

Key ‘Facts’ relating to Deddington Library

A. Deddington

1. The population of the Parish of Deddington Parish is 2,200, split across 990 households.
2. Deddington has the highest proportion of people age 85+ in the county (4.8%)
3. Deddington has the 2nd highest proportion of people age 15 and below in the county (behind Banbury Ruscote Ward which is not a rural community)
4. Deddington has the 3rd highest proportion of people at or beyond retirement age in the county.
5. Deddington has the lowest proportion of working age people in the county (50.4%) – therefore our dependency on a local library is greater
6. Bus Users UK has identified that in the event of library closures, Deddington tops a survey of worst hit rural communities – a child’s return bus fare to Banbury is £3.60, cost for adult + 2 children is £12. Journey time from Deddington is 29 minutes, ignoring any journey time to the Deddington hub in the first place.
7. The Primary School F1 class visits the library every Monday. From March, 3 classes per week will visit the library during school hours; F1 will keep its weekly slot and all other Year Groups throughout the school will visit every 3 weeks.
8. Deddington Library handles more issues than both Hook Norton and Watlington (neither is threatened with closure)

B. What OCC says about Deddington

1. OCC says: ‘only 3 static libraries have less borrowers than Deddington’
2. We say: ‘but **15** have less issues and **10** have fewer visitors’
3. OCC says: ‘our Borrowers represent only 0.6% of static library users in the County’
4. We say: ‘our population is just **0.35%** yet our issues account for **0.85%**’
5. OCC says: Banbury is the logical choice of hub library

6. We say: 'we already are a hub – we serve **23** neighbouring villages, and had over 30 non Pparish concerned borrowers at our public meeting'.
7. OCC believes : 'rural isolation affects older, younger and poorer people more seriously than others' (*Closer to Communities*, 2010). So why close the rural library serving a greater % of vulnerable communities than anywhere else?
8. CCllr Heathcoat did not have the figure for registered membership (of Deddington Library) but will supply this information. Would be useful to see it broken down by age category to support the theory that the greater % of members are from the non-working age groups.

C. OCC

1. OCC wishes to save £119M – but it's not clear over what period of time. Four years has been mentioned in other conversations. If so, front-loaded cuts could equal £30M pa. The target savings represent 11.9% of its annual budget.
2. If OCC's library budget is £8.9M then how does closing more than half only save £500,000 pa?
 - a. This suggests that the central library budget is not being cut proportionately to the proposed closures, and if it was then the number of closures could be reduced.
 - b. This is being investigated further by Mike O'Brien, who is also contacting the US private company who would like to take them over.
3. Judith Heathcoat quotes that 'in order to make £119 million savings the council is cutting the libraries spending by 23%', but in order to do so is closing 46% of libraries, see point (2) above.
4. It is proposed that 20 of the currently 43 funded libraries will be closed. The 23 that continue currently serve 82% of usage. Those being closed represent 18% of library visits; but note that OCC is using different statistics – 'borrowers' meaning the total number of 'members', 'visits' meaning literally frequency of visits and 'issues' meaning items borrowed. See Section 1 for the Deddington stats.
5. There are 10 members of her team with a £35 million budget.

6. Remuneration paid to OCC councillors 2009–10 was £839,714 (less travel and subsistence) representing a 5% increase on the previous year.
7. The combined salary (or E.R.C.s) of the Chief Librarian and associated PA *is thought to be £200,000.*
8. The combined salary of the 20 most highly paid staff at OCC *is thought to be £2,000,000.*
9. *It is thought* that the Chief Executive of OC earns £182,431 p.a. Collectively, the 6 most Senior Managers earn nearly £800,000 pa. A new post has just been advertised at £97,180 – Head of Strategy and Communications.
10. The running costs (on-site staffing, transport, electricity, water, security, supplies cleaning, etc) for Deddington Library last year were £38,633 (excluding librarian's salary).
11. It should be noted that Deddington Library generates an income through rentals, requests etc and is in the region of £5750 pa.

D. Consultation Process

1. The formal consultation for the proposed closures was expected to begin towards the end of February and run for 12 weeks. During this time every correspondence (whether by email or letter) will be recorded.
2. To date, neither DPC nor FoDL has received any formal communication with regard to detail of the Consultation process. There is strong reason to believe that the OCC Legal Dept is now investigating the legality of its own process, hence the delay.
3. 'The Administration budget was approved after seven hours of debate. It includes cuts to library funding which will grow to £2 million pa after four years. Some additional funding was also voted to support communities seeking to retain their library or youth service' (County Councillor's Report to Adderbury Parish Council 11 January 2010 to 22 February 2011).
4. CCllr Heathcoat explained that each library has different costs depending whether the premises are owned or leased. Other factors include opening hours, issues,

visits and borrowers as previously referred to. We believe that Deddington could be in the firing line because:

- a. OCC owns the building therefore it has an asset value which could be realised
 - b. There are no long-term rental agreements in place which would have to be honoured regardless of whether OCC was actually using the premises or not.
5. The data collected from the consultation process is supposed to be analysed and used to assess the specific needs of the residents. This is why we need a huge response to the formal consultation process regardless of who has already written or voiced their objection to the proposed closures.
 6. It is believed that Hook Norton residents have financially supported their library (to an unknown extent) in recent years and therefore it is considered to be a community library protected from the current cuts.

E. Legislation

1. 85% of householders in the county have to be within 2 miles of a static library. Does the County really think they can close the rural libraries and still maintain this level of service? (Standards for Library Services (DoCM&S))
2. If OCC thinks it can substitute its static library service with a mobile provision, how are disabled borrowers going to be able to ascend and descend a single-lifted, one-man operated bus in an already time pressured slot whilst the loan operator is also attempting to serve other borrowers?
3. Ed Vaizey (Culture Minister) has already drawn Councillors' attention to the Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1964 and has threatened to invoke the Coalition's emergency powers should library closures be attempted. The Act emphasises a statutory duty to provide 'comprehensive and library services'.
4. Successful legal challenges have already been mounted on this front – for further information, Google the 'Wirral challenge'.

F. Contacts

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