

### Consultation Comments

#### Braunstone Town Library

##### Email's received:

- Hello my name is L, I am 7 years old and I live in Thorpe Astley. The government shouldn't close our library because old people and young people who enjoy books are going to feel sad because our library has the best books. They love seeing Liz our brilliant librarian and I especially love coming to get books and see Liz. I have been coming since I was a baby. Maybe we can have a cake sale to get money to keep the library? Please can you try to not close our library?
- Braunstone Town Council – email of objection to the proposal

#### Mountsorrel Library

##### Email's received:

- Closing libraries is a travesty, especially in poorer areas. Shame on LCC's elected members for breaking up what was an enviable and hard won network of places where people could access information and education to help them get on in life. The public library in this country started with a penny rate and legislation to make their provision a statutory responsibility. One penny on council tax in this county would yield £2,000.

My suggestion is to do what the rest of us have to do i.e. apply for grants and access S106 funds. It is ridiculous for Charnwood BC to insist upon a piece of public art from new development [£75,000 in Syston from one] when the rich resource of public library is being shut down. Which will give more and for longer? I would urge the PC to argue with planners to have S106 funds diverted - it can be done, as it is only a policy; and the developers would surely agree to have the agreement changed.

It was always on the cards that the more affluent and larger areas would find people who were well-heeled enough to take their library on. A mobile is not a solution - we have one here. It comes along in the daytime when most people are at work. I lived here 20+ years before I knew we had one at all. It cannot do what a well-staffed static library can.

- At its meeting on the 15th December 2015 the Parish Council decided to register an objection in the strongest terms with respect to the County Council's consultation on the prospect of a mobile library service for Mountsorrel.
- I write with regard to Mountsorrel Library and the ongoing discussion about its future. I would have been at the meeting this evening but for the inconvenient and short-sighted time of day at which it has been held. Whilst this may be a convenient time for many, and would perhaps enable more people to attend than a daytime slot, the weekday evening time makes it difficult for many working parents to attend. I am home with the

children whilst my partner is donating platelets. This is a long-standing appointment which he could not easily rearrange. I know of at least one other person who is in a similar position where their partner is not home from work on time for one of them to attend the meeting. Our lack of attendance does not reflect a lack of interest.

Mountsorrel Library offers important facilities and services for all ages in the village. It would be an absolute travesty to lose it!

I have memories from childhood of attending our local library with my parents. We went at least once a month and I loved discovering new books - from Ant & Bee as a beginning reader to Nancy Drew as a young teen and on to Margaret Atwood and beyond.

The library is a great leveller: it didn't matter that my family couldn't afford to buy me lots of books - I had hundreds to choose from each week. What of those families on a low income in this village? How will the library closure serve them? Or those who rely on the library for internet use? For some of our older, more vulnerable residents, a trip to the library may be the social highlight of their day, offering incentive to venture out, friendly faces and essential services. Why take this away?

As an English teacher I daily see the impact of a solid grounding in a love of reading. For many little ones, this starts in those first few trips to the library. My girl looks like she's entered an Aladdin's cave whenever we visit. My baby boy was delighted to choose his first books before Christmas.

I hope that you can find a way to resolve your budgetary concerns without sacrificing our library.

- Please keep our library open it has been a brilliant place for me to take my son's I was really sad when the toddler session ended as I had only just found out about them due to me working full time. But mostly before my toddler was born me and my eldest son would come and do homework with our friend and her son. Its a safe environment we even left them from time to time to go to the local shop it is that safe! I have had books ordered in for me the staff are always nice and friendly. I just think it would be a massive lost to the village and when my toddler gets to the age off using the computers for homework it might not be there due to the cuts.

In response to your consultation on the closure of Mountsorrel Library please may I add my voice to the growing body of people asking you not to close the library?

It is a really valuable resource for my family and the community.

The proposal from the War Memorials Trust and the Parish Council represents excellent value for money. The cost of 'mothballing' is between £20-25k p.a. plus the cost of the mobile library at approximately £11k p.a. Where as the cost to LCC keep the library open under their plan is £13k p.a. A saving of between £18k to £23k p.a. Surely this has to be worth doing?

- In response to your consultation on the closure of Mountsorrel Library, I am writing to ask the Council to reconsider their decision to close our community library.

