

BANES LIBRARY STATEMENT

Libraries are important to me. I've been privileged to research in many wonderful libraries including the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Dorchester, Massachusetts, the British Museum Archives and the library in Bath. Admittedly Bath Library shares its building with a supermarket, but it occupies an entire floor with an outside entrance. The library in Radstock, where I live, won't be so lucky. Our disabled friendly, purpose built library building with its numerous windows was designed to provide maximum natural light to house our library books and computers. These will be squeezed into approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ s of the space they now occupy within the RADCO supermarket. There will be no outside entrance. Anyone wishing to borrow a book will have to pass through the store. Nor will there be room for future expansion even though numerous housing developments are likely to raise our population. We're promised longer opening hours, which sounds good, provided it includes the services of professional librarians. Volunteers and self-service are certainly no improvement.

Worst of all, the people and Town Council of Radstock seem to be the last to know about this momentous change. When we found out we mounted a petition, signed by several published local authors among many others. This is an arbitrary decision passed down as a fait accompli. Please reconsider! Thank you.