

MP tackles Government on plans to close Weston's tax office



■ John Penrose with local Labour Councillors who have signed up to his cross-party campaign

Weston-super-Mare MP John Penrose has been joined by local Labour Councillors, as well as employees and local residents in his cross-party campaign to oppose Government plans to close the town's tax office

John said "If the closure goes ahead it could spell disaster for local staff. The Government wants to move their jobs to Bristol, which will mean long commutes each way every day. Many of them will lose

their jobs and the M5 will get that bit busier.

"Rather than closing Weston's tax office and merging it into Bristol, the Government should use Weston as the new South West

hub and merge other offices into it instead. It would mean more local jobs, bring much-needed investment and regeneration into Weston, and relieve some of the strains on junction 21 too.

"I'm delighted that local people, whether they're Labour or Conservative, have joined this campaign and are showing a united front to the Government".

MP POPPs in to congratulate café



Weston-super-Mare MP John Penrose recently visited the sea-side town's latest Poppins Community Café and congratulated its organisers on a successful first year

The café was set up last year by Age Concern and North Somerset Council under the North Somerset Partnerships for Older People Project (POPP). It offers help and advice from organisations like Age Concern, the Citizen's Advice Bureau and the police, in a friendly and informal café atmosphere.

■ John with project organiser Celia Wilkinson (right) and a concerned resident (middle)

Watchdog admits MP is right on dumped addicts

The Healthcare Commission has finally admitted that Weston-super-Mare is on the receiving end of the rest of the country's dumped addicts, something that John Penrose has been telling them was the case for the past three years.

Mr Penrose said: "I'm delighted that the Healthcare Commission has agreed that addicts shouldn't be dumped and forgotten in towns like Weston, and that poor-quality rehabs have to be stamped out because they aren't fair on local residents or addicts either.

"Weston's drug problems are caused because too many organisations which send addicts for treatment in the town don't check whether they're sending them to high-quality rehabs or not. And too often they dump them in Weston when they come out of treatment instead of moving them on through the next stages of rehabilitation into normal life."

Mr Penrose will now be meeting with Paul Hayes, the Chief Executive of the National Treatment Agency, to make sure addicts get proper follow-up plans so they aren't dumped in Weston.



Every week John Penrose MP holds a surgery at different locations around the constituency.

For help, advice or to make an appointment, please contact Grace Roper in John's constituency office on

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To find out more about John Penrose's work - visit his website at

www.johnpenrose.co.uk

John Penrose MP - Working for you all year round