I am sure that many people will have written to you expressing why the maintenance of library services is important to them and of the library's massive importance to our community. Even if these compelling arguments do not sway you then surely the financial arguments will. The proposal from the War Memorials Trust and the Parish Council represents excellent value for money. The cost of 'mothballing' the library will be between £20-25k p.a. plus the cost of the council's proposed mobile library will be approximately £11k p.a. On the other hand, were LCC to keep the library open under the War Memorials Trust and the Parish Council's plan, it would only cost is £13k p.a. This represents a saving of between £18k to £23k p.a.

The combination of the severe need for the continuation of library services in Mountsorrel and the Council's need to provide value for money services to its citizens should surely lead the council to reassess its decision over the future of the library and support the plan being proposed by the War Memorials Trust and the Parish Council. With best wishes

- In response to your consultation on the closure of Mountsorrel Library please may I add my voice to the growing body of people asking you not to close the library?

It is a really valuable resource for the community. It was the first thing I visited and joined when I arrived in the village and made me feel so welcome.

It is positioned at the heart of our village and needs to remain so.

- I am contacting you in my capacity as the Co-chair of The Committee of the Parents, Staff and Friends Association of Christ Church and St Peter's Church of England Primary School Mountsorrel (PSFA Mountsorrel) to make clear that we wish to object to the proposed replacement of the Mountsorrel village library with a six-hour mobile service in the strongest possible terms.

We believe that such a replacement would be particularly detrimental to the pupils, their parents and carers and the school as a whole.

The arguments about the importance of reading for pleasure have been won. There are several key pieces of research from OECD, UKLA and Oxford University and others showing just how critical enjoying reading is to literacy acquisition. It is the only 'out of school' activity proven to improve attainment. Such is its importance that Ofsted now requires schools to have reading for pleasure policies and it is included in the new curriculum. A drive to inspire children to enjoy reading has to be systemic, reaching across home, school and the community and this is particularly important in an area such as Mountsorrel where hard-pressed families cannot afford to keep purchasing books for their children.

For many of our children the only access they have to the Internet outside of school is on a parent's mobile phone. Mountsorrel Library has a number of computers one of which is specifically dedicated to young people. It has a scanner, printer and photocopier. It has reference books and it has newspapers. For many of our children is the only place in the village, outside of school where they can access these facilities. Furthermore the library has large tables where each week many children choose to do their homework. None of these facilities will be available on a mobile library. Furthermore the building is a quiet and safe place in which to work.

Sociologists have identified that building autonomy in children is important in their development. Parents of older children know that the library is somewhere they can safely go on their own. Closing it will take away the one safe, indoor and free place they have in the village thereby reducing children's autonomy.

The library has also been home to many of the history exhibitions for our village, giving our children the sense of place and belonging that is so important to us all when growing up.

So many of the benefits and facilities listed above would be lost with a mobile service and not only is six hours of service not enough, it is unlikely that many of those hours will actually be at a time accessible to our children.

Furthermore we believe the proposal from the War Memorials Trust and the Parish Council represents excellent value for money for the village and all tax payers within Leicestershire. The cost to LCC of 'mothballing' the building is between £20-25k p.a. plus the cost of the mobile library at approximately £11k p.a. (LCC's own costing for a full-time mobile library service is £68K) Where as the cost to LCC keep the library open under their plan is £13k p.a. A saving of between £18k to £23k p.a. Surely this has to be worth doing?

Mountsorrel Library is an amazing community resource and so much more than a place to borrow books. For the sake of our school, for the sake of our children, please keep Mountsorrel Village Library open.

- If the library closes what will happen to groups that currently hire the learning centre? Will they have to finish when the library closes?

There are few available rooms for hire by groups in Mountsorrel since the Memorial Hall closed and it would be of great assistance in the community if the building could continue to be used and would obviously provide income towards maintenance and other costs.

## **Narborough Library**

### **Email's received:**

- We have used the Narborough Library for some time and if possible we would actually like it to stay open. We do know life is forever on the move and changing and that there is not always the need for these types of buildings in today's world but never a less we have enjoyed the library very much.

If the library was to close do you know if the building would be for sale and who would I contact to enquire about this?