

# Benfleet branch closure 24/05/2018



Help and support for  
personal and business customers

Facts are correct as at  
13/02/2018



NatWest

## Customer and Community Engagement following closure announcement

We wrote to customers of Benfleet to inform them of the planned decision to close the branch on the 24/05/2018. We contacted the following organisations and people in the community to discuss the decision:

■ Rebecca Harris MP

■ Vulnerable , elderly & regular customers contacted

We have had the following feedback since we announced the closure of the Benfleet branch:

20 Enquiries\*

0 Complaints\*

The main themes were:

- Customers have said that the reason they're unhappy about the decision to close the branch is they will have to travel further to do their banking.
- Customers have said that the reason they're unhappy about the decision to close the branch is that it has always been a busy branch.
- Customers are concerned that they don't understand the services we offer at the Post Office.

Here's what we've said and done:

- Our local branch team have contacted customers to discuss their individual circumstances and ongoing banking requirements, and have offered help and support with the most suitable ways to bank in the local area.
- We met with the local postmaster and the Post Office to make sure they're ready for the local demand. We've also spoken to everyone who said they were concerned.

**NatWest Benfleet branch will close as planned on 24/05/2018. Our branch staff are available to answer any further questions that you may have. For any further questions or concerns following the closure please contact your Local CEO: Si Allen, 07831 660 375; [si.allen@natwest.com](mailto:si.allen@natwest.com)**

## Access to Banking Standards

NatWest is fully committed to the industry-wide Access to Banking Standards introduced by UK Finance in May 2017. This document provides key information about the actions banks must undertake when a decision to close a branch is made.

For further information on the Access to Banking Standards please visit –

[www.ukfinance.org.uk/high-street-banks-announce-new-access-to-banking-standard/](http://www.ukfinance.org.uk/high-street-banks-announce-new-access-to-banking-standard/)

\*Any expression of dissatisfaction about any aspect of our relationship with our customers where the complainant is alleging to have suffered or may suffer financial loss, material inconvenience or material loss.

\*An enquiry is any question that can be answered immediately, at first point of contact.

## Nearest NatWest branches to bank

Branch	Address	Opening hours * Wednesday 10am	
Basildon 4.3 miles	29 East Walk, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1HD	Mon to Fri* Sat	9am to 5pm 9am to 3.30pm
Rayleigh 5.0 miles	43 High Street, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7EW	Mon to Fri* Sat	9am to 4.30pm 9am to 12.30pm
Leigh-on-Sea Broadway 5.0 miles	58 Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 1AF	Mon to Fri* Sat	9am to 4.30pm 9am to 12.30pm

## Business customers

We have a range of business services available. We are investing in automation in our branch network, to improve the pay-in facilities to help our customers with their banking. Your relationship contact will provide you with details of the invested branch(es) convenient to your location. Business customers can use our mobile app, Bankline or online banking to manage their accounts and payments, 24/7. There are also courier solutions available to our customers including Bank to You, for business customers wanting to save time visiting an alternative branch, Mobile Branch or Post Office<sup>®</sup>. Speak to your regular point of contact to find out more.

## Local Post Offices<sup>®</sup>

As a NatWest customer you can get a balance, make withdrawals using your debit card and PIN and pay in cash and cheques with a pre-printed paying-in slip at any Post Office<sup>®</sup>.

Business customers can also use Post Offices<sup>®</sup> to make cheque deposits and cash deposits of up to £2,000 with a pre-printed paying-in slip, debit card withdrawals of up to £500. They can register with their Relationship Manager for a change-giving service, nominating a Post Office<sup>®</sup> of their choice for this service. Standard charges will apply for business customers as if they were using a NatWest branch.

Branch	Distance	Opening hours*	
Great Tarpots	0.0 miles	Mon to Sun	7am to 9pm
Thundersley	1.4 miles	Mon to Fri Sat	8.30am to 6.30pm 9am to 1.30pm
New Hopes Green	1.4 miles	Mon to Sat Sun	7am to 10pm 10am to 4pm

\* Please check with your local Post Office<sup>®</sup> to confirm banking open times.

# Closest free-to-use cash machines

## Cash machine

There are a number of free-to-use cash machines within two miles including:

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NatWest, 124 London Road, Benfleet

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Cardtronics, The Cooperative, 119 - 123 London Road, South Benfleet

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Tesco, 92 London Road, South Benfleet

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## Help with banking queries

Your Community Banker Toni Jean Baptiste is able to provide you with face-to-face support, whether you want help with everyday banking or need a hand achieving your financial goals. To contact your Community Banker email [toni.jeanbaptiste@natwest.com](mailto:toni.jeanbaptiste@natwest.com) or call 07711 763 128.

