

LIBRARY NEWS, OCTOBER 2016

(A) MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library service is still operating, under current proposals until October 2017 - see below an article for community newsletters. In the meantime future dates for your route are:

Dyrham	Dyrham Village	4.05 - 4.20
Hinton	Grove Lane	4.30 - 4.50

On alternate Thursdays eg: 27 October, 10 & 24 November, 8 & 22 December

(B) GENERAL LIBRARY NEWS

Following the successful consultation process in the Spring, the council has adopted a new preferred position with the aim to future-proof South Gloucestershire's libraries for the long term and ensure that no library buildings should need to close. A new three month consultation is now running until January 2nd 2017 to hear what the public has to say about the new proposals and information is available online at www.southglos.gov.uk/librarychanges and in your local library and council offices.

The new preferred option is to reduce the library service savings target from £650,000 to £500,000. This would mean a smaller reduction in staff hours required to meet that target. The council will consult with library users and non-users alike on how best to deploy staff among local libraries. It is proposed that the mobile library service be replaced with community centre based libraries across South Gloucestershire and run by volunteer groups. The Council would also fund the building costs of Chipping Sodbury Library with the service being delivered by volunteers. These plans would mean that no library building would have to close as a result of the savings.

The council has also agreed to continue to develop plans to use technology that would allow registered members to use library facilities for 11 hours a-day, seven days a-week, between 8.30am and 7.30pm. This technological approach to delivering library services would build on existing self-service kiosks by providing access to library buildings for registered users out of staff hours, it would be a new approach for South Gloucestershire. The council wants to hear from existing library users as well as those who perhaps cannot currently use these facilities during current opening hours, about how they feel about this option.

After the new consultation process, a final decision on how to proceed will be made in the New Year. Changes in public-facing library services would not take place until October 2017.