

A Future for Our Library

Following the well attended Public Meeting on Tuesday 15th Feb, the Parish Council the following night voted unanimously to fight OCC over the proposal to close Deddington Library. We believe that a very strong and persuasive argument can be built as to why our library should not be on the list of those set to close and that a huge weight can be put behind the case, not only from people living within this Parish but also neighbouring Parishes that rely on Deddington's facilities. OCC's own study (2010) into the demographics of our Parish presents us with a strong case for survival in itself and OCC would find it difficult to dispute!

It was agreed that 4 PC's would work with the Friends of Deddington Library (and any other interested supporters in the village) to devise a strategy and build the case for continuation – Plan A – and the Parish Clerk will be writing to OCC to convey this intent. At the same time, other PC's were nominated to work with the community to build a Plan B which will determine how we could continue to maintain a library function in the village if OCC were to turn down our Plan A challenge. Whilst we recognize that there is a risk associated with presenting a well formed Plan B, we cannot assume that Plan A will succeed and therefore we have to have a contingency plan.

When we have received and interpreted the Consultation process document, we will be urging everyone in the Parish and surrounding area capable of writing to put pen to paper and let OCC know both the strength of feeling and the compelling reasons as to why its proposal is wrong.

Updates, meeting dates and Plan A/Plan B progression will be posted regularly via Deddington Online and of course we would welcome ideas and suggestions from supporters via the DOL website or its Facebook page.

Heather Ward
Parish Councillor,