



Save our Crowns – spring campaign

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Campaigners are already fighting against the latest round of closures and franchises in response to the Post Office's New Year statement that a further 37 Crowns are under threat.

Protests have already kicked off in several areas of the UK, with strong support from residents, councillors and Members of Parliament, and the union is urging members to take up the challenge in all localities.

Up in Yorkshire, local MP Mary Creagh spent the day with members of our Leeds No1 branch in the town of Ossett (*pictured top centre*), after its much-needed Crown office was put on company bosses' hit list.

Asghar Khan, the branch political officer, told *The Voice* that the threat was 'yet another

blow to local residents, who have been affected by the closure of the Ossett delivery office recently.

"Local residents think Ossett Crown Post Office is essential to the local community and value its services immensely with a large number of elderly and vulnerable people relying on its services," explained Asghar.

Another MP on the other side of the country has been instrumental in galvanising the community in defence of the Ulverston Crown Office in Cumbria (*pictured top left*).

John Woodcock MP, town mayor Mark Wilson, local Labour Party activists and other townspeople gathered at the under-threat facility to send their own 'Save our Post Office' message to company chiefs.

CWU Post Office rep for the

area Neil Barry said that "This campaign is up and running and local support has been excellent.

"It's brilliant that the MP and the mayor have taken such a pro-active role in this and we're determined to keep the pressure on the Post Office to reconsider."

Political support has come from across the political divide in Newhaven on the Sussex coast, where MP Maria Caulfield and town councillors of different parties joining forces to stand up for their town and its much-loved Crown office (*pictured top right*).

"The whole town is against the Post Office's decision and want the office to remain as it is," reported CWU sector representative Mole Meade.

"While we were out

campaigning, one of the local residents who signed our petition told me: 'This is a very busy Post Office for residents and business users alike. The staff are extremely helpful and with great experience'.

"She told me that people of the town will fight to keep the office as a main Post Office."

CWU assistant secretary Andy Furey told *The Voice*: "This is exactly the kind of community-based grassroots campaigning that we need to see in every locality where a Crown is under threat.

"And it's also great to see support coming from right across the normal party political divide," he added.

"The fight to save our Crown office network is above party politics – it's a fight for the People's Post Office."