

Notes of Emersons Green Library User Group, 20 June 2017

Present: Ruth Cooper, Ralph Morris, John Abraham (Operations manager), Jane Connelly, Gill Clayton (Librarian)

Apologies: Phil Todd

Library Service Review

Staff consultation on the HR aspects of the Library Service Review ended on in the middle of May and hundreds of comments were received. This all now goes forward in preparation of the Director's decision report due later this month. If all goes to plan the next stage is interviewing for the managers' posts and then fitting in all the library assistants to the posts available in the new structure. As discussed previously there will be just one librarian per cluster (ie one between Emersons Green, Downend and Staple Hill), with a strategic specialism. Gill is not competing for the new posts but will be taking early retirement.

Open Access: Libraries will be closed to install Open Access equipment– dates will be confirmed week beginning 19th June but it is envisaged that each library involved will be closed for a fortnight. (Since the meeting Emersons Green temporary closure dates are confirmed as 28 July-10 August inclusive).

To use Open Access, library members need to undertake a short induction session, which details services available, emergency procedures and how to report faults. Once a member of public has had an Open Access induction in one branch we recommend they have the inductions in other branches they wish to use so that they are aware of local procedures and emergency exits.

Discussed use of public computers and extending time during Open Access.

Once staff are in place we will start planning what activities can be offered and when.

Replacement of the mobile Our first community library collection has now started at Marshfield Community Centre running in tandem with the mobile library and has a collection of 400 volumes that will be refreshed regularly. Local volunteers have received training in data protection and use of mobile circulation software to issue, return and renew books and all is going well.

Meanwhile, Severn Beach councillors have shown an interest in buying into a fortnightly mobile service from North Somerset.

Chipping Sodbury Library A service level agreement is being drawn up to take up the proposal to run the library with volunteers led by a local management board.

Future of Library User Groups

With the changes to staffing and the library service in October 2017 there is a need to examine the format, frequency and purpose of the Library User Group meetings. All library user groups will be consulted and ideas summarised. As libraries will be arranged in four geographic clusters each led by a librarian:

- Bradley Stoke Library, Filton Library, Patchway Library
- Thornbury Library, Winterbourne Library, Yate Library
- Downend Library, Emersons Green Library, Staple Hill Library
- Cadbury Heath Library, Hanham Library, Kingswood Library

there needs to be some discussion around format and frequency, to make the best use of staff time and to increase participation and raise profile of the service.

It was agreed that working on a cluster basis would be sensible and interesting to compare issues between libraries. Themed meetings or bigger public events would give opportunities for targeted feedback, with speakers at some or all. Jane and Ralph were happy to rotate venues. Times could be varied to appeal to different targeted groups. It would need good promotion. Could be incorporated into Open Access induction.

Bristol Libraries

The proposals from Bristol have been published regarding their library savings. See link for information on the consultation which is open for 12 weeks, closing on Tuesday 5 September 2017:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/council-spending-performance/your-neighbourhood-consultation-2017>

The main point to note being that there is a proposal to reduce the number of service points from 27 to 10, which would see our library service providing more staffed hours in comparison.

Updates since the last meeting

- Mangotsfield Festival – as usual we attended with a stall and reached many people who don't normally visit a library
- The Memory Café continues to thrive. This month Gill has organised a member of staff to run a poetry event with them to coincide with National Memory Day; the member of staff concerned was thrilled that some participants suddenly remembered their childhood rhymes.
- World Book Night – we bid successfully for a set of brand new books to give away to non-readers. This year we gifted them to a social club for isolated people.
- We have started a monthly Saturday morning Lego club. The children listen to a story that sets the theme for the session. Around 30 children came to the first two.

- Our children's book club competed to host a children's author and, separately, to take part in shortlisting children's science books for the Royal Society. They were successful in both!
- Health visitors have started to run 'transition to parenthood' sessions in the library because they weren't attracting enough people in the medical centre. The neutral library setting seems to work better.

Plans

The Wellbeing Roadshow (marketplace of stalls and activities to help people improve their wellbeing) is well in hand for 11th July. We've had a good response from local organisations.

Starting in September we will be starting a monthly coffee morning for people to support each other with their wellbeing. This will be supported largely by volunteers, but with staff involvement in planning.

We have managed to get slots at all the local primary schools' assemblies to promote the summer reading challenge – we know this makes a difference to how much the children get involved.

Date of next meeting: Tues 17 October 7pm