

Dec meeting

Council Motion

Edenderry Town Council calls on the Government to recognise the vital role of the postal service in Ireland and its particular importance in rural Ireland as a means of communication, as a vital economic service and as an intrinsic part of the fabric of the community. Reaching every corner of the country and by delivering to every front door An Post is an essential partner in the business and social life of the country. Postmen and women provide an important public service and also function as an integral part of the social fabric of their community, particularly for elderly and isolated citizens for whom they may be the only regular human contact.

Our postal service has a social and an economic value which must be properly protected by Government in the legislation to open the postal market to full competition. An Post has a universal service obligation which obliges it to provide a single price service regardless of location, cross subsidising the loss making rural services from profitable urban routes. The legislation must protect against unfair 'cherry picking' where competitors will compete only on the profitable urban routes. This will lead to a reduction in income from profitable routes, endangering the viability of rural services which depend on them and collapse the Universal Service Obligation.

As Ireland prepares to liberalise its postal market it is essential that the Government acknowledges this important public service, ensures that the Universal Service Obligation is protected by legislation and does not allow the opening of the market to lead to a reduction in services, wide spread job losses and social dumping as has happened in other countries who have already opened their postal market to competition.

Clia Noel Giblin