

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

25 January 2011

Item 5 – Public Participation

Library Review (Agenda Item No. 8)

Statement from Tisbury Parish Council

Tisbury Parish Council is pleased that the Library Service in the village is not being closed outright and that the community is being given the opportunity to keep the library facilities open with the help of volunteers.

The parish council will support the initiative, if approved by the Cabinet, but Tisbury Councillors do have concerns about the timescale within which the proposals will be implemented. The report mentions March 2011 as a date to start work with communities, but the Councillors envisage that the recruitment and training of volunteers will take several months, especially as the current library is used by many residents of some 15-20 villages surrounding Tisbury and volunteers from these villages will be harder to seek out and organise. It is hoped that Tisbury Library will not be closed without a reasonable transition period.

Tisbury Councillors are also concerned that the Cabinet, through the Library Service, may not have taken into account the major housing development of 90 houses in the village that will increase the population by more than 10%. This will inevitably increase the demand for Library Services, especially from the secondary school children who are all educated outside the village. Indeed, the Tisbury community would like to see an increase in the number and flexibility of hours that the Library is open and this is now perhaps to be more likely.

Tisbury Councillors also hope that the structure, management and immediate supervision of the volunteers will utilise a Wiltshire Council derived model but with flexibility for locally determined hours of opening and facilities provided.

Finally, it is not apparent from the report that the Library Service and Cabinet are aware of the Tisbury Vision for a Community Campus incorporating the school buildings currently used by the Plymouth Brethren (but to be vacated later this year), the Nadder Hall, Tisbury Sports Centre, Sure Start Centre, Primary School and Nursery. This could surely be an option for a location for an extended and much improved Tisbury Library.