

20 November 2007

Concern grows as Government prepares to identify Post Offices set for closure

Kris Hopkins, the Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Keighley and Ilkley, has repeated his concern that rural life will be adversely affected with elderly and disabled citizens put at greatest disadvantage if the Government proceeds with plans to close up to four Post Offices across the constituency.

Post Office Ltd – the body charged by the Government with handling the closures – is due to inform Bradford Council next week which Post Offices in Keighley and Ilkley have been identified to shut.

Meanwhile, despite newspaper reports that several local Post Offices have received letters saying they will not form part of the closure programme, Cllr Hopkins has warned that such assurances will be worthless if Post Office Ltd take a different view at a national level from the recommendations made locally.

And in a separate development, Cllr Hopkins revealed that 95% of people who voted in the first online poll on his new personal website said they supported the Keighley and Ilkley Conservatives' campaign against the closures.

He commented:

"I am completely opposed to the Government's plans and my resolve to continue the campaign against them is stronger now than ever.

"This Labour Government simply does not understand the difficulties these closures pose for local people, particularly those residents who find it most difficult to get around.

"I understand several sub Postmasters in Keighley and Ilkley have received letters saying their Post Offices are safe. However, the consultation process still has two months to run so I would urge caution on their part.

“The bottom line is that this Government has already overseen the closure of three of our Post Offices in Keighley and Ilkley since it came to power and we simply cannot afford to lose any more.

“The poll on my website shows the local Conservative campaign to back our Post Offices has strong support and this is very welcome.”

ENDS