

Radstock Library proposed move

B&NES intends to move the Radstock library from its purpose built and accessible building into a space in the Co-op.

Despite the Parish charter which says B&NES will consult this has not been done in relation to the library - with Staff, Service users or Radstock Town Council. In his reply to my question Cllr Dixon said he wanted to know what could be done better. Well B&NES could consult in the first place and not 7 months after the fact.

The small petition the Labour party carried out shows this is an unpopular move by B&NES. Very few people refused to sign and most are saying it is a "daft idea." This is not something that came out of any request from the numerous surveys of residents.

The response I had is that the move is being done on the basis of costs savings, which is estimated at £10k and the potential to be open for longer. Why can't it be kept open for longer where it is? If it is open for the same hours as the Co-op what is the cost of this?

Considering the lack of services in Radstock already how is this small saving justified? Why must Radstock people take the brunt of this?

I have asked for an Equality Impact Assessment and I am told this will be done when the decision is made. This is not the proper process for EIAs as these are to determine if there is a negative impact before the decision is taken.

Once again B&NES have not discussed with the Town Council an overall plan for Radstock. This is just another piecemeal approach which mainly seems to be about saving £10k. Yet B&NES Spent £33 million in Keynsham!

We are tired of seeing Radstock carved into ever smaller pieces to suit Bath.

Cllr Dixon in his response said he did not know the Children's Service used the library. He did not know because he did not ask.

What this move needs to take into account is that:

There are few services in Radstock
You can't compare Radstock library with Paulton as this is not comparing like with like.

The library acts as a focal point for information including tourism and visitors researching their family history

Radstock is to be a hub for children's services.
The library already provides space for Children's Centre activities like the single young mums group which needs privacy.

Mobile Library bus – parks in the car park at the back of the building – it can't do that on Co-op site.

The proposal is to build 1000's of houses in Radstock but there is no plan to strengthen or develop the infrastructure

This is not the approach of a council who cares about Radstock.

We would like to see:

Consultation with relevant parties before the deal is done

A full EIA

A report of the predicted cost savings and the future costs.

An holistic approach to any changes in Radstock in consultation with relevant people.