

Chairman's Announcement

Royal Wootton Bassett Community Hub – update

I am pleased to update that the proposal to redevelop Royal Wootton-Bassett Library to deliver a Community Hub, as a partnership project between Wiltshire Council and Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council has been given the go ahead.

The new hub will provide a modern and dynamic multipurpose space that can be utilised by the whole community.

The investment will deliver the following improvements:

- A new frontage and entrance
- A large meeting room that can accommodate town council and community meetings.
- Audio and visual equipment for meetings
- Flexible shelving throughout the library to enable a large meeting space offer that can accommodate 120+
- Improved catering and toilet facilities
- Redecoration throughout the building
- Plus – the investment of an Open+ system - that allows secure access to the building outside of the standard library operating hours. This system is safe and easy to use and is already successfully in operation in the recently opened Calne Community Hub. It provides the opportunity to increase operating hours without the need to increase staffing and enables community access to the facility for its use. In Calne, this system has resulted in a 37.5% increase in the opening hours and access to the library.

We expect to see an increase in user and visitor numbers in the new hub and the refurbishment of the library will make it a more modern accessible space and will provide multi-purpose meeting and activity spaces.

Bringing the community together in a central community hub will have far reaching benefits for the community of Royal Wotton Bassett. The hub in Calne has evidenced that the provision of such space has had a huge impact of the number of groups meeting and getting involved and, as such, the number of volunteers has escalated enabling the library and other services to be more accessible and available for longer and more sustainable in the future.

The design plans are now being finalised and work is due to start on site in September with the new hub opening pre-Christmas. We will keep you updated as the hub works are progressed through Community Matters and area board meetings.

