

27 September 2007

Local Conservatives to launch petition against Post Office closures

Kris Hopkins, the Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Ilkley, will be accompanied by a number of senior party members from the town on Saturday morning (29th) when he launches a petition to save local Post Offices from closure.

The petition, which demands that the Government scraps its plans to close up to four Post offices in the Keighley and Ilkley constituency, will be presented to Ministers and Post Offices bosses in London later this autumn.

Local Conservatives are also concerned that Keighley and Ilkley is the only constituency in West Yorkshire forced to take part in the first wave of consultations as part of the Government's plans to close more than 2,500 Post Offices nationwide by the end of 2008. All other West Yorkshire constituencies will join much of the rest of the UK in going through this process next year.

Cllr Kris Hopkins, who also leads the Conservative Group on Bradford Council, commented:

"The Labour Government has been responsible for shutting down more than 4,000 Post Offices over the last ten years and we believe enough is enough.

"Post Offices are the lifeblood of communities like Ilkley and the closure of even more outlets would have an extremely negative impact on people's lives, in particular elderly and disabled residents.

"Rumours have been allowed to circulate that only very unprofitable Post Offices will be made to close but that is certainly not the case –even the most vibrant Post Offices are at risk.

"I hope the people of Ilkley will come out and show support for their local Post Offices on Saturday."

ENDS