

## Press Release

### Rippingale challenges PO Ltd to a public meeting

The village of Rippingale in Lincolnshire has thrown down a challenge to the man responsible for the plan to close its Post Office, to address a public meeting on November 6.

Residents want Mark Partington, the PO "Network Development Manager" who signed the East Midlands Area Closure Plan, to face them and come clean over the information used to reach his decision.

"We don't want just anyone from the team of "Network Development Managers," or one of the "National Consultation Team," or one of the PO "External Relations Team," - we want Mark Partington, from the "Network Implementation Team," based in Bristol, " says Phil Rippingale (correct) one of the Friends of Rippingale Post Office.

We have already drawn attention to the litany of errors, dishonesty, bad faith, manipulation of access criteria, out-of-date and inaccurate information, lack of business vision and ignorance of County and District housing expansion plans, displayed thus far in the closure process.

As the people who are going to suffer the consequences of a decision we believe has already been reached, in spite of what's claimed to be a public consultation exercise, we have no faith whatsoever that other vital local factors such as availability of public transport, local demographics or impact on the local economy, will be treated any differently.

We believe our Post Office, where business has increased significantly this year, since complete refurbishment, could be a healthy asset in the national Post Office future.

And we simply cannot understand why Rippingale is on the closure list when at least three others in the district patently fail to meet Government-set access criteria.

Consultation is a two-way process. "We believe we have the right to be told the truth and that Post Office Ltd. - subsidised by taxpayers' money - our money - should come out from behind its wall of anonymity, meet real people, open its books and justify its decision," said Phil Rippingale.

The recently launched Post Office tv campaign claims, "We have the trust of the public - we can't let 'em down," - a line used with no apparent sense of irony whatsoever.

The people of Rippingale say that Mr Partington has a few amends to make before he earns their trust, but he could go at least part of the way by facing them in their Village Hall on November 6.

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