

Lincolnshire villages join forces to fight Post Office closure plan
Judicial Review a national aim

Two Lincolnshire villages have joined forces and more are set to join them from round the country, at the start of what's hoped will become a national movement to fight Post Office closures.

Rippingale and Castle Bytham are both still awaiting news of Post Office plans for their PO branches after weeks of delay and broken promises.

They expect to be joined by several more villages in Lincolnshire and other counties in the next few days.

Phil Rippingale, for the Friends of Rippingale PO said "Our village, Castle Bytham and others we've contacted have almost identical stories to tell and have been treated in almost exactly the same way - told weeks before the public consultation period even started that our branches would close, with no appeal and that in effect the public consultation was a complete sham. PO Ltd now deny this ever happened. Other parts of the country will soon be facing the same approach and we think they will benefit from our experiences."

Deidre Pausey from the Castle Bytham support group said "We're actively looking towards a Judicial Review of this whole nonsensical closure plan - and we're getting substantial support for this. We have to stop this PO propaganda about financial losses driving branch closures - very few of the branches who fit those criteria are being selected. The Post Office is relying on them closing naturally AFTER they close 2500 - the real figure's going to be far higher than that."

Both groups, who met last night (Tuesday January 22) are immensely encouraged that Essex County Council have succeeded in forcing PO Ltd to open their books on individual branch finances and have appealed to Lincolnshire County Council to follow the same route.

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