

Have your say on the provision of alternative library services in South Wigston



Tell us how this might affect you

Online: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/south-wigston

For general enquiries or comments about this consultation
phone **0116 305 4699** or email futurelibraries@leics.gov.uk

Public consultation: Submit your views by 22 July 2018

Why change?

Leicestershire County Council continues to face its biggest ever financial challenge. In 2014 the council consulted widely about the future of library services in Leicestershire. Following the consultation, the council agreed in November 2014 that the new library service model would be based on:

- 16 libraries fully funded by the county council
- An infrastructure support package to enable community groups to manage 36 community libraries with county council help
- A mobile library service which will provide a regular library service to most villages without a static library
- An online library service available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to those with access to the internet

South Wigston Library was one of the 36 libraries that we invited community groups to come forward to manage with our support. In 2015, we transferred the management of the library to Community Action Partnership (CAP) who already leased and managed the Bassett Centre.

Unfortunately, CAP have given us notice that they are withdrawing from the lease of the Bassett Centre and will no longer be able to manage the South Wigston Library.

Bringing the operation of South Wigston library back under county council management is not an option.

We are therefore providing an opportunity for residents and community groups to come forward to register their interest to manage the Bassett Centre and South Wigston Library with County Council support. However, in case we do not receive any interest or viable plans, we also have to be prepared for the possible closure of the library and consider options for alternative library service provision.

What has happened to date?

In December 2014 we invited interested groups or individuals in the South Wigston community to register their interest in running their local library based on our infrastructure support package.

This infrastructure support package to enable a community group to manage their local library was broadly based on the following:

- The county council provides the book stock, access to the library management system for PC bookings and book reservations and, access to library support services.
- The community group provides the staffing for the library, usually through volunteers, and manages the library building. The county council provides financial support for the first 7 years on a reducing basis.

Community Action Partnership (CAP) registered its interest and submitted an outline business plan in March 2015 and later that year the operation of South Wigston Library was transferred to CAP. Since then, CAP have successfully managed the library as part of their wider services available in the Bassett Centre.

In December 2017, CAP's Board of Trustees decided to withdraw from the lease of the Bassett Centre and from the management of the South Wigston Library.

The Bassett Centre is owned by the County Council. We have engaged various local organisations to check if there is any interest in operating from the Bassett Centre and managing the library. This engagement has encouraged us to start a formal process to invite organisations to register their interest to operate the Bassett Centre and the library.

We have developed a bespoke infrastructure support offer, which reflects the support available to operate the Bassett Centre as well as the support available to manage a library service from the Centre.

More information about our offer and the process involved is available online at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/south-wigston

What are we consulting on?

Our preferred option for the future of South Wigston library remains finding a community managed library solution. We are therefore asking any people and groups interested in operating the Bassett Centre and running South Wigston Library with a package of support from Leicestershire County Council to register their interest by 22nd July 2018.

We remain open to discussing and considering other options for supporting a community managed library or any other viable options for providing a library service in South Wigston.

Should it not be possible to find a viable community managed solution, we are proposing that the current library will close and that a mobile library service will provide the book lending service to residents in the South Wigston community. All other library services, such as public access computers, will be available at any of the 16 county council funded libraries, including Wigston.

Who would this affect?

The proposals would affect anyone currently using or planning to use South Wigston library.



Our proposals in detail

From 9 May 2018 we will provide a mobile library service on a temporary basis while a more permanent solution is being considered.

We have published our offer of support to groups wishing to take over the running of the Bassett Centre and South Wigston Library and are inviting interested groups and people to register their interest by 22nd July 2018. If the registration of interest is approved, the relevant group will be invited to submit an Outline Business Plan by 21st September 2018. A panel of officers will assess the Outline Business Plan and make recommendations to the council's Cabinet in October 2018.

More information about our offer and the process involved is available at Wigston Library and online at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/south-wigston

If no group registers an interest, or no viable Outline Business Plan is submitted and/or no viable alternative community managed library solutions are identified, the council proposes to close the current library and provide six hours of mobile library services on a weekly basis. The new service would come into effect from November 2018.

There are various options for how the mobile library service could be provided. We'd like to know what option you think would be best for the community.

The mobile service could either be provided as a six-hour session on a particular day of the week, or spread across two three-hour sessions on different days of the week.

There may also be options to include multiple stops for the mobile library. In other words, the mobile library could either stop at a single location (most likely to be outside the existing library / Bassett Centre) or it could make multiple shorter stops.

The following locations could potentially be suitable as locations for stops.

- Car park outside existing library / Bassett Centre
- Tesco Car Park
- South Leicestershire College (Canal Street)

We would welcome views on further potential locations.

