

Paper Survey Comments

Responses to Q8

Respondents added 176 written comments to the paper survey forms in response to question 8 “ **Do you agree that Barrow upon Soar should continue to have a Community Library? Why?**”

All 176 comments were positive.

Here is a selection of those comments:

“It is an integral part of the community. It is also important that children and young people are encouraged to read and have access to books to develop literacy”

“The library is the heart of the community-providing opportunities to meet socially, to direct people to social and other activities/facilities- to connect - and is therefore vital to people’s well being. This is in addition to the hugely valuable provision of encouraging the love of reading.”

“The library is a vital facility in a growing village”

“We the residents love the library, it’s part of the village”

“ It (the library) provides a good community hub. Socially good for people living alone. Papers, books and computers good for people who cannot afford their own.”

“Communities are being diluted. The library is a focal point and hub of Barrow.”

“Barrow has a varied audience. Young people, children and retired. All find a Community Library a friendly place to visit.”

“Children need access to a variety of books to increase their knowledge and ability - not everyone can afford to buy books.”

“It’s a meeting place for all the community. Due to expansion of the village the library is needed more than ever.”

“The library is a vital community hub. Wonderful for children to have a local library so as to easily enjoy exploring new stories and the joy of reading. Also for adults young and old to have a warm, friendly place that is accessible and welcoming to all.”

“It is an extremely good local resource, I am able to order books as and when necessary and there is, for a small library, a very good choice of books. The staff are also very helpful.”

“I find it preposterous that there is even any thought of trying to close such a good community resource.”

“We love our visits to the library. All volunteers are so friendly and helpful. The library has given our two boys a love for reading and we are very grateful for that.”

“Community hub, children’s resource for reading, of paramount importance for learning development.”

“It brings people together.”

“I cannot stress enough how important the library is to me and my family, the staff/volunteers are so friendly and helpful.”

“It’s awesome, it gives my boys a safe place to practice independence.”

“Mental wellbeing of residents, social connection, resources.”

“As a mental health community reablement worker we use this library for community engagement and it is our favourite community library.”

“More than a library- it has become a community hub and venue for classes and activities. Vital for people who don’t have a computer at home.”

“Library is such an important place for the village of all ages, and a good place to meet. It was so good over the winter as part of warm Barrow and has helped and supported many vulnerable and otherwise isolated people in the village.”

“It is a major asset to the village - used by many from Barrow and elsewhere. We fought to keep the library when it was under threat of closure. It is now the heart of it, offering so many activities and support for vulnerable people.”

“The library has been a life saver. It has supported people through the energy crisis providing social activities.”

“It would be detrimental to the village to close the library. Keep taking away community services, there will be no village.”

“Great community resource.”

“A place that’s open to everyone to use.”

“It is an essential part of village life. We don’t have a community centre and I feel this is used as one which is fantastic.”

“It’s the heart of the village and it supports so many local activities. Without the library, I would be lost. It provides companionship as well as a superb collection of books.”

“The volunteers and committee have built up a wonderful library which we hope will be there for many generations to enjoy.”

“An incredibly useful social amenity.”

“It’s a life line for me.”

“It is an important resource particularly for younger people - we use it regularly with the children at nursery and would hate to lose it.”

“It is imperative to keep a library for use by the villages to attend classes etc and an important facility to provide the loan of books etc which is important and essential to people’s lives.”

“Many congrats on the tremendous going concern you’ve all made of the library, reflecting the words of a famous Indian librarian ‘the library is a living organism’. It’s unthinkable that this building- the most important in Barrow - should ever close its doors.”

“It’s a vital part of the community for social purposes.”

“Our people need this so much.”

“It’s a lovely place to bring our baby, we all really enjoy it!”

Responses to Q9

What services, if any, would you like to see added to the library?

Many respondents added comments like, “it’s perfect just as it is” , “it has everything I need” etc. These are the suggestions of what services could be added to the library, some of which already exist but every suggestion has been included:

Cafe/hot food/snacks

More activities for 0-5years in Summer (2 suggestions)

Further tutorials on IT use

Click and collect service (2 suggestions)

Art space

Post office (6 suggestions)

Larger range of children’s intermediate readers

Community clothes swap especially children’s

Book club for younger children

Another computer terminal

More teens and young adult books (2 suggestions)

More community events

Evening social groups

More biographies and travel writing

Citizens advice

More audio books on Borrow box (2 suggestions)

Author events (2 suggestions)

Tool or toy lending (2 suggestions)

Children’s activities

Ramp and entrance at back door to car park for disabled

More for mental health(2 suggestions)

Activities for 18-45

Mobile post office in car park

Book club back in library

Measures to stop public parking across drive to access fish and chips

First aid training

“This was a good book” list

Transport information

Meetings/exercise classes

More days open

Arts and crafts

Social events

More promotion of what is on offer

Community police

Talks by local speakers

Responses to Q11

Do you have any further comments?

Approximately half the questionnaires had no response to this question.

Many respondents praised the volunteers and Angeline. Here is a selection of comments:

“The volunteers are wonderful, so is the service it provides.”

“Staff/volunteers are always so polite and welcoming.”

“Three cheers for the staff, friendly and helpful.”

“I personally would miss the library- it is such a happy sociable unit due to the staff and volunteers.”

“I appreciate the efforts of the volunteers.”

“We think the staff/volunteers are excellent, helpful, friendly, and help make the library have a wonderful atmosphere, that is very welcoming.”

“Current users give positive feedback to the volunteers and enjoy coming to use the facilities on a regular basis.”

“Run by a library group of volunteers for the community. Long may it run.”

“Lovely to have people face to face.”

“As a visitor to Barrow library I received a very warm welcome. Great service.”

“Great library and excellent staff.”

“A big thank you to all the volunteers who keep our library going.”

“Wonderful library - thank you to all volunteers”

“The volunteers do a fabulous job.”

“All that work and volunteer at the library are helpful, friendly every time I go in to join a group or borrow books.”

“Great friendly volunteers, always helpful and fab for air-con in warmer weather.”

“Fantastic library and lots of friendly faces.”

“Thank you to all the volunteers.”

“We owe our team of volunteers a great deal and a huge ‘ Thank you’ and urge that full support is given to maintain this valuable facility.”

“Fantastic service, awesome team...”

“Barrow library is a wonderful addition to the community, with friendly, helpful volunteers - thank you!”