

Friends of Rippingale Post Office

Threatened closure of Rippingale PO a double disaster for the village

The Post Office Ltd has announced the compulsory closure of the local PO in the village of Rippingale near Bourne. - a double blow for the village which is just coming to terms with the closure last month of its Primary School.

Local residents have said "enough is enough," and formed an action group to campaign for their Post Office to remain open.

Phil Rippingale (correct) for the Friends of Rippingale Post Office said "We don't understand on what basis Post Office Ltd came to this decision - the figures don't add up.

And local bus services simply can't meet the needs of people without a car to get to the alternatives suggested by Post Office Ltd. - Pointon and Folkingham. We now discover that Folkingham PO is also to close, which tells you something about the quality of Post Office Ltd information - and where are THEY now going to go for PO services? The closure of our local school has put more people on the road already - I don't know what this latest news will do for the Government's carbon footprint policies.

But the worst thing is where this leaves the elderly and those without their own transport - where and when are they going to get their pensions, pay their Council tax and utility bills, buy stamps and send their letters and parcel?. There are also several businesses in the village which rely on Post Office services .

PO Ltd have offered four alternative services - a mobile shop which comes at set times, what's called a Hosted Service and a Partner Service in local premises such as the pub, or a Home Service - where people can order services by phone. We don't regard any of these limited services as viable alternatives to what we have now - an excellent and heavily used Post Office, through Simon Deane, in our village shop, at the centre of our community.

And it's not just our village - Aslackby, Dunsby, Dowsby and Kirby Underwood are all officially in the customer area of Rippingale Post Office."

The Friends have organised a petition against the closure, are appealing to villagers to write to Post Office Ltd, to their MP, to the Prime Minister and David Cameron. A public meeting is being planned and other action considered. Our e-petition to the Prime Minister's website has been approved by No.10 - go to <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Rippingale/>

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Contacts - Jim Latham - 01778-440025/07971-579977 - sec@bjtc.org.uk
Phil Rippingale - 01778-440204 - philrippingale@btinternet.com
info@RippingaleVillage.co.uk