Cllr Seth Jee
 Cllr Colin Trumble
 Cllr Ian Weir, Chairman *on behalf of*
 John Rose, Chairman *on behalf of*
 Jeremy Wakeham, Chairman *on behalf of*
 Cllr Kirsty Lord
 Cllr Benedict Dempsey
 Cllr Sue Hatton
 Cllr Alex Sparasci
 Cllr Alison Bennett
 Cllr Rodney Jackson
 Cllr Graham Stoddard, Chairman
 Cllr David Wilson, Chairman
 Cllr Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Leader

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
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 Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
 Hurstpierpoint & Downs (Mid Sussex DC)
 Hassocks Parish Council
 Age Concern Hassocks Trustee Board
 Hassocks Community Organisation Trustee Board
 Hassocks & Burgess Hill Div (West Sussex CC)
 Hassocks (Mid Sussex DC)
 Hassocks (Mid Sussex DC)
 Hassocks (Mid Sussex DC)
 Hurstpierpoint and Downs (Mid Sussex DC)
 Hurstpierpoint and Downs (Mid Sussex DC)
 Albourne Parish Council
 Pyecombe Parish Council
 Mid Sussex District Council

Because of the Covid-19 restrictions we have been unable to obtain physical signatures.
 However, all of the persons named above have confirmed electronically that they wish to be
 signatories to this letter.

