

I knew nothing of the proposed Royal Mail 'Delivery to Neighbour' scheme until they delivered a flier with my post this morning, Wed 29 August. The Royal Mail website does not make it easy to express an opinion of the scheme, one way or the other, to them directly - though I shall be returning shortly to the site in order to make another attempt. Your preferred option of feedback, the 'online response form', was 'closed' last Friday, 25 August. How was I supposed to have known enough, or indeed anything, about the scheme in order to have my say?

Which, for what it's worth, is this. I can understand the economies to be made by delivering parcels to neighbours and therefore not having to deal with customer queries and re-deliveries, but why can't the system just operate, as it used to, by using the decency, common sense and honesty of the postmen and women currently doing such a good job? They're perfectly capable of asking someone if they wouldn't mind take in a parcel for a neighbour and, given a supply of cards, leaving a message to that effect with the addressee's mail! Do we *really* have to *legislate* for neighbourliness and, in the process, *force* people to opt out and cause tacky stickers to be displayed on front doors across the land? There is no need for these trials, these reports, these consultations. No need to make this scheme a rule ... IT SHOULD ALREADY BE PART OF THE SERVICE.