

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

25 January 2011

Item 5 – Public Participation

Library Review (Agenda Item No. 8)

Statement from Jackie Hopkins, Mere

I was horrified to learn that you are proposing reducing the opening hours of Mere library from 45 to 14. This is ridiculous. The library is regularly used and is essential to many of us. This, on top of the proposed car parking charges, will have a severely adverse effect on Mere. In rural areas such as ours the library provides a friendly, helpful focus to the community as well as a resource for gathering information and recreational reading. The excellent local museum is also housed in the library.

Many of us are unable to get internet access at home and rely on the library for computer research as well as written information from books. Children should be encouraged to use libraries more not restricted by reduced opening hours.

Please, please do not reduce the hours of Mere Library. It is a very short-sighted move.