

I read with dismay in the January 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the Kirkham and Fylde Express of the announced Post Office closures. As has been said on numerous occasions, a Post Office, particularly in a rural area, is often the hub of the community and provides a vital service, especially to our elderly residents. Why therefore, in “Jacks Diary”, has our MP only written of the out-of-town-centre Lytham closure and not even mentioned the threat, in his constituency, to Elswick and Singleton? I would like to say, “let battle commence” where ALL our Post Offices are concerned, particularly those in the rural villages.

As has often been said by opposition councillors, we have to read the press to hear what decisions/considerations are being made by the Leader of the Council along with his followers. To read the headlines that he is considering the closure of both Kirkham and St. Annes swimming pools and other “luxury” public amenities leaves both the members of the public – voters – and some democratically elected members stunned with this panic proposed solution to the budget deficit. Perhaps he is just trying to shock us, so that at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, he will save the day by making the decision not to spend over £6 million on a Town Hall which many members feel very embarrassed about especially as alternative accommodation remains available. As the Leader of the Council seems keen to create a City of the Fylde, perhaps more long term consideration needs to be taken regarding our civic suite and officer accommodation – the opposition members constantly urge this to happen on the rare occasions we are allowed to discuss the matter with the Cabinet members.

Perhaps it is necessary to remind the Conservatives of their May 2007 election promises – in Kirkham it was to keep our car parks free and our swimming pool open.

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