# Councillors unite to fight closure of Yate’s main post office amid franchise fears



A concerted effort is underway to save Yate's main post office from impending closure, a move that has gained unanimous support from South Gloucestershire councillors, reflecting widespread concern over the potential ramifications for the local community. The current administrative landscape, shaped by recent trends in postal services across the UK, has sparked fears that the loss of this Crown post office could deal a significant blow to the area’s residents and businesses.

The Post Office has initiated plans to reconfigure its operations, proposing to switch 108 Crown post offices to a franchise model, which may compromise their viability. Councillors expressed apprehension that such a transition might lead Yate’s post office to relocate to a high-street retailer, leaving its future precarious. This is amidst wider worries about the fragility of such partnerships; indeed, many are concerned that if the retailer fails, so too will the essential services provided at the post office.

In a council meeting attended on May 21, a motion introduced by Cllr Mike Drew of the Liberal Democrats aimed solely at preserving the Yate post office received broad cross-party backing. Drawing attention to the services unique to Crown post offices—such as passport application checks and driving licence renewals—councillors highlighted the critical role this institution plays in the community, particularly with the further backdrop of multiple recent bank closures in the area.

While the Liberal Democrats and Labour were aligned in their clear focus on Yate, a counter-proposal from the Conservative Party aimed to broaden the scope of the campaign to include the safeguarding of other local post offices and banks. Cllr Sam Bromiley, leading this initiative, articulated the socio-economic importance of such services, characterising the potential closure as a crisis that could devastate community cohesion and trust.

However, the move to include more extensive protections for other locales was rebuffed, with Liberal Democrat colleagues asserting that this would dilute the immediate goal of preserving the Yate post office. Cllr Jon Lean commented that while he empathised with the broader aim, the precise and urgent nature of the Yate situation warranted singular focus.

Claire Young, the MP for Thornbury and Yate, has also been instrumental in this campaign, launching a petition that has gathered over 2,100 signatures from local residents, demonstrating a strong sense of community spirit. Young has called upon the government to intervene and halt closure plans, stressing the post office's function as a vital fallback service, particularly in light of recent bank terminations.

The discourse surrounding Yate’s post office resonates with a larger narrative of changing high-street dynamics in the UK, where essential services are increasingly at risk from market restructuring. The local council has committed to writing to the Post Office and the government, urging them to prioritise the retention of the Yate location and reconsider the broader implications of their cost-cutting strategies.

Despite the overwhelming agreement on the importance of the Yate post office, the squabble over how to best champion its preservation highlights the complexities inherent in local governance and advocacy in times of rapid change. The stakes are high, and the future of the Yate post office will determine not just the availability of its services, but also the holistic well-being of its surrounding community.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/campaign-save-towns-main-post-10207009), [[2]](https://www.southgloslibdems.org.uk/news/news-article/mp-signs-parliamentary-motion-demanding-govt-stop-yate-post-office-closure)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/campaign-save-towns-main-post-10207009), [[4]](https://yateandsodburyvoice.co.uk/2024/11/25/post-office-shake-up-puts-main-yate-branch-under-threat-of-closure/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/campaign-save-towns-main-post-10207009), [[5]](https://www.southgloslibdems.org.uk/claire-young-mp/yate-post-office)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/campaign-save-towns-main-post-10207009), [[3]](https://www.southgloslibdems.org.uk/news/news-article/mp-calls-on-post-office-to-shelve-yate-closure-plans)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/campaign-save-towns-main-post-10207009), [[6]](https://www.southgloslibdems.org.uk/news/news-article/claire-young-mp-demands-answers-over-future-of-yate-post-office)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://www.southgloslibdems.org.uk/news/news-article/mp-signs-parliamentary-motion-demanding-govt-stop-yate-post-office-closure), [[5]](https://www.southgloslibdems.org.uk/claire-young-mp/yate-post-office)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/campaign-save-towns-main-post-10207009), [[4]](https://yateandsodburyvoice.co.uk/2024/11/25/post-office-shake-up-puts-main-yate-branch-under-threat-of-closure/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/campaign-save-towns-main-post-10207009> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.southgloslibdems.org.uk/news/news-article/mp-signs-parliamentary-motion-demanding-govt-stop-yate-post-office-closure> - Claire Young MP has backed a motion in Parliament calling on the government to stop the closure of Yate post office. This follows the Post Office's announcement that 115 branches, including Yate's, are at risk of closure. The news has been met with a strong backlash from residents, with hundreds signing Young's petition to save the branch. She emphasized the importance of the post office to the community and urged the government to act to prevent its closure.
3. <https://www.southgloslibdems.org.uk/news/news-article/mp-calls-on-post-office-to-shelve-yate-closure-plans> - Thornbury and Yate MP, Claire Young, has written to the Chief Executive of the Post Office, urging him to halt plans that would see Yate Post Office close, leaving the town without a branch. The Post Office is considering options for its wholly owned outlets, including the one on South Walk at Yate Shopping Centre. Young expressed deep concern over the potential closure and its impact on the local community, especially given the recent closure of several banks in the area.
4. <https://yateandsodburyvoice.co.uk/2024/11/25/post-office-shake-up-puts-main-yate-branch-under-threat-of-closure/> - Yate's main post office branch at South Parade in Yate Shopping Centre is at risk of closure as part of a nationwide shake-up by the Post Office. The state-owned company is considering moving to a fully franchised network, which could lead to the closure of its Directly Managed Branches, including Yate's. Local MP Claire Young has demanded answers from the Post Office and emphasized the significant impact the closure would have on the community, especially given the loss of several banks in the area.
5. <https://www.southgloslibdems.org.uk/claire-young-mp/yate-post-office> - Local MP Claire Young is campaigning to save Yate Post Office from closure. She expressed deep concern over the potential closure, highlighting the impact it would have on both Yate and Sodbury, which have seen many banks close in recent years. Young emphasized the importance of the post office as a fallback when banks close and urged the government to act to prevent its closure. She has launched a petition to show the strength of opposition to the plans.
6. <https://www.southgloslibdems.org.uk/news/news-article/claire-young-mp-demands-answers-over-future-of-yate-post-office> - In response to the news that Yate Post Office is at risk of closure, Local Liberal Democrat MP Claire Young has stated she will be writing to the Post Office and campaigning to ensure it stays open. She expressed deep concern over the potential closure, emphasizing the impact it would have on the community, especially given the recent closure of several banks in the area. Young plans to demand answers from the Post Office on what will be done to ensure the continuation of these vital services.
7. <https://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder/0255114/yate> - Yate Sodbury Post Office, located at 1 South Parade, Yate, Bristol, BS37 4BB, offers a range of services including Royal Mail and Parcelforce Worldwide services. The branch operates Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Saturday from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM, and is closed on Sundays. Alternative branches include Abbotswood, Chipping Sodbury, and North Road Mobile Service. The Post Office has listed this branch among those at risk of closure as part of a nationwide overhaul.