

# Save Westbury Library Campaign

An active Campaign Group has been set up by Cllr Geoff Gollop following the Public Meeting held on 26 March at Westbury Methodist Church. Reproduced below is the Group's second Newsletter, published on 2 May and circulated by email to all those who had registered an interest in being kept abreast of developments.

## Save WoTLib – Newsletter 2 (2 May 2015)

The Action Group met again on Thursday and this newsletter aims to let you know how our campaign is going.

The most important date to note: **the Consultation runs until 30 June**

We would encourage every member of every household, including children, to reply to the Survey either online or by collecting a Survey form from the Library. Our leaflet explaining how to reply is attached; please feel free to print it off and share it with as many people as possible.

To promote the need for responses, we are running **Save our Library stalls**:

- Thursday 7 May from 10am Outside of the Library on Polling Day
- Saturday 9 May 11am-3pm Westbury Community Fair

Volunteers needed to help for an hour or two on either of these dates.

**10,000 leaflets** are being printed and we aim to deliver them to every house in Westbury and Stoke Bishop. We have had some offers of help but need more volunteers. Are you available to help with a couple of hours delivery between 14-28 May? If so, please let me know.

We are planning **an Action Day on Saturday 6 June** to draw attention to our campaign. Can you keep that date free in your diary, particularly the morning. More details will follow.

### Local media:

The Henleaze and Westbury Voice, May edition, is carrying a report from the Council's consultation meeting, which took place in Coombe Dingle Sports Centre on 15 April (p18) and this month's BS9 will also have an article about the campaign. If you do not receive these free publications and would like me to email you a copy of the articles, please email me.

### What you can do:

- Encourage family and friends to check that they have a current active library card. If not, try to persuade them to go into Westbury Library to apply for one during the month of May
- Encourage anyone you know to reply to the Survey. Each member of each household can and should respond
- Write a letter to the Post with your reasons why the Library is essential. The first letter of our campaign was printed in the Post on Thursday and the second on Friday.

- If you are at home during the day, keep an ear on local radio for any opportunity to phone in and oppose the Library closure
- Encourage anyone who uses social media to 'follow' @savewotlib on Twitter and to 'like' us on Facebook: savewestburylibrary
- If you would like to make a financial donation to help fund our campaign, please give a donation at our stall at the Community Fair on 9 May or send to WoTSoc, Box 350, Mail Boxes, 60 Westbury Hill, BS9 3UJ, cheques payable to WoTSoc.

**Thank you for your support so far, we are now moving into a critical period of ensuring maximum awareness that our Library really could be closed unless we can achieve an overwhelming response to the survey.**

**Cllr Geoff Gollop**

**Follow us: Twitter: @savewotlib**

**Facebook: savewestburylibrary**

**For more information or to get involved, please email**

**[Geoffrey.gollop@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:Geoffrey.gollop@bristol.gov.uk)**

**or telephone 9039946**

## Why is our library not in Group 1 or 2?

The reasons given for Westbury Library not being in Groups 1 or 2 are:

- Built in 1930's. No accessible toilet. Staff area very poor. Poor quality building with no scope to invest or adapt – no opportunity for shared space within current building to work alongside other organisations.
- Situated just outside retail centre
- Proximity to Henleaze library provides access to core service

**It is important that Westbury Library is moved to Group 1 or 2.**

Consider the following points in responding to the survey:

→→→Q1a **Westbury Library** Grouping - **"No"**

**Location:** Westbury is in a perfect location because

- Short walk from shops and next to houses
- On direct route between shops/banks etc and Canford Park
- Plenty of parking
- Level access for Stoke Bishop and Westbury - excellent for disabled, cyclist and walking
- Two pre-school nurseries within walking distance

**Buildings:** "no public toilets":

- Nor do most libraries in Bristol (including Henleaze)
- The local Neighbourhood Partnership is able and willing to provide toilet upgrade
- There are public toilets in both village centre and Canford Park adjacent

**Westbury library "was built in the 1930s":**

- So are most buildings close by
- Considered by users as light, warm, spacious, very welcoming and clearly fit for purpose
- Disabled access is excellent
- Buildings only represent 10% of cost of library operation, thus age is not a valid reason

## The Council did not consider library Usage:

Consider and include these facts:

- Westbury is fourth busiest (out of 28) in borrowings
- Westbury has an excellent children's corner
- Westbury has popular children's activities
- Access to computers is difficult in Henleaze because of demand. Loss of Westbury will make this worse
- Westbury is used for a large number of group activities such as Neighbourhood Partnership meetings, book clubs, school activities, Police Community Liaison meetings etc
- Difficult to see how Henleaze library can hope to serve the three communities of Westbury, Stoke Bishop and Henleaze
- 15 book groups use Westbury as their collection point for their reading
- Many residents see a local library as a safe haven for small children and vulnerable adults which could not be served by "libraries at a distance"
- The library is an important point for council and local information
- Free local newspapers, leaflets from public bodies, notices of local events, Neighbourhood Partnership information

**Q2** Westbury Library **does** fit within Groups 1 & 2 for the reasons stated in Q1a

**Please complete the rest of the sections as you think fit**

We need to be confident that hundreds of submissions are going to the Council so please email Cllr Geoff Gollop (details overleaf) with SUBMISSION SENT as the subject, simply to check that there is a good response.