

Michael Legg, Network Project Team Supervisor, Postwatch
Roseleen Bonner, Regional Executive, Postwatch
David Cameron, MP, HM Opposition Leader
Quentin Davies MP
Nick Boles, Conservative PCC, Stamford and Grantham
Martin Hill, Leader, Lincolnshire County Council
Peter Morris, Vice Chair, Lincolnshire Liberal Democrats
Mark Partington, PO Network Development Manager
Matt Silcock, PO Senior External Relations Manager
Michael Dalton, PO External Relations Team
Press, Radio and TV

Dear Mr. Partington,

The village of Rippingale in Lincolnshire is throwing down a challenge to you to address a public meeting on November 6 in our village hall and to come clean over information used to reach your decision to close our Post Office.

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 you, Mark Partington, from the "Network Implementation Team," based in Bristol. You will know that we have already drawn attention to the litany of errors, dishonesty, bad faith, manipulation of access criteria, out-of-date and inaccurate information, lack of business vision and ignorance of County and District housing expansion plans, displayed thus far in the closure process.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.

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 you, Mr Partington, have a few amends to make before you earn their trust, but you could go at least part of the way by facing us in our Village Hall on November 6.

Jim Latham
017788-440025/07971-579977
24.10.07.