



Closure of the last bank in Sowerby Bridge

A snapshot of business responses

27th April, 2018

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1. Method and Summary of findings

This short survey was conducted over just 4 days by emailing 100 businesses in Sowerby Bridge and by using social media. 21 businesses responded. 17 came from the HX6 post code 2 from HX2 and one from HD2

Questions asked were:

- Did you know Halifax bank (the last bank) was closing in Sowerby Bridge?
- Will this affect your business?
- If YES to above, please say how?
- If NO why does the closure not affect your business?
- Whether you use the bank or not, do you think it has a use in the community?
- Any other comments on the bank closure?

The results were:

- The majority 71% knew that the Bank was closing, so it was well publicised or highlighted
- 43% (9) said the closure would affect their business
- Those that said it would not affect them (11) 81% (9) did not bank there
- Of those saying the bank closure would affect them 40% (4) said they bank there regularly, 70% (7) said that they need to deposit or withdraw cash 20%(2) pay bills there 20% (2) need to talk to staff about their account. Just one paid cheques in.
- 95% of respondents said that whether they banked there or not they believed that the bank was a community resource which was useful.
- 13 respondents made personal comments.

2. Background & Aims

Background:

UCVR works with all the business networks in the Calder Valley and has recently conducted a survey in Sowerby Bridge to ascertain the needs of businesses wishing to network. In that process a significant number of businesses provided contact details.

We became aware of the need for some relatively quick intelligence on the businesses response to the closure of Halifax bank, the last bank in Sowerby Bridge, and so we conducted a further short, snapshot survey of those businesses on our database. We also promoted the survey on social media.

Aims:

The aim of the survey was to see how the closure might affect businesses in the Sowerby Bridge area.

Questionnaire Design:

It was designed to get the basic answers about usage and importance (or not) of a bank in the community.

The survey was open from Monday 23rd April until midnight on Thursday 26th April 2018.

3. Individual comments (13)

“Sad day. Look at Elland now. Ghost town with no bank. Sowerby Bridge goes same way.”

“I strongly feel we need a local (i.e. not having to trek into Halifax) personal point of contact for services like banks as the impersonal phone or internet banking (whilst fine for most things) is not suitable for some things.”

“Losing the banks is demising the community”

“Personal accounts there and need to go in sometimes.”

“I think it will indicate that Sowerby Bridge business will be killed.”

“The Halifax originated in 1779 to serve the people of this area. It is the only bank in Sowerby Bridge and not all generations have the facility of on line banking. It is a service to the community which should be maintained.”

“It will definitely reduce the footfall affecting all the local shops reducing their takings and making it difficult to trade. I speak from experience. The bank and post office in the village of Ripponden Sowerby Bridge where my shop is based closed down and it's left me struggling just being able to pay the bills.”

“It is a shame that banks are closing at such a dramatic rate, but I guess they are only doing them because less and less people are using them. It's bad news for the people that do use them, but also for towns like Sowerby Bridge that now have another empty building - and both the Halifax & the former Lloyds bank building are both lovely and substantial buildings.”

“Less foot-fall in the town this has been very evident after the Lloyds bank closed last may especially on my bakery business Sowerby Bridge will be a ghost town shortly if nothing is done to support the businesses.”

“I bank at Lloyds which recently closed. I have to go to town now to make cash deposits and the bank is always too busy - time and money wasted”

“An individual can still bank with Halifax and pay money in using a paying in book and the post office. In current times banks are going to get fewer on the high street especially in more localised areas due to overheads”

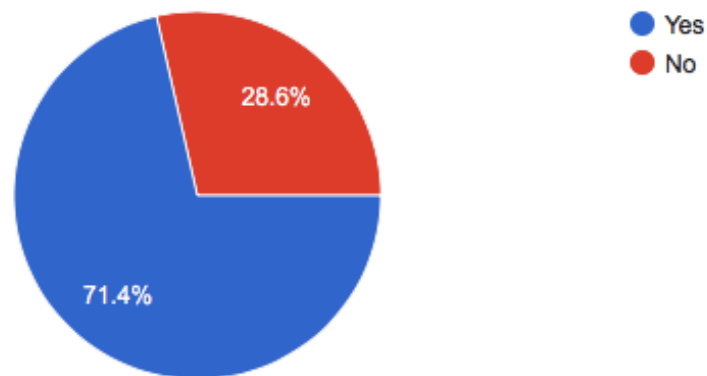
“It will mean that the nearest bank will now be in Halifax, a lot of pensioners and people who work will now have to travel further. We used to have a bank in Ripponden and two in Sowerby Bridge but we will soon have none! People travelling further, more congestion in our Town, how is this saving the planet ?!”

“Diabolical”

4. Results in graphic form

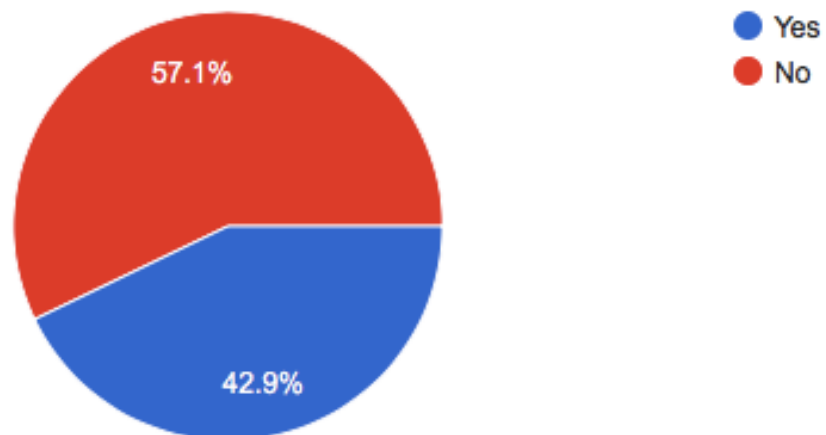
Did you know Halifax bank (the last bank) was closing in Sowerby Bridge?

