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Hopkins backs “Keep Trade Local” campaign

Keighley and Ilkley Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Kris Hopkins has thrown his weight behind a new campaign to secure the future of small shops and protect competition and consumer choice in the market place.

The Federation of Small Businesses “Keep Trade Local” campaign was launched in the wake of a report published by the House of Commons All-Party Small Shops Group which estimated that, at the current rate of closure, there would be no independent retailers left in the UK by 2015 – equating to a loss of 50,000 small businesses.

“Small shops in Keighley and Ilkley and right across the country are struggling to survive in the face of poorly thought out Government policies and inadequate protection from aggressive supermarkets by the competition authorities,” said Cllr Hopkins.

“The disappearance of independent retailers from our towns and villages would have a devastating impact on these communities and it is important that a stand is taken now to prevent this happening.

“I support the call by the Federation of Small Businesses for the creation of an independent regulator to ensure that local retail planning decisions do not have a negative effect on the interests of local communities.

“Equally, whilst I believe in the free market, I think that the practice of below cost selling by supermarkets should be made illegal.

“Whilst prices should be fair, the decimation of all our independent retailers is simply too high a price to pay.”

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