

**Bradley Stoke and Winterbourne Library Users Group**  
**Meeting 28 June 2016, Bradley Stoke Library**

1. **Public session:** None
2. **Present:** John Abraham, Pat Hares, Jenny Wellman, Cllr Aditya  
**Apologies:** Cllr Andy Ward, Cllr Tim Bowles, Cllr Newport, Cllr Marriott, Gabrielle Suddell
3. **Matters arising from minutes of February's meeting:** none
4. **Correspondence:** none
5. **Library Service Review update and consultation plans**

The first phase of consultation on the Library Service review closed on May 13<sup>th</sup>. There were over 3,000 responses and this data is still being inputted ready for a report that is due to be presented to the Environment and Community Services Committee at 2pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Proposed venue: The Armstrong Hall and members of the public are welcome to attend. The report should be published sometime at the end of August and will be circulated to user Group members. After the Committee meeting in September there will be another 3 month public consultation on the Library Service Review and a final decision will be made in January 2017 with plans in place by beginning of the new financial year April 2017 with implementation on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

Martin Burton, Community Cultural Services Manager is in the process of exploring any expressions of interest from interested bodies who have ideas for future provision of library services following the proposed reduced funding as noted in the consultation.

Cllr Aditja reported that young people often tell him that they only borrow books and visit libraries occasionally but that libraries are important as social hubs. Jenny added how important it was to have school visits and the like as many homes did not have books at home and that the many children who regularly attended Winterbourne with their teachers understood the layout and use of the library and that Gabrielle and her team made such a great effort here.

Cllr Aditja asked if Bradley Stoke Town Council could fund for extra opening hours and this expression of interest will be passed to Martin Burton to follow up.

On a positive note John said that the consultation had greatly raised the library services' profile, campaign groups had grown up, councillors were more aware and members of the public made eloquent responses at Council meetings. Jenny too said that it had been useful to see a national publicity campaign about the plight of libraries funding. John thanked her for efforts at Winterbourne Carnival to push the consultation and Jenny said how surprised she had been that many people had not heard of this from other channels. Also that local councillors had been unaware of the vast range of library services and the positive affects these had on local people.

A new annual report for each library was being produced for local councillors and other interested parties and will be circulated to User Group members too. This report demonstrates the impact the library has with statistics and users' real experiences under a variety of headings such as reading and literacy, learning and community. Please see further information under **national news** below.

Cllr Aditya also talked about the contribution of volunteers in previous work and that they should be considered here (a strand that was also explored in the consultation document).

## 6. Librarian's report

In Gabrielle's absence John did a quick news update. At Bradley Stoke the main emphasis is the refurbishment of the leisure centre, which has given the library the opportunity to have a new front entrance, improved study area and IT suite better suited for community learning, along with air conditioning. The reception counter will be moved to a more central position within the space allowing better supervision of the children's library and improved self service facilities.

The leisure centre itself will close its front entrance from July 4<sup>th</sup> with all users directed around the building. Entry through our current front door will remain until July 18<sup>th</sup> and then entry will be via the children fire escape. We hope to have everything in place before IT classes resume on September 21<sup>st</sup>. We will not be closed at all but services, especially use of IT will be disrupted somewhat.

The Summer Reading Game will continue as usual with a wide range of activities, called the Big Friendly Read, this begins in all South Gloucestershire Libraries on 16 July and runs until 10 September. All children have to do is read six library books over the summer, collecting special Big Friendly Read collector cards along the way, to get their medal and certificate. This picks up on the promotion of the centenary of Roald Dahls' birth and the release of the BFG film. The prizes and usual swim vouchers and certificate will be as popular as ever. Cllr Aditya offered his services to help out.

The Discover Festival will be with us again in the autumn. Due to building work somewhat curtailed here. The brochure should be available mid-July, there is a wide range of author events, craft and other activities across libraries. Winterbourne has a wide programme and a list is attached with a murder mystery, Fry's chocolate talk, cat drawing, singalongs and line dancing!

Other Winterbourne news. The garden has fared well over the last year and we are now desperate for volunteers to take over weeding and other light duties. If anyone has any contacts they can share, please let Gabrielle know, who can also follow up on the Community Spaces volunteer groups that have recently been promoted by the Council.

The craft group continues to be very popular as are the seven reading groups. There has been a recent display by the Linscombe Barn Camera Club and the Bristol Rural Bell Ringers will be displaying in August as part of Winterbourne heritage open day events.

## 7. New Library Management system

Successful implementation of the new staff Library Management System and public library website on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and the expansion of the LibrariesWest Consortium into Dorset and Poole. Please explore the new look public website [LibrariesWest](#) where you can reserve and renew books 24/7 and take advantage of our e book and e audio resources plus catch up on latest library news. Cllr Aditya asked how stock was selected, rotated and reserved from other libraries.

## 8. AOB

National library news – In December 2014 the Government published William Sieghart's "Independent Library Report for England" which called for clear local decision making and a national strategy to secure the future of public libraries in England.  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/388989/Independent\\_Library\\_Report-\\_18\\_December.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/388989/Independent_Library_Report-_18_December.pdf).

To this end, a consultation has just finished to map out this strategy "Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-2021". This sets out a vision of the value and impact of libraries with a national network that delivers transformation and progress for people, communities and the nation. Each library having seven main purposes:

culture and creativity, reading and literacy, digital literacy, economic growth, community role, learning, health and wellbeing. South Gloucestershire Libraries will reflect this in the work we do and it will inform our local service planning and how we relay information about our work to both local and national government.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/libraries-deliver-ambition-for-public-libraries-in-england-2016-2021>).

The final strategy document is due in the summer.

At the same time “Universal Offers” have been drawn up by the Society of Chief Librarians (SCL) and partners including The Arts Council and The Reading Agency. The five key areas of service they have identified as essential to a 21st century library service are: Reading Offer, Information offer, Digital offer, Health offer and Learning offer. (See <http://goscl.com/universal-offers/>) These define a common core standard of delivery that can be expected across all library authorities and again will be reflected in the work we do locally.

An annual report, as noted in item 5 above, is currently being written for each library that refers to the seven main purposes noted above and a copy of this report will be available for the Library Users’ Group at the same time it is sent to local councillors and other interested parties.

Cllr Aditya suggested a link on our website for members of the public to follow and yes all the User Group meeting minutes and annual report will be pasted on each library’s web page. Please see [Bradley Stoke](#) and [Winterbourne](#).

Jenny hoped that those people involved in local campaigning to save libraries would also feed in to the User groups’ work.

**9. Date of next meeting:** AGM, **Tuesday** October 25th, 6.30 Winterbourne Library.