

JohnW**Subject: FW: po campaign - next phase CAPOC CONSUMER STRIKE 16th June 2008 two**

CAPOC CALL FOR CONSUMER STRIKE

CAPOC (Communities Against Post Office Closures) Members have called for a one day consumer strike against main Post Offices.

A spokesmen for the Group, explained that if Adam Crozier was going to destroy the Post Office network and be paid £3 million for doing it, then, as consumers, we could help destroy it without all that additional expense. In more serious mode, Terence O'Halloran, a Chartered Financial Planner, said that the protest was in direct response to the recent Select Committee report (No 6).

The main focus of the action would be against main Post Offices because, as Mr O'Halloran explained, of the £99 million loss in 2006 £70 million was attributable to Crown Post Offices and their 530 out of the 14,000 Post Offices that then existed.

Post Office Ltd are closing 2,500 Post Office facilities but, CAPOC point out, the main loss making units are being franchised out to W H Smith yet self-employed entrepreneurial shopkeepers are being used as scapegoats by a hostile government hell bent on destroying private enterprise and a post office service that helps them function.

The government action is a cynical travesty and it is about time the public woke up to the fact that if they do not take action to defend their local postal service it will disappear, and the queues at main Post Offices will get longer and longer. "Queues to use main Post Offices are already 25-35 minutes long", said Mr O'Halloran and that is not just Gainsborough and Lincoln in rural Lincolnshire, it is Post Offices like William IV Street, just off Trafalgar Square in London.

Adam Crozier and Alan Cook, together with their management team, are closing down Post Office outlets that are within other businesses. How come their answer to Crown Post Offices losing £70 million per year, spread over 530 Crown Post Offices, is to merge those Post Office facilities with an existing commercial outlet and broaden its commercial appeal through the franchise with W H Smith?

Contrarily; their answer to sub post office losses, a mere £41 per week per post office overall, is to remove them from their commercial outlets? "It just does not make sense", said Mr O'Halloran.

A 'Day of Action' has been planned for 16th June and the banners will read "Q 4 a Second Class Service". Post Office cannot even deliver first class mail within 24 hours because Royal Mail falls down on the job. "£4.26 per letter is what we have to pay to ensure 24 hour delivery", said Mr O'Halloran, "and that is simply unacceptable".

To pay Adam Crozier £3 million per year to display the ineptitude that is currently being "rolled out" in the closure programme has to be an affront to the people who own Post Office Ltd and Royal Mail, the citizens of this country. "It is time for the citizens to make their interest and their presence felt. Why should we queue for a second class service when Royal Mail and Post Office are quite capable of giving us a first class service through a network of 14,000 outlets?"

The 6th Report from the BERR Select Committee supports the CAPOC view that the closure programme has been ill-thought through and that much of the £1.72 billion development programme money is being wasted on incompetent management techniques, false figures and misleading propaganda.

The strike by the community against using Post Office facilities will be centred on their main post office in all the major cities and towns, to request that people refrain from using post office services and in doing so show the power of the public and the need to stop the damaging programme in order to reassess its impact using proper business skills and financial criteria rather than ill-thought through propaganda driven experimentation. In short - stop closing

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viable and necessary units.

A good start would be to sack Crozier and Cook and get some proper managers in who know how to run a business. Anyone can make savings through cuts; it takes a good manager to make profits through good use of resources.

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