

NatWest Sturminster Newton Branch Closure

Customer and Community Engagement

All facts and figures are accurate on date of
publication 30th June 2016

Customer and Community Engagement

Sturminster Newton branch

Closing date 28th July 2016

How banking is changing

Our branches are changing from places where customers carry out basic transactions to places where customers interact with our staff on big life decisions. For example buying a home or starting up a business.

The decision to close a branch is never taken lightly, but we have to respond to these changes and help our customers to bank with us in the way that suits them best.

This document is designed to outline the rationale behind the decision to close NatWest Sturminster Newton branch, help you identify how you can continue to bank in the local community and also details the measures which have been taken to engage with our customers and the local community.

If you would like to discuss the alternative ways to bank in the local community or if you have any further questions regarding the closure, please ask a member of the branch team or contact Neil Hobbs, Local CEO on 07552 259871 (Minicom 08004046161) or e-mail neil.hobbs@natwest.com.

We also understand that not everyone wants to use online services and prefers face to face banking. Our branch network will remain the cornerstone of our services to customers.

How has Sturminster Newton branch changed?

 **29%**

The number of transactions at Sturminster Newton branch has dropped by 29% since 2011.

40 Customers

are using the branch on a regular weekly basis, 17 of those customers already use our other branches in the area.

Banking in 2016

There are now more convenient ways of banking with us than ever before, and our customers are increasingly using these different ways of banking. Across our network:



Less than 9%

Of our total transactions now take place in our branches. Branch transactions have been declining since 2010.

 **400%**

Online & mobile transactions have grown by over 400% since 2010.



56%

of our customers actively use mobile phone and online banking. That's over 3 million customers per week.

How you can continue to bank locally

The decision to close our NatWest Sturminster Newton branch on the 28th July 2016 was not taken lightly. It was based on a wide range of factors including branch usage and the alternative ways our customers can bank with us in the area. Here is a summary of the alternatives in the local area.

Nearest Post Office

Sturminster Newton



0.1 miles



Mon – Sat 6am – 10pm
Sun 7am – 10pm



Balance Enquiry
Cash & Cheque
Deposit
Withdrawal

Okeford Fitzpaine



3.4 miles



Tue/Thu 9am – 5.30pm



Balance Enquiry
Cash & Cheque
Deposit
Withdrawal

Shillingstone



3.5 miles



Tue/Thu 1.30pm – 3.30pm



Balance Enquiry
Cheque Deposit
Withdrawal

Nearest free to use ATMs



Lloyds TSB
Sturminster Newton



0.1 miles 1 ATM



YourCash One Stop
Sturminster Newton



0.1 miles 1 ATM



Barclays Sturminster
Newton



0.1 miles 1 ATM



Bank Machine Spar
Marnhull Stores
Marnhull



3.2 miles 1 ATM



Co op Store
Sturminster
Sturminster Newton



0.1 miles 1 ATM



Bank Machine Dike &
Son Limited Stalbridge



6.4 miles 1 ATM

Nearest NatWest Branches

Branch	Distance	Opening Hours	Services Available
Shaftesbury	8.5 miles	Mon - Fri 9am - 4.30pm* Sat 9am - 12.30pm	External ATM
Blandford Forum	9 miles	Mon - Fri 9am - 4.30pm* Sat 9am - 12.30pm	External ATM
Sherborne	12.1 miles	Mon - Fri 9am - 4.30pm* Sat 9am - 12.30pm	External ATM

We're introducing a Mobile Branch service in the local area which we will look to have in place upon closure of the branch.

24/7 Telephone Banking
0800 404 6161
Online/Mobile banking
Natwest.com/waystobank



* Opening deferred by 30 mins on a Wednesday

For Online Banking you need to be aged 11 or over and have a NatWest account. Please note that system updates may mean that Online Banking is unavailable for short periods of time in the early hours of the morning. To use Mobile Banking you need to have registered for Online Banking, have a NatWest personal account with a debit card and have a mainland UK mobile number starting 07. To make payments using Mobile simply set up and make your first payment to each new payee in Online Banking beforehand. Telephone banking is available to NatWest personal customers aged 16 or over with a current or savings account.



Customer and Community Engagement

We have taken an open and transparent approach to communicate and actively engage with our Personal and Local Business customers and also the wider local community, to ensure they are aware of the alternative ways to bank with us in the local area, and to answer any questions they might have.

We wrote to our customers who regularly use the branch to give them at least 12 weeks notice of the closure, and also displayed posters in the branch throughout the notice period.

In addition to writing to our customers, we also contacted the following people and organisations to make them aware and to understand if they wanted to discuss the decision and alternative ways to bank, or if they needed any help.



Newspapers

Contacted

Dorset Echo,
Bournemouth Echo



Post Office

Contacted

Sturminster
Newton Post
Office



MP

Contacted

Simon Hoare
MP



Local Groups

Contacted

Citizens Advice
Bureau
Age UK
Federation of Small
Businesses
Community Money
Advice
Alzheimer's Society
Dorset Community
Action
FDCU

Our local branch and business teams have proactively looked to contact over 200 of our most active customers and those who are potentially most reliant on the branch. As a result of these discussions we have been able to personally discuss what this means for them and the most appropriate alternative services.

We have received 20 enquiries and 5 complaints as a result of this decision. We have contacted each customer to discuss their concerns.

Conclusion

The decision to close NatWest Sturminster Newton branch has not been taken lightly and careful consideration has been given to the alternative banking services available. Since the announcement has been made we have engaged with our customers and the wider community to listen to their feedback and understand the impact.

Customer Themes

- ❑ The new Mobile Bank is something that many people are pleased about, but they do not feel it is as good as having the actual branch.
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We have undertaken the following activities in response to the key areas of concern:

- ❑ Our customers will be able to access the majority of services that they can in the existing branch using our new Mobile Bank. We have arranged for the Mobile Bank to be available before the branch closes, so that our customers can visit the Mobile Bank and try the services available. We engaged with the local community to agree the best time and location each week for the Mobile Bank to be available. Following our engagement, we have agreed that the Mobile Bank will be available from 2.05pm until 3.05pm every Friday, and will stop at Station Road car park.
- ❑ Where relevant, we have also helped our customers with setting up and using online banking, and have encouraged them to visit our nearest branch.

Following our community engagement and Impact Assessment, we are confident that we have appropriate services in place to ensure our customers have sufficient access to banking locally.

NatWest Sturminster Newton branch will therefore close as planned on 28th July 2016. Our branch staff and Mark Dulwich Local CEO, are available to answer any further questions that our customers or the community may have.