

13 February 2008

MP should “hang her head in shame” as Post Offices prepare to close

Keighley Labour MP Ann Cryer “should hang her head in shame” after failing to campaign to protect four local Post Offices in the constituency from closure, Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Keighley and Ilkley Kris Hopkins has said.

Post Offices at Bradford Road in Stockbridge, East Morton, Highfield in Keighley and Leeds Road in Ilkley have now received final letters from Post Office Ltd confirming they will be forced to shut in the next few weeks as part of Government plans to close 2,500 branches across the country.

A consultation exercise on plans to shut more than 20 more Post Offices in the rest of Bradford district will begin in May after the Government delayed the process until after the local elections.

“I have been campaigning hard for well over a year now against the closures in Keighley and Ilkley,” said Cllr Hopkins, “and only in recent weeks when the identity of the four condemned Post Offices became known did the local MP feel obliged to comment on the issue.”

“Even then, rather than risk offending her Labour colleagues in Westminster, Mrs Cryer tried to defend the closures on cost grounds.

“The fact is, these closures will have an extremely damaging impact on local people and force older and disabled residents to travel to much less convenient locations to transact their business – if they can get there at all.

“Yes, Post Offices are businesses but they are also community resources and that is why the loss of these four branches in Keighley and Ilkley is so damaging.

“Ann Cryer has spectacularly failed to represent the wishes of her constituents on this issue and should hang her head in shame.”

ENDS