

Leader of council joins campaign

By PAUL CLARK

The leader of Lincolnshire County Council joined protesters fighting to save Rippingale Post Office.

Rippingale is one of 45 branches due to close in Lincolnshire following a recent Post Office announcement and two protests took place in the village this week.

Council leader Martin Hill stands a march from the village in Mortons (where the nearest post office will be if Rippingale closes) on Wednesday.

Mr Hill said: "Lincolnshire County Council values the important role that post offices play in providing sustainable communities, a social role as well as financial and postal services."

He encouraged residents to "demonstrate their community's need for an accessible post office service" and to make their voice heard.

He said: "The consultation period from the Post Office is

not long enough for people to get together a reasonable response.

The proposals will have a negative impact on Lincolnshire's rural and urban areas and we all need a more adequate transport to demonstrate this in our opinion.

"In some cases there will be opportunities for replacement services, such as mobile post offices, where a need is identified.

"However, we are concerned that some of those proposed on lifts or two hours per week and will endeavour to look at those accessibility issues.

"The county council understands the impact of these closures on Lincolnshire's rural and urban areas and will work with communities and Post Office Ltd to identify potential solutions."

"If you will be affected by the proposed closures, you can take part in the Post Office's consultation by writing to Network Development Manager, c/o National Consultation Team, FREEPOST Consultation Team or email consultation@postoffice.co.uk and clearly mark your communication "Rippingale".



■ Nick Baker (boy candidate) and Martin Hill (county council leader) and Debbie Entwistle (resident) join the march. Photo: 044021707_003

