

Meeting of the Save Deddington Library Working Group on Tuesday 8 March at 7:30pm at the Unicorn, Deddington

Present: Alan Collins (Chair), Jill Cheeseman, Susan Fuller (minutes), Helen Oldfield, James Privett, Mary Robinson, Cath Rose, Geoff Todd (FoDL), Heather Ward, Bryn Williams

Apologies Kristin Thompson

Progress

AC informed that the presence of the group at the Farmers' Market had shown the community we are proactively involved in opposing the library closure. AC, BW and HO spoke to 20–30 people whilst at the stall.

Many other people, such as Viv O'Donnell, in the community have been gathering names of those with no access to the Internet to get their opposition noted.

Banner

HO has spoken with Mike Homer from Multiflow who has kindly offered to provide a banner, to the Book a Future group, free of charge.

The issue of public liability insurance was raised with GT who said that a cover of £10 million was required.

The wording of the banner was then decided to read as follows: Book a Future for Deddington Library, www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/librarycampaign.

It was discussed that for maximum effect the banner should be moved around the parish. It was suggested that the location of the market day banners could be used (Holly Tree Club, Hempton Road & George Fenemore's) when not in use by the market group. HW said that the Primary School railings may also be used or possibly Peppers restaurant.

Actions

- HO to ask whether the banner could be included under the DCE Town Hall insurance at their meeting on 10 March. If not the PC will be approached prior to the DPC meeting on 16 March.
- HO to liaise with Mike Homer regarding the banner wording and forward the proof to MR for approval.
- GT to liaise with the Farmers' Market Group that the banner positions can be used when not in use for advertising the farmers' market.
- HW to ask for permission for using the banner on the school railings.

J.R.R. Tolkien and the Opening of Deddington Library

HW has read through the Library history file located in the computer room in the library. A library in the village dates back to 1858 with the current location opened, in 1956, by J.R.R. Tolkien.

HW uncovered a letter from OCC stating that they would be returning the original letters from Tolkien to the Deddington library over 11 years ago. This has not happened.

It was suggested that once the letters are returned it would prove a newsworthy story.

It was also suggested that Josie Stevens might be asked if she has any photos of the event as her husband, Bob, taught at the Windmill School, which Tolkien also visited on the day of the opening.

HW also mentioned that there was a book containing his speech. Stella had been trying to find out its name and contents.

Actions

- GT and the FoDL with the PC will write to OCC to request the original letters are returned to Deddington Library.
- HO to check with the *Oxford Mail* and *Banbury Guardian* archives to see if the library opening had any editorial or photo coverage.
- HW to ask if Stella's work email can be looked at for further details of the book containing the speech.
- BW to contact Tolkien Facebook Group to see if they know any further details.

Kings Sutton Literary Festival

BW said that the group had been allowed to have a presence at the Kings Sutton Literary Festival taking place this weekend.

Actions

- BW to set up at the Literary Festival. It was suggested John Anderson or Ian Sloan be contacted to see if they could lend an A frame.
- JC & HW to man the desk 11:00–14:30 on Saturday
- HO from 14:30 on Saturday
- KT and members of FoDL to be asked if can do a session and report back to BW
- BW Sunday morning and HO possibly able to do Sunday afternoon

Tony Baldry

BW informed the group that Eileen Anderson had received a note from Tony Baldry stating he was keen to get involved.

Action

- AC to contact Tony Baldry to invite along to one of the next meetings.

School

BW has taken a photo of the F1's walking in crocodile to the library which has been sent to the *Banbury Guardian*.

GT has had a meeting with the new Primary School Head, Clive Evans, and said that they had agreed to hold an Easter Egg Competition. A market trader will provide the eggs. They will then be boiled at the Deddington Arms (with some of the children helping). The eggs would then be decorated with the theme being book characters/titles. Stella, Rosemary and someone from the craft group will then judge them. The eggs will be displayed at the farmers' market with a prize giving from children's author Linda Newbery. It is hoped that Waterstones will donate some of the prizes. GT suggested that there would be plenty of opportunities to get press coverage of this community event.

CR said that Clive Evans had also said that he was putting the proposed closure of the library to discussion at the school council to see if the children could come up with any other ideas.

CR answered the last meeting query that schoolbook issues were assigned to children's library cards rather than just one borrower.

HW was given the remaining flyers.

Actions

- BW to forward the photo of children on the way to library to MR for the DN and HW for projecting at the PTA Quiz night.
- HW to take the remaining and further copies to Deddington, Steeple Aston, Duns Tew and Bloxham Primary Schools for inclusion in book bags.

Newsletter

SF and GT have consolidated the contact list from those attending the parish public meeting and the responses received at the parish office. It was suggested that these people be contacted to update on what has happened and what more they can do. Those not providing email addresses could be hand delivered the newsletter provided a home address had been given.

The newsletter will then be sent out with the next issue of the DN.

It was agreed that the newsletter would:

- Detail progress so far of the Book a Future group (involvement in the literary festival, stall at Farmers' Market, *Banbury Guardian* coverage)
- Inform them of the change in timing of consultation period to April 2011
- encourage people firstly to become members of the library along with sending opposition letters/email to contacts provided and signing the e:petition for Deddington and the County.
- Ask that the email/hard copy be forwarded to anyone else that does not know of the closure.

It was suggested that Bengal Spice and May Fu II might like to have some of the flyers in the restaurants.

Actions

- Group to work on the content of the newsletter via email. Copy date for DN Saturday 19 March 2011.
- SF to send GT and BW current contact list.
- AC to chase clerk for contact details of neighbouring Parish Councils.
- SF to contact neighbouring PC's to ask for their support.
- HW to get leaflets in to Bengal Spice.

Library usage

GT said that Stella had been logging footfall in the library since August 2010.

It was also confirmed that the yearly usage audit did take place during the October half term and was not therefore a typical week as many families took holidays during this school break.

Other matters

SF said that she had found a library book that was due back in Oct '74 and was happy to be named and shamed if a positive spin could be used for highlighting the library issue. Stella is already thinking of ways that this could be done.

Thanks were passed to the Deddington News for covering the printing costs and delivery of the flyer to the parishioners.

GT also pointed out that the library housed items belonging to the community such as the collage.

Next Meeting.

Next meeting set for Tuesday 22 March 2011 at 7:30pm at the Unicorn.