21 responses



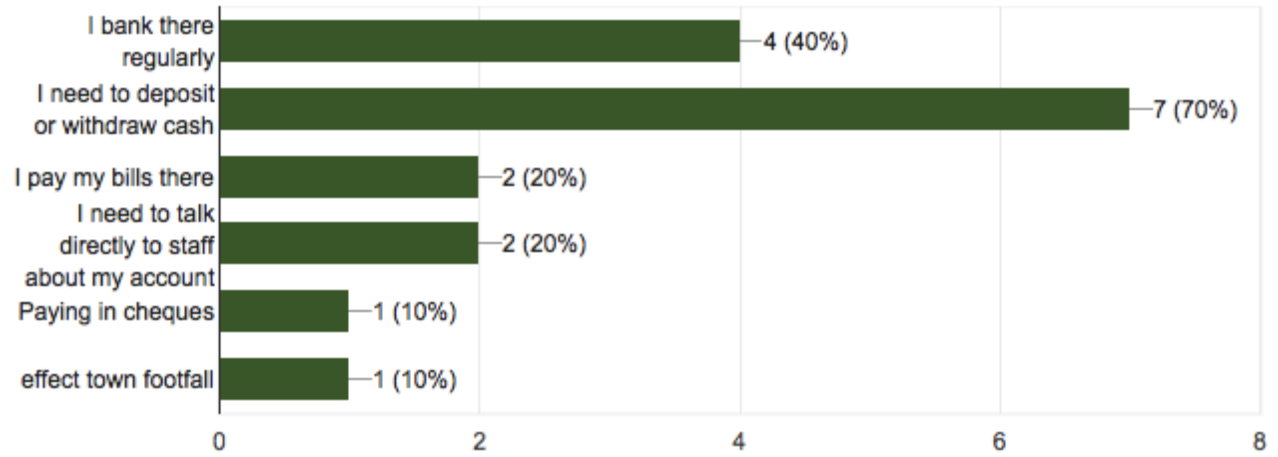
Will this affect your business?

21 responses



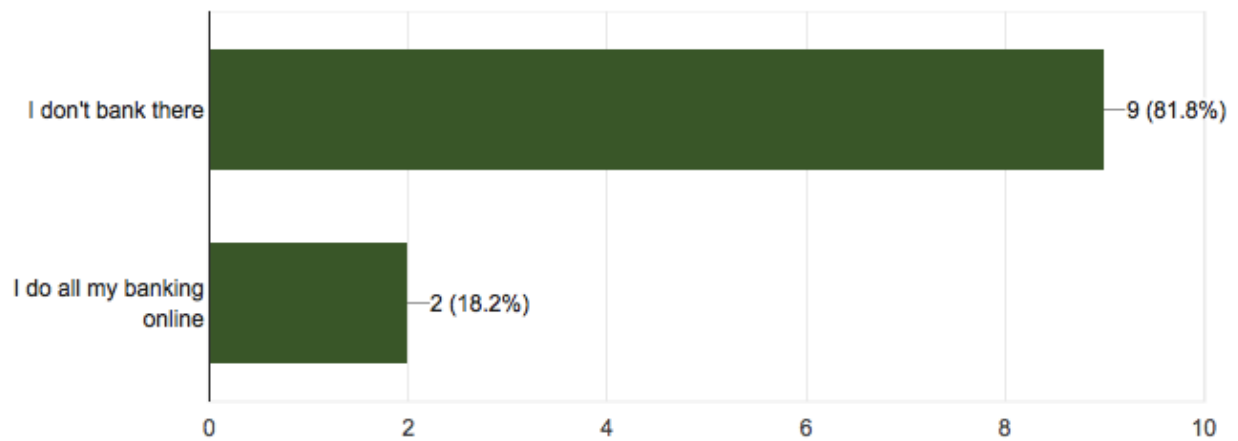
If YES to above please say how:

10 responses



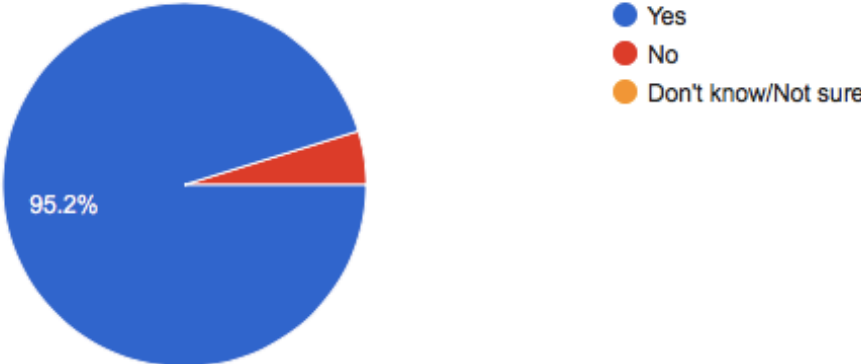
If NO why does the closure not affect your business?

11 responses



Whether you use the bank or not, do you think it has a use in the community?

21 responses



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