

Andy Halliday statement to Cabinet on 12th April 2017

I am here to claim back the Exhibition room in Bath Central Library, claiming it for the In house Library clubs-some planned for Children, For Artists looking in their groups to use our key City Centre location plus, the popular Craft Markets-for December and Easter organised in their own time by Dedicated library staff but cancelled after you briefed library staff and council connect, to take no future bookings for the room, and they had to cancel all booked events. The December craft fair was cancelled despite full bookings, but the room remained un used for 3 months, till in February, your engineers advised the wall planned to be demolished for creating a temporary library was load bearing and they recommended had to remain in place.

At the same time the creaking rolling stack which first broke in 2014,renaining in repaired finally became truly unsafe, and so the Exhibition room was designated as a book store for reserve stock, Meanwhile week on week the council has been paying Pickfords removals to crate and remove local studies and archive materials to a store in Hayden, and to the new centre in Guildhall Records department, This moving is I am advised by staff on the scene, creating spaces in store room areas, I would suggest that this is where the reserve stock could go, freeing up the Exhibition room for our public hiring, resulting in potential income generation, from both hire and commission sales, and usually we have also seen an increase footfall from the groups /Artists teams. Sadly we have also lost many of the Bath Festivals experiences

I would ask that after a 4 month plus closure that before we leave this evening somebody tells the residents of BANES when this much valued facility will be bookable again. Ensuring Library staff, and Council Connect are also kept in the loop-as recently sadly we have noticed mixed messages being delivered on the Library proposals .