

**Minutes of a meeting of the Downend and Staple Hill Library User Group
6.00pm Thursday 9 June 2016 at Downend library**

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| 1. | Present: Tina Hanks, Cllr Shirley Potts, Cllr Janet Biggin, Rachel Betts, Sue Poole, John Abraham, Helen Egarr Tina welcomed Cllr Janet Biggin who has joined the Library User Group | |
| 2. | Apologies: Annette Norley, Anne Newbery, Cllr Graeme Riley, Alderman Jim Cullimore, Beryl Bellamy, Margaret Uppington | |
| | Public Session – No member of the public was present | |
| 3. | Correspondence None. | |
| 4. | Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 2 February Agreed as a correct record Matters arising <i>Libraries Facebook Page – deferred from previous meetings</i> Members were very interested to see this up to the minute and effective way of sharing information about what's happening in libraries | |
| 5. | Library Service Review Tina declared an interest in this item and abstained from the discussions Data from over 3,000 responses is still being inputted by a team of staff. Submissions included petitions, songs and letters. Cllr Janet Biggin understood that various innovative ideas to take the service forward have emerged. Martin Burton will be following any expressions of interest up with the relevant parties. A report on the consultation feedback and proposals on cost savings for the library service will now go to the members of the Environment and Community services committee at their meeting, 14:00 on 7 September. Further public consultation will follow on more detailed proposals leading to a report refining the detail and shape of the library service. A final decision will be made in January with the new service in place by October 2017 The initial consultation has certainly put the service in the spotlight and raised its profile. Library User Group Members had campaigned vigorously to highlight the issues involved and have gained massive public support. Cllr Shirley Potts had organised a protest and petition gathering outside Staple Hill library on Saturday 15 March. This was followed by an awareness day on Saturday 16 April in Downend, led by Sue Poole and supported by members and groups such as Knitter Knatter. Both events had generated a lot of public support leading to constructive responses from residents, giving them the opportunity to express views and ideas which would inform the decision making process. All in all it has proved a very positive exercise generating greater awareness of what we do. On behalf of the meeting Rachel thanked Shirley and Sue for all their hard work and commitment in leading the campaign. Shirley commented that a useful outcome had been the opportunity to make links with residents who are keen and have the skills to support groups such as the Regeneration Partnership. | |
| 6 | Librarian's Report Members noted with interest the wide range of activities hosted by both libraries. High lights included <i>Science Week in February</i> – This had proved very popular. In particular the 3d printing demonstration by staff from South Gloucestershire and Stroud College was very well received, giving visitors the opportunity so see cutting edge technology in action. Rome's Greatest Defeat - In this illustrated talk author Ben Kane, in centurion attire gave a fascinating illustrated account of the research and writing for his latest novel. | |

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| | <p><i>Sportspound</i> This initiative encourages anyone aged 14 – 100 who does little or no exercise to get fit by taking up a sport or physical activity. Participants are given vouchers to be exchanged for 8 free sessions with various providers including clubs and Circadian Active and Leisure Centres. Libraries are amongst those agencies acting as nominating/enrolment centres. Our activator is Janice who has been out and about promoting the scheme and extending it to include Downend as well as Staple Hill.</p> <p><i>The Battle of the Somme Twitter Initiative.</i> An innovative project has been devised so that ten fictional characters will relate their experience of the battle during the First World War through a series of live tweets which start on June 24. The digital drama will not only capture what it was like for the soldiers fighting in the trenches on the Western Front but also for their loved ones back home and the impact it had on whole communities.</p> <p><i>Discover</i> Both libraries are once again holding a variety of events and activities. This year the brochure will feature a selection of themed events, with full details of the bulk of the programme on the website.</p> | |
| 7 | <p>Summer Reading Challenge Staff are busy preparing for the launch of the Big Friendly Read, the Summer Reading Challenge, which this year celebrates Roald Dahl's 100th anniversary of his birth and ties in with the film release of the BFG. Visits to school assemblies to promote the challenge will begin shortly, with the aim of encouraging even more children to take part than last year when 6,500 signed up across the authority.</p> | |
| 8 | <p>Library Management Computer system (LMS) The contract for the LibrariesWest LMS goes out to tender every 5 years in order to test the market and developing technologies. This time the contract was awarded to Sirsi-Dynix, an American company. The Consortium has also welcomed 2 new partners, Dorset County and the Unitary Borough of Poole. As a result of this expansion, users will have access to a much increased range of stock and service points. Staff are now enjoying the challenge of getting to grips with the new LMS, whilst behind the scenes the logistics of moving stock from one side of the consortium to the other are being refined. The new LMS is more windows based and will gradually move to a cloud based system whereby a network of remote servers hosted on the Internet are used to store, manage, and process data, rather than a local server or a personal computer. The LibrariesWest website has also been relaunched and is more "Amazon" like in terms of user interface. Please have a look and let us know what you think. www.librarieswest.org.uk/</p> | |
| 9 | <p>AOB National Library News In December 2014 the Government published William Sieghart's "Independent Library Report for England" this 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. 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, 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 can mirror this in the work we do and will inform our local service planning and how we relay information about our work to both local</p> | |

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| | <p>and national government. https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/libraries-deliver-ambition-for-public-libraries-in-england-2016-2021).</p> <p>The final strategy document is due in the summer.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>An annual report 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.</p> | |
| <p>9</p> | <p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Due to a clash of dates following the re-scheduling of a Discover event the next meeting and AGM will be at 6.00pm on Thursday October 27th at Downend library and not Tuesday 4 October.</p> | |