

RIVER WARD

PRESS RELEASE **3rd October 2007**

Brompton 'shattered' by news of Post Office closure

Councillor Craig Mackinlay for River Ward today added weight to the campaign to save Brompton Post Office from closure. On his visit to the post office, one of 4 across Medway, 58 across Kent and 2,500 across the country facing closure he found outrage and anger at the proposals with one elderly resident needing a chair, such was her distress at the news. Jaspel Dusanjh, the sub post-mistress was shell-shocked after 19 years in Brompton.

Mrs Constance Ayers, 82 of High Street, Brompton said "I'm not going all the way to Chatham just to pick up my pension, us pensioners have enough to put up with without more unnecessary change, why can't they leave things alone?" Brompton has a high percentage of elderly residents for whom the local Post Office is a lifeline and fundamental part of the local community.

As well as pensioners being outraged at the proposals, local businesses have taken the news badly. Phillip Bruce of Amethyst Framing said "The Post Office allows our customers to get cash and allows us to send bulky parcels easily. We are opposite the Post Office and find it constantly busy and not just with Brompton residents. It is used by St Mary's island residents as a convenient service with free short term parking. The proposals will further choke Chatham Town Centre with traffic and add to the queues of people trying to use Post Office services there."

Councillor Mackinlay added "This proposal is ill thought out and must be stopped. It is yet another failure of this Labour Government for whom community means nothing; Brompton is a unique and very special 'village within the town' that needs a Post Office. Not only will this proposed closure hit our most vulnerable older people it will make life much harder for families of the Armed Services in Brompton wanting to send treats and parcels to loved ones serving overseas. I hope all will sign the many petitions now present in all shops in Brompton. Do email your representations, that I will consolidate and pass on to the Post Office Consultation team to savebromptonpostoffice@riverward.co.uk"

ENDS

Contacts:-

Craig Mackinlay
01634 841108 / 07973 123614
craig@riverward.co.uk
8 Manor Road
Chatham ME4 6AG

Jaspel Dusanjh
Sub post-mistress, Brompton PO
01634 842973

Phillip Bruce – Amethyst Framing
01634 400195

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