

Conservative election candidate caught lying

A Conservative candidate standing in Kingswood for the elections to South Gloucestershire Council on 5th May 2011 has been caught lying to the local papers.

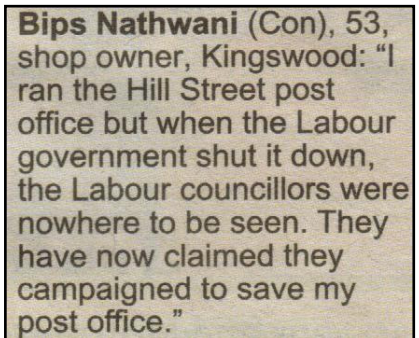
Mr Bips Nathwani, one of the three Conservative candidates for the ward of Woodstock, made a statement to the local Bristol *Evening Post* which has been shown to be a complete lie.

As part of its pre-election coverage, the Bristol *Evening Post* is running a series of profiles of the wards being contested in the 5th May elections. On Saturday 9th April (page 26) it covered the two wards in central Kingswood, called Kings Chase and Woodstock.

As part of that coverage each candidate was asked to submit a 25 word statement as to what difference they would make during their term of office if elected.

Mr Nathwani's statement read "*I ran the Hill Street post office but when the Labour government shut it down, the Labour councillors were nowhere to be seen. They have now claimed they campaigned to save my post office*".

Aside from the fact that this statement contains **nothing** about what he would do for the area, his claims are a complete lie.



Mr Nathwani's statement to the Evening Post

On Tuesday 26th February 2008 we placed a petition in Mr Nathwani's post office **WITH HIS FULL AGREEMENT**. The petition was organised by the 6 Labour councillors representing Kingswood at that time (Roger Coales, Andy Perkins, Pat Rooney, Malcolm Bridge, Terry Walker and Julie Walker) and Kingswood MP Roger Berry.

Over the next six weeks we visited the post office frequently to collect completed petition sheets and provide new blank sheets. In total, the petition carried 513 signatures.

On the 7th April we posted the petition off to Post Office Ltd's consultation process. Along with the petition we sent a 4-page letter outlining our objections to the proposed closure. The letter was signed by all 6 Labour councillors and MP Roger Berry. We also made representations to South Gloucestershire Council as part of its submission to the consultation process

We posted our letter with the petition from Mr Nathwani's post office and we have evidence to prove it.

First, we have a photo of Cllr Andy Perkins **INSIDE** the post office with the envelope addressed to the consultation process. This photograph was taken **WITH THE FULL AGREEMENT OF THE POSTMASTER.** In that photograph it is possible to see a laminated notice propped up by the till which we left (**WITH THE FULL AGREEMENT OF THE POSTMASTER**) thanking people for signing the petition.



Cllr Andy Perkins posting the 513-signature petition inside Mr. Nathwani's Hill Street Post Office

A full-size copy of this image is available at http://www.woodstocklabour.org.uk/hillstreetpo/petition_photo.jpg

In addition to the photograph, we have a copy of the Recorded Delivery receipt that was given to us by Mr Nathwani or one of his staff. This receipt is clearly dated 7th April 2008 and stamped with the Hill Street Post Office stamp.



Recorded Delivery receipt from our petition signed by Mr Nathwani or one of his staff

A full-size copy of this image is available at <http://www.woodstocklabour.org.uk/hillstreetpo/receipt.pdf>

And the final proof of our involvement is a letter from Post Office Ltd dated 18th April 2008 which begins "Thank you for your letter enclosing the petition in response to our proposals to close the above branch."

A copy of this letter can be downloaded from http://www.woodstocklabour.org.uk/hillstreetpo/poltd_acknowledgement.jpg

It is also worth pointing out that Mr. Nathwani's claim that his post office was shut down by the Labour government is pure political spin. He knows full well that his post office was shut down by Post Office Ltd - and this is demonstrated quite clearly in the opening sentence of the letter we received from Post Office Ltd dated 18th April 2008.

Mr. Nathwani is a candidate for the Conservative party in the local elections. He has publicly endorsed the new Conservative MP for Kingswood, Chris Skidmore, featuring in Mr Skidmore's own leaflets.

Whether Mr. Nathwani wrote the words for the *Evening Post* or whether they were written for him by those running the local Conservative's election campaign is unknown. Either way **the Conservatives have been caught clearly lying in an attempt to win votes**. There is no other word for it.

If they are prepared to lie about this issue, what other lies are they telling on the doorsteps of Kingswood and beyond in an attempt to win votes ?

You cannot trust the Tories.