## Video Banking

Customers can also use our Video Banking service allowing you to meet a personal banking advisor without having to visit the branch. To find out more and book an appointment visit [natwest.com/waystobank](http://natwest.com/waystobank).

## Help with banking online or on your mobile

Our NatWest TechXperts are on hand to help you with Online Banking in the lead up to the branch closure. So, if you need a hand getting online or want to know how to use our Mobile Banking app, just ask.

## Glossary of terms:

- Counter transaction – a service activity carried out by a customer in branch with a representative of the bank e.g. cash deposit, cash withdrawal, cheque deposit.
- TechXpert – experts in branch to support and educate customers on the use of alternative ways to bank including mobile and online banking.
- Community Banker – professionally qualified bankers who meet our customers where it's most convenient for them, supporting their understanding of how to manage their finances and explaining the many ways to bank while offering help and advice on online security and how to keep their money safe.
- Day-to-day banking – customers making use of in-branch services such as cash deposits, cash withdrawals, cheque deposits.
- Mobile/online transaction – a transfer, payment or amendment to a payment via the mobile app or online banking.
- LCEO – a Local Chief Executive Officer is responsible for overseeing and managing a number of branches across a set geographical area.
- Active customers regularly using a branch – customers who use branch services at least once a week over a six-month period.
- Get Cash – a function on our mobile banking app that lets customers withdraw money quickly without using their bank card.
- Bankline – allows customers to manage multiple business accounts, see all transactions in real time and make secure domestic and international payments.
- Bank to You – a cash collection and delivery service available to non-personal customers.

# The way we bank is changing

More and more people are choosing to do their banking online, with our Mobile Banking app, or over the phone. It's more convenient to do it at a time and place that suits you, rather than come into branch. This means some branches are being used a lot less than they used to be.

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- Branch usage is down 40% since 2014\*
  - 1.1 billion mobile and online transactions in first half of 2017 – an increase of 41% since the second half of 2014\*
  - Number of customers using our mobile app up by 43% since 2014\*
  - Mobile transactions up by 73% since 2014 – with 3,531 logins per minute to our app in Q3 2017\*

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\*Data inclusion: Royal Bank of Scotland, NatWest and Ulster Bank Northern Ireland.

## How we decide to close a branch

Closing a branch is a decision we take very seriously. Since 2012 in Benfleet we have seen the following:

- Counter transactions have reduced by 22%
- Only 94 customers are using the branch on a regular basis. Of these customers 50% also use other branches
- A total of 7788 customers visited the branch in the last six months.
- Of these customers 77% also choose to bank online, via telephony or at an ATM

### **We also consider a range of local factors over a long period (June 2012-2017)**

- How customers are choosing to bank with us
- How often customers are using the branch and what transactions they are doing
- Impact on customers who currently use the branch
- Other options available to customers including online, mobile, telephony, Webchat, cash machines, Video Banking and everyday banking services that can be done at local Post Offices®
- The proximity of our other branches, including our network of mobile branches
- Local transport routes and timetables

## We'll help you with other ways to bank

This leaflet outlines your options when this branch closes. If you have any questions, please let us know and we'll do all we can to help.

# Other ways to do your everyday banking



## Mobile Banking app

- Check balances, transfer money between accounts
- Get Cash out using just your mobile phone
- Pay bills, and other people, up to £250

App available to customers with Online Banking and a UK or international mobile number in specific countries. Get Cash has a maximum withdrawal limit of £130 every 24 hours (£10 to be available in your account). To pay bills, someone new or pay your contacts, limits apply and you need to be 16 or over.



## Online Banking (personal and business customers)

All the features of Mobile Banking, plus you can:

- Download free security software for your PC or Mac
- See statements going back seven years
- Set up email or text alerts
- Business customers can also use Bankline to manage multiple accounts

**Find out more at [natwest.com/waystobank](https://natwest.com/waystobank)**



## Telephone Banking (personal and business customers)

**Call 03457 88 84 44**

(Minicom 0800 404 6161) Personal banking

**Call 03457 11 44 77**

(Minicom 0800 404 6161) Business banking



## Braille, large print or audio format?

If you'd like this information in another format, call us on **03457 24 24 24** (Minicom 0800 404 6160)

Online Banking available to customers aged 11 or over with a NatWest account. Business Online Banking is available to those aged 18 or over and have a NatWest account. There is no monthly charge for using Online Banking, however there are charges for certain transactions (such as international transfers). Calls may be recorded for Telephone Banking.