

**FULL COUNCIL
28th July 2003**

Motion selected for debate by Councillor Paul Lorber,
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

FIGHTING FOR OUR POST OFFICES.

Further to Council's recent debate on planned Post Office closures at an Extraordinary Meeting called by the Liberal Democrats, Council records its considerable regret, sadness and anger that the attack on Brent's local Post Office branches has continued apace.

In particular, following the loss of Blackbird Hill Post Office, Council notes that :

- A decision has now been taken to close Gladstone Parade Post Office
- Monks Park Post Office is threatened with proposed closure
- A decision to close Carlyon Road Post Office has been deferred.

Brent Council affirms the immense importance of local Post Offices to their communities, and the invaluable service they provide, especially to our elderly and vulnerable residents.

We also note that Post Offices often double as local shops, support local parades that can become unviable without their presence, and that any ongoing closure Policy has a disproportionate effect on small business owners, especially among the Asian community.

Council therefore condemns the Labour Government's decision to award £300 million to the Post Office to "pay off" Sub Post Masters and close, not support, local branches. We call on Brent's MPs to vigorously and actively oppose this policy, and to resign from the Government in protest at the systematic removal of vital Post Office branches.

Council unanimously opposes these closures, and instructs the Chief Executive to formally express the opposition of all three Council groups to each proposed closure, and to seek the assistance of Postwatch in making representations in the most severe cases.

We further call for a full report to Scrutiny detailing all business Brent Council transacts with the Post Office, with a view to seeking possible alternative provision, where available, if the Government-led attack on our Post Offices continues.