

## **Appendix 1**

### **NO TO CLOSURE OF BARNET LIBRARIES**

To: Leader of Barnet Council

**Do not close down or eradicate the functions and services of our public libraries in Barnet.**

#### **Why is this important?**

The proposed savings of £2.58million from the Library Services in Barnet threatens the existence of one the last remaining community amenities we have left.

Three options have been put forward by the Council to make these savings; all three will see a reduction in the quality and quantity of service provisions.

Option one will see the size of library cut in all but four libraries. This idea fails to understand that libraries are used for their space as well as their books; less places for pupils and students to study and results in a reduction of the quality of services.

Option two will see the closure of Burnt Oak, Childs Hill, Mill Hill, East Finchley, Osidge Lane and South Friern Libraries and a significant reduction of staffing levels at the remaining libraries. This option does not consider how the remaining libraries will cope with increased footfall owing to the closure of the other libraries, particularly around peak library times.

Option three is a mix of the two, with some libraries begin handed over to community groups and reduced staffing elsewhere.

Libraries are the embodiment of social provision and community spirit. They are more than just books; they offer children's activities during term and holidays which are used by parents and nurseries. They offer access to the internet to those that don't have access. They provide space for people to read and study in peace that is not always possible in their homes. They are places to host community events, training and education. I use the library for my daughter; renting books but mainly for their toddler activities. My nursery also goes there regularly.

Please sign this petition if you believe in the universal provision of literature, education and community services in Barnet. Say not to the erosion of this great social asset.