

Dear Mr Veal and Cabinet members. My name is Mary English I am a local writer and author of 15+ non-fiction titles 3 of which are on the shelves of our library and I am a member of The Society of Authors. I am also a happy user of Bath Central Library. My mother Jean English researched her book The History of The English Family in Bath 1770-1890 using the library's extensive family research archives. My sister Lucy English is a reader at Bath Spa Uni and lectures on their Creative Writing MA. 3 of her books are also available at our library and her students use the 100 well equipped study areas it provides. My Great, great, great uncle Edmund English in 1844 wrote Views of Lansdown Tower, Bath, the Favourite Edifice of the late William Beckford Esq with beautiful illustrations by Mr Willes Maddox 3 copies of which reside in the archives and can be viewed just by asking at the front desk.

I know about books, publishing, reading and libraries.

The move of our library will involve more than just shifting books from one location to another. It will destroy the well thought-out and purpose built foundations of not just a library but a thriving vibrant community of library users, readers, Lego fans, film buffs, crafters, baby bouncers and volunteer job searchers. Over 41 thousand people visit our library every month. That's over 1,300 people every day, that walk or push their buggies or their wheelchairs through the automatic doors into a haven of calm and friendly surroundings. No-one has ever complained about the services that Bath Central Library offers.

No-one has ever asked council to down-grade it, change it, move it or re-situate it.

Imagine how us library fans are going to feel when our safe, centrally placed, well-equipped, well-staffed library is moved, changed and relocated.

I quote from 3 comments on our 5,000 signature petition to leave the library where and how it is:

Toni says: It's more than just a great library. It is a community hub for the people of Bath. Lovely uplifting atmosphere and great selection of books. I love going to our library .

Sally says: I've brought up 3 children, over a 20 year period, borrowing books from Bath library. It has enabled them to be voracious readers. I am also a primary teacher and appreciate the value of having such a resource on our doorstep. I often recommend it to the children I teach because it makes reading accessible to all.

Paul says: my whole family are regular users and it is a vital resource everyone needs XXX *I have also heard the views of a retired member of library staff who said: "I saw so many families coming to our Children's areas over the years and so many thanked us for the life-line Bath Central Library provided. So many people still come in day in day out for whom this safe comfortable library means a lot. I am proud of the diverse nature of our users, now over 1300 per day. This great City Central Library provides a wonderful service, a move I feel decimates this, and it saddens me and others who worked with me building what we have."* The friendships, and familiar home-from-home will die an untimely and unnecessary death and I am hopeful you will not allow this to happen, will you?