

Non Executive Business Item – 3.5: Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb

Friern Barnet Library

Amendment in the name of Councillor Robert Rams

Council notes the extraordinary events that have unfolded since the Conservative administration closed Friern Barnet Library in April.

Delete under the One Barnet programme and replace with

“Due to financial problems caused by the previous government.

Adds the word “Notes”

- Over 4,300 residents signing a “re-open Friern Barnet Library” petition.
- The failure of the administration to open a Landmark Library at the artsdepot that was supposed to be a replacement Library for Friern Barnet residents.
- The occupation of the Library by campaigners who have re-built the book stock from donations from the public and are opening the Library to the community.
- The Library campaigners making it known to the Council that they want a Library in Friern Barnet.

Delete to end and replace with “It thanks officer for all their hard work for trying to make the Library in the Artsdepot happen but highlights its frustration towards the Artsdepot organisation who were initially very welcoming to the project but for some reason changed their mind.

Furthermore the council is disappointed in the financial situation left by the previous government which means we have to make tough choices for our library service but welcome the investment in new stock, that we are opening our libraries for longer and will make every primary school child a member of our library service.

Council further notes what is happening in other library services across London;

Barking and Dagenham have closed three libraries and by April 2014 will only have two council run libraries

Brent have closed 6 Libraries

Ealing have cut their opening hours by 9%

Islington have cut their opening hours by 11%.

And is pleased that we have not let this happen in Barnet.

The Council welcomes the investment that is now going to happen in North Finchley Library.

Substantive Business Item to read

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Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted on at the meeting.