

PRESS RELEASE

Issued by Kennerleigh and District Residents
with the authority of the Chair of Kennerleigh Parish Meeting, Mr John Coley.

June 6, 2008

walk one only

PRESS STATEMENT NO 2.

Villagers Walk 4 Miles To Post Office

Kennerleigh and District villagers are walking 3.8 miles to Sandford Post Office on Tuesday, June 10 – to buy a stamp, symbolically.

Walkers are expected to include elderly residents with sticks, at least one in a motorised chair and some who are unable to drive through disabilities of one sort or another or who cannot afford to do so. The protest walk starts at 8.40am. Protesters will express their feelings in song in front of Kennerleigh Post Office from 6 pm.

To avoid causing inconvenience to Sandford people only one of the walkers will go into the shop to buy a stamp.

The day's activities are designed to underline residents' demand for a re-think, particularly as Sandford Post Office is beyond the three mile limit criterion for people to be able to access permanent postal facilities. This is the second peaceful protest mounted by those affected in nine Mid Devon parishes affected by the proposed closure of Kennerleigh Post Office and consequential closure of the shop.

A spokesman said other measures are being discussed. It is understood they include discussions with authoritative bodies, including representatives of local authorities, a report back meeting to concerned residents and talks with politicians of all persuasions.

“Within the law, nothing is ruled in and nothing is ruled out,” the spokesman added.

South West MEP, Neil Parish, is expected in Kennerleigh to discuss the closure within the next two weeks.

ENDS

See also: http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Kennerleigh&search_type=

A 1.5 line spacing version of this release in 14pt is available on request

SEE MORE KENNERLEIGH FACTS and CLOSURE FACTS OVERLEAF

For more information contact Don King on 01363 866560 or at dkjancot@hotmail.co.uk



KENNERLEIGH FACTS:

- * Lies between Sandford [north of Crediton] and Black Dog, post code EX17 4RS
- * Kennerleigh Post Office and Stores map reference: 820074
- * Chair of Parish meeting, John Coley, Restharrow 01363 866557
- * Postmistress and shopkeeper, Sonia Andrews 01363 866 486.
- * Sonia Andrew's shop attracts many customers daily from eight other parishes.
- * Sonia Andrews helps the elderly and infirm with deliveries and keeps an eye on them.
- * Steering Committee Chair, to be decided on June 4.
- * Nearest post office at Sandford is outside the three mile nearest post office criterion.
- * Nearly 50 percent of the Kennerleigh population is over 60.
- * A few cannot drive.
- * One bus a week serves Kennerleigh, on Wednesdays, passing through at 0923 – too late for pensioners' free bus pass travel – and returning from Crediton at 1405, for a one way fare of £1.20 – see notes below.
- * Current parking facilities work well for several small companies in the district which deliver large, bulky packages for postage.
- * Current parking facilities are ideal for several local people who have mobility problems.
- * Kennerleigh church congregations regularly top 20 percent

POST OFFICE AND SHOP CLOSURE FACTS AND INFORMATION:

- * Shop closure will detrimentally affect local traffic flows.
- * Shop closure will significantly increase local costs of living.
- * Shop closure will increase the local carbon footprint.
- * Shop closure will remove the local community's social focal point.
- * The Government is looking for community involvement in decision making and it is understood that the long awaited White Paper will emphasise this. Taking away the post office will close the shop, thus negating Government policy and the aims of the Secretary of State.
- * 32 percent of post offices in the Crediton area are earmarked for closure; originally it was stated 18 percent of the nation's post offices would close.

NEW FACTS

- * A post office mobile service will only accept packages up to 2kg. Local businesses regularly post 15kg to 20kg packages at Kennerleigh Post Office.
- * It is highly unlikely that a mobile service will be able to keep to a reliable timetable, particularly in winter.
- * Kennerleigh's Post Office custom is between 150 to 200 footfalls a week over 21 hours. The proposed mobile outreach will be open for five hours.
- * Four very elderly people live in Kennerleigh, two in their 90s. Another 90 year old, almost blind, is dependent on a relative over 70 who walks 1.5 miles to Kennerleigh to do their shopping, once a week.
- * Fare-assisted car rates to Tiverton and back are £5 return and £10 return with a carer. Drop off points are at least 1/4 of a mile from the nearest post office. Ring and ride to Crediton available on Thursdays leaves Kennerleigh 10.30am and returns at 1.30pm, book in advance. Fare £3 return or single, carers pay the same.
- Voluntary car service provides lifts to hospitals or doctors when they can; they are short of drivers. Charges are £3.50 for the first three miles; 55p for the next 10 miles; 45p for the remainder.