



# MORETONHAMPSTEAD DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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## **Moretonhampstead Library : Proposal to Move to Green Hill                      November 2015**

This proposal is based on potential 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 preferred proposal is that the Library should be on the ground floor, mainly to facilitate easy access for young families and older people. Access would be through the Green Hill foyer and a new door where the Heritage screen is at present. When the library is staffed, the Youth Club entrance would also be open, offering space in the lobby for buggies, shopping, school bags etc. An alternative proposal, to house it on the first floor, might meet some of the Youth Club's concerns, but if that was preferred DCC Libraries would have to re-consider, as access to the Library would be by stairs (in the foyer and in the youth centre) or by the lift. The drawings labelled Proposal 1 and 2 will be the basis for our detailed negotiation, but the actual positions and types of shelving, computers, furniture etc will be planned by the Library Service in consultation with the Friends of Moreton Library. Some of the shelving will be easily moveable (by Library staff) so that the room can be used by the Youth Club on club nights, as in Proposal 1A and 2A.

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**

Some preparatory work could be done through the public consultation, alongside further discussions with MAY, Green Hill Arts and others, so that, if the PC decided to support the move in February, we could go out to tender on building work and make arrangements for the transfer, with a target start date of April or May 2016.

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, Chair