

Moretonhampstead Library Option 1

This proposal is an agreement between DCC Libraries and Moretonhampstead Development Trust (MDT). DCC Libraries have said that they believe that the best future for Moretonhampstead Library is through a move to Green Hill, because it would significantly increase public access, and make it more sustainable and resilient in the face of the economic pressures that the new Libraries Mutual will have in the coming years. MDT has said it welcomes this but wishes to ensure sufficient community support for such a move.

1. Layouts, access, facilities etc

The agreed proposal is that the Library should be on the ground floor, for reasons of access and floor loading. The drawing labelled Proposal 1 will be the basis for our detailed negotiation. The Library Service will plan the precise shelving requirements and location. Some of the shelving will be easily moveable (by Library staff) so that at least half the room can be made available to the Youth Club on club nights, as in Proposal 1A.

The library would be open for the same hours as Green Hill – 5 days per week, 6 hours per day. On this basis, DCC would provide a self-service machine for loans and returns.

2. Staffing and volunteers

DCC would staff it as now, and hopes additional library volunteers will extend the length of time the library is staffed. However when it is not staffed, the library will still be open and we will be able to use the self service machine to borrow and return books; the entrance will be overseen by a Green Hill reception volunteer, who may be

able to help with simple issues. Different volunteers will wish to do different tasks: we will want to gradually develop a team approach.

3 Costs

We have agreed that the cost of capital works, especially electrics, moving the heritage display, and some specific equipment, will be funded by DCC. Without this, the move will not be possible. We have requested a formal offer of the funds as quickly as possible. We have agreed a basis for negotiation of a lease, which would probably be for the same period as the Library Mutual has its contract from DCC (5 + 5 years), subject to an agreed break clause and some mechanism for reviewing rates if costs increase over the years.

4. Consultations and Timescales

The Board of MDT could take a final decision about its position, and approve any proposed leases etc, on 22 November. Some preparatory work could then be done so that, if the PC decided to support the move in January, we could go out to tender on building work and make arrangements for the transfer, with a target start date of 1 April 2016.

Consultation with MAY is in progress, and will continue through November. MDT's aim is to obtain a new arrangement which, though initially disruptive, will provide an environment for all users that is warm, pleasant, modern, and at least as good as at present.

John Willis 22.10.15