

Friends of Rippingale Post Office Press Release

Nick Boles may join protest walk on Wednesday October 17

If Rippingale Post Office were to close, the nearest alternative is Morton – more than 3 miles away – down the busy and potentially dangerous A15 – no paths and heavily used by cars, heavy goods vehicles and farm traffic.

Most people who live in Rippingale could drive to Morton but many are without personal transport and available buses only run on Thursdays.

So this Wednesday villagers plan to walk to Morton to focus attention on just how daft the PO Ltd proposal is. And the new Tory PPC for Grantham and Stamford, Nick Boles, says he'll do his best to join them. Martin Hill, leader of Lincolnshire County Council will definitely be one of the walkers.

Friends of Rippingale PO are appealing for as many people as possible to join the protest – over 100 people are expected to make the walk.

Phil Rippingale from the campaign group said, "It doesn't matter if they're not fit enough to complete the walk – that makes our point even more strongly – if they can only make it to the end of the High Street or in a mobility scooter, they'll still be VERY welcome.

We'll have transport available to pick them up and bring everyone home – even those scooters if they run out of power. We would like some of them at least to complete the trip and buy a stamp at Morton PO, then we'll take them back home by car, though if our PO were to close we'd be talking about 6 mile round trip."

Lincolnshire Police will attend to provide safety cover and will have police vehicles both ahead and behind the walking group, as well as Community Officers walking with them..

They will monitor traffic and allow any build-up to pass safely.

Phil Rippingale said "We want everyone to act responsibly if they join the walk – we do NOT want any accidents – particularly in the worst sections of the route – Ringstone Hill/Dunsby Wood and the approach to Morton – both are very narrow.

He appealed to walkers to dress sensibly for the weather and wear suitable footwear for a three mile walk.

The protest starts at 10.30 am this Wednesday (October 17) at Rippingale Post Office.

Directions – Rippingale is on the A15 north of Bourne in Lincolnshire – from the south take the first signposted turn to the right into the High Street, down to The Bull public house – please park vehicles in the The Bull car park. From the north come down the A15 from Folkingham and take the second signposted turning left into the High Street and please park vehicles in The Bull car park. From the Bull, turn right keeping the churchyard on your left and take the first turning left – Middle Street – and you'll see the village store and PO – it's about 150 yards.

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