



NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk To The Parish Council

Caro Slaymaker

16 February 2018

Chairman

Dear Colleague

NETHER STOWEY LIBRARY

As you will be aware, Somerset County Council is currently consulting on the future of the library services in the County.

Nether Stowey Library, though small, punches well above its weight in terms of activities and footfall compared to similar ones. Its catchment area covers a large part of both Sedgemoor and West Somerset Districts, reaching a population that overall has limited facilities and lacks adequate transport for many to easily get to bigger centres.

I am writing to ask you to respond to the consultation to add weight to our call for Nether Stowey's Library to remain open. SCC estimates that one-third of the library's users are from other Parishes so there is a benefit for your own community as much as for ours.

At the moment, unless the library is designated a statutory library, we are faced with the possibility of a mobile library service unless we can find contributors to help cover the costs of keeping the building going. We are told by SCC that day-to-day running costs amount to around £15,000 per year - Nether Stowey simply cannot fund this alone.

One hope is that we can find a partner organisation who could rent part of the building and we have started some discussions. However we would also like to know whether you could consider making a commitment to share some the costs for as long as a viable library service can be maintained – perhaps a proportion of costs based on the number of known users from each Parish.

John Roberts
Chairman