Information

PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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for County Councillors

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| From: | Oliver Woodhams & Sue Crowley |

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| Date: | 16 November 2011 |

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| To: | All County Councillors |

# Somerset Libraries Service Update

We are extremely pleased that 13 of the 15 affected communities have expressed an interest in running their library building in partnership with the Council in future.

These 13 are: Bishops Lydeard, Bruton, Castle Cary, Milborne Port, Nether Stowey, North Petherton, Porlock (with the aim to continue their existing Community Library Partnership in its present format), Priorswood (Taunton), Somerton, Street, South Petherton, Watchet and Wiveliscombe.

These will now be formally considered for their viability and communities will be contacted to arrange further discussions by the end of the month.

No expressions of interest have been received from Highbridge and Sunningdale to form a Community Library Partnership.

As set out in the libraries redesign Cabinet report, library services will start to be delivered through outreach and/or mobile services in these two communities once library buildings close in the New Year. The exact timetable for taking forward changes to library services in these communities is being developed.

Our library staff are highly valued by library users and the County Council and we’d like to thank them for their hard work and patience during the library redesign programme. We appreciate this hasn’t been an easy time, but have kept staff informed and involved in the process as much as we can. There will be a County-wide library workforce restructure taking place between now and March 2019

For library updates and information about the Community Library Partnership process, please click <http://somersetlibraries.co.uk/redesign/>.”

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the emerging plans for your area in more detail, please contact either Ollie Woodhams or Sue Crowley or email [librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk)

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