



KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

5 March 2015

Kirkburton Parish Council pleased with turnout at Kirkburton Library Meeting

The public turned out again last week to hear how things were progressing at Kirkburton Library. Kirkburton Parish Council is hoping to negotiate a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) with Kirklees Council to secure the future of the building for community use in the face of Kirklees Council cutbacks and allow the continuation of library and information provision in the village.

This second public consultation meeting at the Hub was organised by the Parish Council to provide further details on its plans and to give people a chance to put forward their views and suggestions.

People received a detailed update on the Parish Council's draft proposals to date. The change would involve moving the Parish Council office into the library building after making a few internal alterations, so that the library and the Parish Council could both operate comfortably together. There are also plans to extend the car park in the longer term. The intention is for the current library facilities to be maintained and for the groups which meet there, to continue as at present.

Updates on the current library consultation and the Kirklees budget were provided by Kathryn Harrison, Libraries Manager and Cllr Graham Turner, Library Portfolio Holder at Kirklees Council. Cllr Turner said, "The consultation is going well and we have had approximately 3,000 responses. It is, however, important that as many people as possible take part in this consultation as it will be a very important part of the decision process, as we look to deliver a library service on a much reduced budget in the future.

It's a credit to Kirkburton Parish Council that they are actively looking at ways of working with Kirklees in securing a library service for their community in these difficult times. It is clear that this partnership working is one of the ways forward as services come under increasing pressure from reducing budgets.

I was very pleased to see that the public turned out in numbers on a cold night to show their support for the library service and the proposals from the Parish Council to protect the library for future generations. The Parish Council has done a lot of work on how they can make the asset transfer of the library building work for the residents and I am more than happy to help and support them in any way I can as they proceed with this excellent proposal."

The consultation remains open until 10 April. Questionnaires can be completed online at www.kirklees.gov.uk/libraryconsultation . Paper copies are available in all Library and Information Centres.

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Clerk to the Council: Mrs Angela Royle
Assistant Clerk: Mrs Lucy Gardner

Office Hours:
Monday and Thursday 9.30 – 1.30

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Raising the issue of the need for volunteers to help with the actual library service, Kathryn Harrison said, “The aim is to create a group of around 20 - 30 people willing to put some time in each week – the amount of time is entirely a matter for the individual and could be as little as 2 hours per week. We hope to form a Friends Group which will oversee the library operations and liaise with the Parish Council.” For further details or to register your interest, contact Kathryn by e-mail kathryn.harrison@kirklees.gov.uk or complete a form at Kirkburton Library and Information Centre.

Cllr Cass Whittingham, Chairman of the Parish Council, said “I’m pleased that the meeting was so well attended and that the Parish Council’s ideas for the future were well received. It is vital that the building is retained for public use if the library is to have any chance of surviving in the village.”

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Contact: Kirkburton Parish Council, Burton Village Hall, Northfield Lane, Highburton HD8 0QT

Angela Royle, Clerk to the Council:

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An answering machine is available at other times, or messages can be sent by email to the above address.