What will the mobile library offer?

The mobile library offers a basic book lending service. Users will have immediate access to the stock on the mobile library and also, by using the request service, to all Leicestershire's books held throughout the county. If a user requests a book then this should be available the next time the mobile library visits.

Reservations can either be submitted via the mobile library driver or on-line (see below) for delivery via the mobile library the next time it visits.

How would I access alternative services?

The Online service is available 24/7 for anyone who has internet access in their home and can be accessed using most personal devices (PC's, Tablets, Smart Phones) as well as by telephone for renewals. This enables books, and magazines to be downloaded free of charge to mobile devices. In addition a range of information and reference resources are available through the county library website.

There are 16 main county council libraries of which Wigston and Blaby are closest for South Wigston residents.

Opening times for Blaby and Wigston library can be found on the county council website.

For housebound users the Home Library Service may be available, further details of eligibility for this service can be found by contacting Wigston library or any of the 16 main county council libraries.

Services to Schools will continue to be provided by the county council where a school has a subscription for the Library Services to Education Service.

What is happening to the Bassett Centre?

The county council own the Bassett Centre.

While we are working on a longer term solution, the following services will continue to operate:

- Registrar's Service (Ceremony Room)
- Leicestershire Adult Learning Service (courses)
- Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB)

The Library will not be in operation. Unfortunately, we will also not be able to hire out rooms for the time being.

How the consultation will work

The consultation begins on Wednesday 9 May 2018 and will end at midnight on Sunday 22 July 2018.

A public meeting to discuss the proposals will take place at the Bassett Centre on 5 June at 7pm. This will be an opportunity to find out more about the proposals to help inform your response to the consultation. It will also be an opportunity to discuss community managed library solutions.

To submit your views, please fill out the consultation questionnaire and make sure it reaches us by midnight on Sunday 22 July 2018 at the latest. The survey is available online at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/south-wigston

Paper copies of the questionnaire are available on request at the temporary mobile library, Wigston library or by calling 0116 305 4699.

If you are able to, please complete the questionnaire online as it will save us money.

You can send your completed questionnaire to the following freepost address:

South Wigston library consultation
Leicestershire County Council
Have Your Say
FREEPOST NAT 18685
Leicester
LE3 8XR

If you need help to complete the questionnaire or have any questions about the consultation, please call 0116 305 4699 or email: futurelibraries@leics.gov.uk

What happens next?

The results of the consultation will be reported to the council's Cabinet in October 2018 to enable them to make a decision about the future provision of library services in South Wigston.

At this meeting in October, Cabinet will also consider any bids that have come forward through our Registration of Interest process for organisations interested in operating the Bassett Centre and the South Wigston Library. If no such bids have been received, they would consider any alternative bids and offers received for community managed library solutions.

You can view the latest information in a number of ways

Visit us online www.leicestershire.gov.uk/futurelibraries

Our web pages will be kept up-to-date with the latest information and developments. You'll also be able to access the survey here.

Send an email to futurelibraries@leics.gov.uk to register for the latest news and updates.



Follow us [@leicscountyhall](https://twitter.com/leicscountyhall) for general updates from the council, including the developments on the budget.

Alternatively, you can telephone 0116 305 4699 to ask for information in printed or alternative formats.

જો આપ આ માહિતી આપની ભાષામાં સમજવામાં થોડી મદદ ઇચ્છતાં હો તો 0116 305 4699 નંબર પર ફોન કરશો અને અમે આપને મદદ કરવા વ્યવસ્થા કરીશું.

જੇવર તુહાનું ઇસ જાણવારી નું સમજાવ વિચ વ્રુષ મદદ રાહીદી રૈ તાં વિરપા કરકે 0116 305 4699 નંબર તે ફોન કરે અટે અસીં તુહાડી મદદ લઈ વિસે દા પૂર્ષય કર દવાંગે।

এই তথ্য নিজের ভাষায় বুঝার জন্য আপনার যদি কোন সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয়, তবে 0116 305 4699 এই নম্বরে ফোন করলে আমরা উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির ব্যবস্থা করবো।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات سمجھنے میں کچھ مدد درکار ہے تو براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر کال کریں 0116 305 4699 اور ہم آپ کی مدد کے لئے کسی کا انتظام کر دیں گے۔

假如閣下需要幫助，用你的語言去明白這些資訊，請致電 0116 305 4699，我們會安排有關人員為你提供幫助。

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tej informacji w Twoim języku, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 305 4699, a my Ci dopomożemy.

This information is also available in Easy Read format



Call **0116 305 4699**

or email

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