Dartford Library Changes
Consultation report summary

Easier to read version
December 2014
Hello

This easy read document is written by Kent County Council (KCC), when we say ‘we’ in this document, we mean the council.

Difficult words are written in **bold**.

There is a list of what these words mean at the end.

You might need some help with this document.

What this document is about

We would like to tell you what people thought about our ideas to make Dartford Library better.

This is called a **consultation**.

It took place from 1st August to the 21st of September.
Why does the library need to change?

The library needs to be updated. Some of the building is worn out and needs to be done up.

The library and the museum it is joined to should be accessible to everyone, shelves need to be repaired and new equipment put in.

The council now has to give more joined up services, so other groups need to be accommodated in the building as well.

There will be another entrance to the library and a changing places toilet for disabled people.

And space for people who use the ‘Good Day Programme’.
Who did we ask about the changes?

We asked:

- people who use the library
- people who use the Good Day Programme
- people who live in Dartford
- Council Members.

They told us what they thought by:

- filling in a paper form
- filling in the questions on the internet
- talking to library staff
- talking at user group meetings
- viewing the display in the library.
What did we ask people?

We asked people these questions:

• What do you think about the overall proposals?

• What do you think of the new layout idea?

• What sort of furniture and colours do you think would work best?

• How satisfied are you with the current books we have?

• What type of books and things would you like us to buy?

• Would you be interested in booking the proposed community rooms in future?

Most people answered the first two questions.
Who told us their views?

There were 349 replies to the consultation. 4 of these were letters sent to Members of the council.

If everyone who replied was a member of the library it would be around 5% of the total people who use the library.

What people told us

This is a chart which shows you that:

- 67 people did not think it was a good idea
- 200 people thought it was a good idea
- 20 people were worried about losing local history space
- 14 people were not sure about including a kitchen
- 16 people supported it, but had small worries.
- 32 people were not sure about including the Good Day Programme
There were also two petitions for and 1 against the proposals.

The first one which was against the plan had 991 signatures.

The second in support of the changes was signed by 22 people.

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**List of difficult words**

These are a few words that might need to be explained.

**Accessible**

Make it easy for people to get in and out of a building or use things.

**Accommodated**

Make space for so something can be moved in.

**Consultation**

A plan for changing something which asks people’s views. These will be listened too and affect the decision that is reached.

**Good Day Programme**

The programme makes it better for people with a learning disability to have more choice of activities they want to do and where they want to do them. Often based in the community.
Petition
When many people share the same view they can sign a form together to make their view known.

Proposed
This is an idea that is suggested.

Proposals
These are plans or ideas that are suggested.

Where can I find out more?
There is a full version of this report if you would like to read it.

Please contact: Sarah Collins
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All documents can be made available in alternative formats upon request.