

## SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL

**Filton Library Users' Group Meeting Minutes**      **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016, 6pm at Filton Library**

**Present:** Brian Freeguard, Jill Freeguard, David Bell, Alicia Webster, Chris Etheridge, Christine Harris, Jane Tozer (Filton Vice-chair), Cllr Anne Kenyon, Sue Lonsdale (Filton Chair), John Abraham (Operations Manager), Clare Fletcher (Librarian, Filton & Patchway),

**1. Public Session:** The Library Users' Group would like to invite Alicia Webster to join and Jill Freeguard was also welcomed to participate.

**2. Apologies:** none

**3. Matters arising from minutes of the meeting in February 2016:** covered in meeting.

**4. Correspondence:** Sue has spoken to Jack Lopresti MP for Filton and Bradley Stoke about the Library Service Review which is part of the Council Savings Program.

**5. Library Service review update and consultation plans:** Thank you to the Library Users' Group for supporting the first phase of library consultation which closed in May. There were over 3,000 responses to the consultation 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, Chapel Street, Thornbury, BS35 2BJ.

Contact: Paul Johnson, Democratic Services, 01454 864425, paul.johnson@southglos.gov.uk

The agenda and reports are usually available to the public five working days before a meeting takes place and can be viewed on the South Gloucestershire website and at our Thornbury, Kingswood, Yate and Chipping Sodbury offices. Copies will also be available at the time the meeting takes place. We'll send copies out to the user group beforehand.

After the Environment and Community Services 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.

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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.

The Library Users' Group have requested that they and Filton Voice are be kept informed of relevant information and meetings relating to the Library Service review.

Proposed meeting for the chairs of the Library Users' Groups in September 2016 in response to the findings of the consultation report and decision of the Environment and Community Services Committee.

**6. Librarian's Report:** Annual figures for Filton Library show an increase in visits of 4.46%, stock issues have remained the same. The February to May quarter has been busy with a wide range of activities and an increase in visits of 6.9%.

The Big Friendly Read, Summer Reading Challenge 2016 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.

We are really looking forward to the Discover Festival in autumn, we are planning to have a ukulele jam, a session with the Westerly Showband, and an event to celebrate the history of Filton called "Postcards from the Past" with advice on tracing your family tree, a chance to look at old maps and archive images and a vintage tea party.

"Shelf Help" a list of recommended books to help young people deal with a range of issues (e.g. self-esteem, bullying, and stress) is now available. All books can be reserved free of charge.

Sports Pound – a project running in the six priority neighbourhood areas in South Gloucestershire to

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encourage people who do less than 30 minutes exercise a week and are aged 14 – 18 or adult to do more sports and exercise. The scheme offers Sports Pound vouchers for eight free sessions of fitness, exercise or sport. A list of clubs and providers in the local community which supports this scheme is available.

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) Library membership is now free, previously membership could be arranged through the library service.

**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.

### **8. Any other business:**

Request for book sale in the library. These happen very occasionally now as most of the withdrawn stock is sold through the charity Better World Books.

Discussion about how to engage more with older people – suggested promotion of talking books.

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,

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economic growth, community role, learning, health and well being. 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 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.

**9. Date and time of next meeting:** 6pm at Filton Library  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 – Annual General Meeting