

Council: Tuesday, 4 November 2014

Motion: Councillor Anne Hutton

Save our Library Service

Council condemns the administration's proposals published recently to cut our public library service budget by 60% by closing up to 6 libraries, drastically reducing the square footage of libraries and severely cutting staff to leave libraries unattended 50% of the time.

Council notes the Conservative administration's poor record on libraries, including their closure of Totteridge library despite the current Leader of the Council standing for election to 'save' it, the failed attempt to axe South Friern Library, the shambolic attempt to close Friern Barnet library resulting in the occupation of the building and subsequent costly court case, and the money wasted on a feasibility study to 'reprovide' Friern Barnet library in the Artsdepot.

Council believes that our valued local libraries are not safe in the Barnet Conservatives' hands, and that these current plans will decimate our library service and deprive the local communities they serve.

Council therefore demands that the Conservative administration withdraw the proposals and present plans that fully support Barnet's excellent library service.