

OLNEY LIBRARY ENGAGEMENT

Date: 25th June 2015

Time: 6–7pm

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM ENGAGEMENT

<p>Do you have any proposal or ideas for additional users for the building(s)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Evening classes using Library PC's Family History classes, Computer tutorials.</i> • <i>Playgroups, more school links - do more advertising.</i>
<p>What other service could you bring into the libraries and contribute?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Steve Oakley Estate Agents, Costa, Solicitors in the area – Phone Box.</i> • <i>Sharing resources with local schools.</i> • <i>Work with Waterstones on events.</i>
<p>What can we do together to support the local people being involved with supporting the library and activities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Charges are quite reasonable for this area – fees are comparatively low.</i> • <i>Library events do more in other areas of the annex to promote what they do.</i> • <i>More connectivity with other libraries in MK.</i> • <i>Library should be more involved in community events as well as the Christmas one, working with sports clubs.</i> • <i>Can we link library Facebook page to the Olney town page.</i> • <i>Great idea from a young gentleman to advertise the library in schools- passing idea of school poster competition to children's librarians.</i> • <i>Schools need to be involved in supporting library.</i>
<p>What ideas do you have to involve more local people in the management of the building to help support community access and possible use outside library opening hours for new activities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Look again at opening hours – evening times better for 'day time workers who can't get to library – automated drop boxes'.</i> • <i>Publicising Wi-Fi better may entice outside organisations to use library out of hours.</i> • <i>Hire library out to private firms to run their business from.</i> • <i>Editor of Phonebox Magazine (reaches 22,000 houses) is willing to advertise library business for free – contact details given.</i> • <i>Liaise with Ousedale Olney Campus Librarian to see if they can use the building – class visits outside normal library hours etc.</i>
<p>Would you be interested in contributing to some costs of running the library such as staffing, books or building-related costs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Suggested charity – Emberton United Charities. No representative but a comment made that they had access to funds.</i> • <i>Re-negotiate town council rent, extra money on precept.</i> • <i>Need business sponsorship but they are in a similar situation. Need a sound business plan highlighting what is in it for them.</i> • <i>Coffee/vending machine may help income.</i>

<p>Would you be interested in setting up a friends group which could help raise funds for libraries and recruit volunteers to help support library staff?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yes very interested (two contact details given). User keen on becoming an IT buddy, details passed to volunteer co-ordinator.</i> • <i>Lot of interest in this - should be straightforward to start a group.</i> • <i>Need to push donations more.</i> • <i>Establish Silver Surfers group which in turn could be part of Friends group.</i>
<p>Are you community led organisation or cooperative entity which could take on additional responsibilities in your community library, perhaps share a library building or help with the library day to day management?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Olney Town Councillor's in my group would welcome a discussion.</i>
<p>Could the Town Council open the building at quieter times and perhaps share staff? Alternatively a fully automated option could be considered with the Town Council opening and closing the building?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Town Councillors in my group were keen to liaise with the Library to build a business case for the Olney Centre to be utilised outside core hours.</i> • <i>The Town Council are interested to discuss opportunities (like Sharing Staff) further.</i> • <i>Interest in automated option but wouldn't want to lose experienced staff.</i>
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Could we purchase good quality books from charity shops?</i> • <i>I wonder if anyone's ever looked into the feasibility of co-location with the Cowper Newton museum in the market square at Olney?</i> • <i>Good location. We already have good links. We're in some ways natural bedfellows.</i> • <i>Have no idea what space they might offer us and on what terms. I suspect that we would have to scale down our library operations which isn't necessarily what we would want but given the funding pressures now and in the future...</i> • <i>Senior posts are the highest cost so need to consider merging HQ posts with other local authorities (e.g. Northants) to share costs.</i>