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Residents of Bruisyard who want to set up their own postal service. John Gibb, back row left to right Teresa and John Mckee and Peter Robinson posting a letter

Photograph: SIMON PARKER



First-class plan for village post

MAIL: May bid to create their own service

By David Green

VILLAGERS are considering setting up their own postal service – because of dissatisfaction with Royal Mail.

The sorting office for the service, at Bruisyard, near Framlingham, could be a new community hall – due to be completed in 2009.

The sparsely populated village has two post boxes with daily collections but, as with many other “deep rural” areas, Royal Mail does not specify a collection time, only that it will be before 4 pm.

John Gibb, a member of the local village hall committee, said: “Bruisyard is classified as ‘deep rural’ by the Royal Mail. This sinister sounding classification means, amongst other things, that accurate collection times no longer have to be adhered to and they can collect any time between 9am and 4pm.

“If you’re elderly, you have no knowledge of whether the post has been collected or not.”

Local resident, Rachel Marten, who currently runs cub scout groups in the area, believes the new community hall might be used as a centre from which volunteers could distribute local mail.

“Bruisyard covers a wide area and we are looking at the practicalities of running a postal service for the elderly and disabled and those who find it difficult and expensive to use the postal services.

“We’re looking at a system of collecting mail from the older residents and distributing it locally by hand or posting it for them,” she said.

Mrs Marten and her husband, John, said the new hall project would provide the opportunity to do a great deal of good for the community and involve young people.

“During the building we will encourage local kids to help in coun-

try work like tree planting and ditch clearing and all activities which will make them more aware and appreciative of their surroundings,” Mrs Marten said.

She and her husband are also considering other uses for the hall such as courses in cookery and food hygiene and basic computer courses for local residents.

“There is a desperate need for a site where people from Bruisyard can meet and join in community activities. This will put the heart back in the village,” Mrs Marten said.

A Royal Mail spokesman said the frequency of letter collections was based on usage of the post boxes.

“The volume of mail at Bruisyard justifies only one collection a day and before 4pm but there are later collections at both Framlingham and Saxmundham,” he said.

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