

CABINET

Tuesday 23 June 2015

RESPONSE TO PETITION

The Petition concerning 'Lingfield Library'

It states: 'We the undersigned, would like to register our dismay at the proposed changes to the staffing of Lingfield Library, and ask the Library service to re-consider its decision to remove them.'

Details of petition:

We believe Surrey County Council (SCC) misled us with their statement at the public meeting last June that Lingfield Library, with its current staff, would stay as it is for one year after the new trust is set up, to enable the trust to pursue ways of paying staff from funds.

We understand that Lingfield will have no continuity of staff as we are single manned and both staff will be relocated.

No one from the library service would surely opt for Lingfield as their base for one year unless they have a guarantee of a placement elsewhere at the end of that year. They would also be taking on extra responsibilities as our library assistant does now, as a lower grade.

The security of the building and its contents will be a major concern.

Has SCC considered borrowers with special needs? We have borrowers who rely on the staff to help them choose or obtain the reading material they prefer. Some are afraid to deal with 'new' people, preferring to wait until either of the staff they recognise is on duty if relief staff are in. Familiarity and continuity are vital for such people.

Do the senior library service staff have any first hand knowledge of our library? The relationship between staff and users, the ambience and social atmosphere. Do they even care?

Submitted by Mrs Rita Russell

Signatures: 294

Response

To be tabled at the meeting.

Mr Richard Walsh
Cabinet Member for Localities and Community Wellbeing
23 June 2015

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