Consultation on changes to library opening hours in Carlisle and Longtown

Public Consultation

Closing date
5 September 2016
What is this consultation about?

Cumbria County Council is committed to libraries. They are about more than just books. They are community hubs providing access to a huge range of resources, experiences and learning.

Like all council services, government cuts have put financial pressure on libraries. The council has made every effort to manage this without affecting the service the public receives. This has been successful and Cumbria has avoided the wholesale changes to library services which have occurred elsewhere in the country.

Alongside this we’ve also been reviewing when people are actually using our libraries. This is to make sure we use our resources most efficiently.

In this document we are proposing some limited changes to opening hours that reflect these two issues. The changes will not lead to staffing reductions, staff will continue to work the same hours, but more of these will be spent on essential operational activity as well as maintaining the staffing levels during the remaining opening hours. This time is needed to allow us to continue to offer a first class service when we are open.

What our libraries can offer to you

You can enjoy:
- Reading groups
- Author visits and talks
- Events and activities
- ICT taster sessions
- Local and family history
- Computer access and printing
- Free WiFi

What are we proposing for Carlisle and Longtown libraries?

We are proposing changes to the opening hours for Carlisle and Longtown libraries. Other libraries in Carlisle district are unaffected. Instructions for how you can share your views on our proposals are given at the end of this document.

The proposed changes would ensure that we:
- Offer free WiFi and two hours computer access
- Remain open on Sundays
- Remain open until 7pm for two evenings a week in Carlisle
- Offer an exciting and varied programme of events, fun activities and learning opportunities for all ages
- Avoid closures at short notice by amending opening hours where demand is low
- Keep the collections up to date and attractive to borrowers
- Provide a home delivery service
- Support seven library links and book drops
- Support a range of community activities for all age groups including the Summer Reading Challenge

For Children and Young People we offer:
- Rhyme times and story times
- Homework resources
- Summer Reading Challenge
- Holiday activities and events
Current and proposed opening hours

**Carlisle**

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<th>Current Hours</th>
<th>Proposed Hours</th>
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<td>Monday</td>
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**Longtown**

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<th>Current Hours</th>
<th>Proposed Hours</th>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10.00am - 12.00pm</td>
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<td><strong>Total change</strong></td>
<td><strong>4 hour reduction</strong></td>
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What our libraries can offer to you

You can:
- Find what you are looking for
- Check the library catalogue to search and reserve items
- Ask one of our friendly staff
- Go to our website [www.cumbria.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/libraries)
- Apply for a bus pass
- Access and purchase OS mapping data
- Access information about County Council and other local authority services
How to respond to the consultation

The deadline for responses to this consultation is 5 September 2016.

Drop your completed questionnaire at any Carlisle library or post it to: Mari Pearce, Community Services Manager, Carlisle Library, 11 Globe Lane, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8NX.

You can also respond online at: www.cumbria.gov.uk/libraries

You can also contact us by email to carlisle.library@cumbria.gov.uk or by letter to the address above.

What happens next

All feedback will be collated and a report prepared for Carlisle Local Committee in October. It’s the Local Committee’s decision whether or not to implement the proposed changes.

What our libraries can offer to you

Access for all:
- Home delivery service
- Large Print books
- Audio books
- Disabled access
- Well Read collections (Mental & Physical Health and Macmillan collection)

You can borrow and access:
- Books and audiobooks
- DVDs
- Storysacks
- Resource bags, e.g. Dementia Resource bags
- Online resources including e-books and online magazines