



Local businessmen Peter Crouch, Myles Irvine, Virinder Pathak (aka Pat) and Deepak are angry about Barclays Bank closing.

Business owners' anger over plans to close their bank

BUSINESS owners have reacted with anger to plans to close the only bank in Hampton Court.

The East Molesey branch of Barclays in Wolsey Road will shut at the end of November, leaving account holders with a one-mile trek to the nearest Barclays bank in West Molesey.

Myles Irvine, who runs Riverside Gym on Hampton Court Parade, warned that the decision would have a major impact on businesses and shops.

"Most of the people I have spoken to are very unhappy as many of us bank there as there is nowhere else.

"I understood that Barclays said they would never close the branch as they had some high-value business accounts, but now they can get away with it as there is no longer any competition.

"If there was another bank near to them, they would not have thought of doing it. It is a pretty cynical decision.

"As a business, you need a bank as you do not want cheques or cash hanging about the place and you need change.

"We are going to have to hold bigger floats."

Mr Irvine said he had been informed of the decision to

close the branch in a letter and criticised Barclays for failing to take on the views of customers.

"They do not seem to give a stuff and they have made the decision without consultation," he said.

The bank will shut its doors for the last time on November 28, with the two members of staff transferred to other branches.

Danny Reardon, Barclays head of community relations for the London and Southern region, said that proper consideration had been given to whether the branch could continue.

"The decision to close the

branch has not been taken lightly and is based on a number of factors — customer usage, catchment area and branch facilities," he said.

"Customer accounts will automatically be transferred and customers are able to use our branch in West Molesey, which is around one mile away, or any of our other nearby branches, including Kingston, Surbiton and Teddington.

"We also have arrangements in place to allow our personal customers to use post office facilities for paying in cash and withdrawing money and for paying bills."