



# KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

## PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release**

5 December 2014

### **Kirkburton Parish Council supports its Local Libraries**

Kirkburton Parish Council is working with Kirklees Council to investigate the possibility of the Kirkburton Library building being transferred to the Parish Council by means of a Community Asset Transfer rather than the building being lost to the Community, because of the further drastic cuts which Kirklees Council may have to implement.

Cllr Cass Whittingham, Chairman of Kirkburton Parish Council, said, "The Parish Council is aware that libraries are important to people for a whole variety of reasons and we want to help to retain the library if at all possible."

Councillors are in negotiation with Kirklees Council to see if it is possible to take over the running of the building so that the library can continue to be delivered from that site. This will enable Kirklees Council to retain a core Library service within the building which could be delivered with Community help.

Cllr Whittingham said, "Another public meeting is planned for February to update people on the current situation and to measure the level of public support for this option. Up to, and at the meeting, the Parish Council will be gauging interest in the formation of a "Friends" group to work alongside the Parish Council to help deliver library services as Kirklees Council withdraws."

At its budget meeting in December the Parish Council agreed to set an amount aside should the community groups in Kirkheaton and Shepley be successful taking over the library buildings in those villages and need initial financial support as they take on these significant commitments.

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