

# Community News

Issue 6 - 15/4/2016

an information service from the Presteigne Area  
Community Development Group PACDG

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP PACDG  
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If you have any questions on what's happening - or not happening - in our community, do let us know and we'll do our best to provide an answer, or at least point you in the right direction - [simply email pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com) - or collar one of the Steering Committee in the street and tell us what's on your mind. You can also leave a written message at the Library for us - remember to include your name and a contact telephone number ! We're happy to help publicise community and charity activities and events (but only for events in the immediate Presteigne area) - [email pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com)

**Feel free to pass this on to friends in the area and ask them to let us know their email address so we can add them to the distribution. If you can help spread the word and publicise this on Facebook/Twitter as well that would be brilliant !**

**This issue is dedicated to the subject of the PRESTEIGNE LIBRARY...**

**Rumours have swirled around for a while but now there is a real and present threat to our Library, about which we all need to be aware ... and become involved in ... if we are to support our Town Council in efforts to keep our library open!**

**PCC say that they cannot continue to fund Powys libraries on the current basis** and, in a recent presentation to our Town Council, senior representatives of PCC explained the current situation and the possible unhappy consequences if viable solutions cannot be found ! The indicated current total cost of PCC running the Presteigne Library is around £38,00 p.a.

**PCC has presented three options to the Town Council, all of which involve extra cost to our community.** They will hold a public consultation for Presteigne & Norton over the coming weeks, including a public drop-in at the Library on 27th April to gather our opinions.

These are the facts as we understand them, but be aware that negotiations are ongoing and at a very early stage. PCC are suggesting three ways forward:

## OPTION 1

**Our Town Council takes over the Library entirely, in its present location of The Assembly Rooms, and pays all the running costs.** PCC would assist the takeover by providing a grant for three years, starting at around 35% of the running cost for the first year, reducing to 25% for the second year, and to 18% for the third year. After the third year there would be no further support from PCC. The cost of taking this Option would involve a significant increase in the Town Council precept (i.e. council tax for residents) after the third year, but this Option would at least put the future of the Library in our hands rather than subject to the uncertainties of PCC finances and cost-cutting.

## OPTION 2

**Our Town council contributes around 30% of the running costs to keep PCC running the Library in The Assembly Rooms.** The cost of taking this option would involve a much smaller addition to annual council tax, but would start in the first year.

## OPTION 3

**Our Town Council provides an alternative venue for the Library and contributes around 25% of the operating costs to keep PCC running the service in the new location.** This option implies a smaller increase in annual council tax to cover operating costs, but also involves additional costs for the new location.

The above is based on the current Library opening times of 16.5 hours per week. If these hours were reduced, this would reduce costs proportionally. The minimum opening time advised by PCC is 10 hours per week.

As the implications of these options become clearer and figures are confirmed, it will probably be necessary to carry out a proper residents survey asking which option people would prefer, and be willing to pay for, once there are definite figures and related options for people to consider.

### **THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION...**

**PCC are holding a Drop-In session at the Library on Wednesday 27th April between 4 and 6pm.** We anticipate that residents will be able to take part in the consultation online, and using paper forms (which presumably will be available at the Drop-In). We have no further details about what this entails, but look out for notices at the Library.

**PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY AND DO PLEASE TRY TO BE THERE !**

**We're** told that the consultation will run until 3rd July.

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