

## **Lamberhead Green Library Relocation Consultation Feedback May 2021**

Thank you to all residents who completed this recent survey and providing valuable feedback. A summary of the consultation results and decision is detailed below.

### **Background**

Dean Trust school identified the need to create an onsite Engagement Centre to re-engage families and support parent/carer needs, alongside the child. The space currently used for the library was identified as an ideal location for the Engagement Centre and the school to provide a replacement, purpose-built facility for the library to be sited at the front of the school, close to the existing library entrance.

A public consultation period ran from 12 April 2021 to 2 May 2021, with both online and face to face sessions, to provide residents with an opportunity to view plans for the new library building and provide feedback on the proposals and what services they would like to see available.

The four key parts to the proposals:

1. Using buildings more effectively across the site, making the best use of space and identifying opportunities to link up with key partners
2. Working with Dean Trust school to develop a community engagement centre
3. Relocation of the library into a brand new, purpose-built building on the same site
4. Increasing membership, participation and volunteer engagement in the library service.

### **Responses and feedback**

During the three-week consultation, the survey generated 43 responses. Highlights from the responses are summarised below:

- Current library members accounted for 90.7% of the survey responses, with the highest number of residents living in Pemberton and Orrell. Over 60% were female and aged over 55. 35% of residents declared a long-standing health condition or disability with 60% being described as a physical impairment and 13.3% as a sensory impairment. 93% declared their ethnicity as white British.
- The main reasons indicated that residents currently visit the library, to borrow and return books, use the computers, attend adult events and look for work/job applications.
- Some of the events and activities listed that residents would like to be able to access at Lamberhead Green library included, healthy lifestyle activities, author and local history talks, craft activities, art classes and exhibitions, film and photography and social clubs/support groups.
- Feedback suggested representation of health, welfare, leisure and advice partner services would be welcomed in the library.

- Six residents expressed an interest in volunteering at Lamberhead Green library in either running a particular event or activity to engage residents in their local community or supporting with library functions.

When asked to what extent did residents agree or disagree with the proposals, the following responses were provided:

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>% Strongly agree</b>	<b>% Agree</b>	<b>% Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>% Disagree</b>	<b>% Strongly disagree</b>	<b>% Didn't answer</b>
1. Using buildings more effectively across the site, making the best use of space and identifying opportunities to link up with key partners	20.9	30.2	32.6	7.0	4.7	4.7
2. Working with Dean Trust school to develop a community engagement centre	7.0	25.6	30.2	18.6	14.0	4.7
3. Relocation of the library into a brand new, purpose-built building on the same site	14.0	25.6	18.6	18.6	18.6	4.7
4. Increasing membership, participation and volunteer engagement in the library service	34.9	48.8	11.6	0.0	0.0	4.7

Overall, the majority of residents responding, do not disagree with the proposals. A high percentage either agree or strongly agree with proposals 1 and 4 and though some disagreed with options 2 and 3, this was fewer than the positive and no opinion responses combined.

This is a positive indication that there is potential to increase and enhance community engagement, through relocation of the current library and development of the school centre.

On this basis, the decision is to commence with building of the new library site and resident's feedback, on what they activities they would like to access at the library, will be taken into consideration when planning the internal layout and future planning of services.

### **Next steps**

- To initiate the project group and subsequent plans and milestones for the commencement of the build
- Take into consideration residents' feedback and scope to allow a more diverse range of events, activities and visibility of key partners, whilst still housing an appropriate provision of books and computers in the library, that are popular with residents. Making use of buildings across the site will enhance the offer.
- Identify and liaise with partners and community groups regarding the future offer for the library and the recognisable links with the Engagement Centre
- Contact residents who have expressed an interest in volunteering.