

The future of your library in Haxey

How would you prefer your local library services to be provided in future? The council is looking at alternative ways of running this service and, as a registered customer, your views are important to us.



Since North Lincolnshire Council took over from Humberside County Council in 1996, we have continued to provide traditional library services with little change. This involves a relatively large number of library buildings, many with limited opening hours, as well as two mobile libraries covering villages and other rural settlements.

As you may be aware, reduced council funding means it is now more difficult for the council to afford this traditional way of providing services. While change is inevitable we are keen to preserve, wherever possible, those parts of the service which local communities value the most.

We recognise that you value the current council-managed library. However, we now want to hear your views on alternative ways of delivering the same benefits. Where people regard libraries as being at the heart of their community, we will make every effort to help communities to keep them so.

But unfortunately, we no longer think that our smallest stand-alone libraries in rural settlements are sustainable as council-managed facilities. Elsewhere in North Lincolnshire villages like Haxey receive a weekly or fortnightly mobile library visit. Mobile library provision therefore has to be an option for these two communities as well, and this would be consistent with what happens elsewhere in North Lincolnshire.



However the difference in Haxey is that you already have access to a static library, which as a customer you clearly value. We therefore must consider keeping the library, but operating it differently.

This could mean that the future running of the library would be the role of the community rather than North Lincolnshire Council.

The library would still be part of the North Lincolnshire network of public libraries, and customers would continue to enjoy access to the same quality of books and materials. However local volunteers would be involved in the day-to-day running of the library, with advice and support from the library service.



We are calling this the community-run model, and there are already a number of examples of this in different parts of the country. We believe it would be suitable for Haxey as the library is small and already based in a community venue. The community-run model also offers local people the opportunity to make decisions about their own library service, such as setting the library

opening times.

We are currently exploring with the Parish Council how this community-run model might work in practice. Some further development work would be needed to ensure that any costs to the local community are kept to a minimum.

One of these steps would be to install a self-service facility to ensure the library could run effectively with volunteers. Self-service facilities are suitable for both adults and children. We have already installed these in some of our larger libraries where they are proving successful and offering better value for money.



Continued overleaf

The community-run model clearly requires agreement with the Parish Council, other community stakeholders and local people in order to be viable. Your Parish Council will be joining us in ensuring the wider community is consulted on the best way forward.

However, as an existing customer of one of these libraries, it is important that we actively seek your views and properly take these into account.

The questionnaire sets out the issues we would like your views on. We would be most grateful if you could complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the SAE provided no later than 4 August 2010.

Thank you

**Please fill in
the enclosed
questionnaire**



Have your say



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