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Hopkins critical of Labour MPs over Post Office closures

Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Keighley and Ilkley Kris Hopkins has criticised Bradford district's Labour MPs for failing to support a move to suspend the Government's Post Office closure programme.

Shipley Conservative MP Philip Davies was the only one of the district's five Members of Parliament to support last night's House of Commons motion which would have halted the Government's plans to shut more than 2,500 branches across the country.

Bradford Labour MPs Gerry Sutcliffe, Terry Rooney and Marsha Singh supported the continuing closure programme with Keighley and Ilkley MP Ann Cryer failing to vote.

Four Post Offices in Keighley and Ilkley have already been served with notices to shut. Branches in Bradford district's four remaining Parliamentary constituencies will discover their fate after the May 1st local elections following the Government's insistence on a short delay to the closure timetable in an attempt to avoid greater damage at the polls.

Kris Hopkins commented:

"Local people feel hugely let down by the failure of Labour MPs and councillors to represent their views on this issue. Post Offices are a cherished community resource across the district and the loss of so many will have an extremely damaging impact on thousands of residents, particularly the elderly and disabled.

"The Commons vote presented our district's Labour MPs with the chance to halt the closure programme and allow time for a better way forward to be found. Sadly this was an opportunity each one of them failed to take, just as their party colleagues on Bradford Council failed to support Conservative moves to show our united opposition to the closures.

"Labour is failing to represent the views of local people and this is a message that more and more people across the district are becoming increasingly aware of."

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