



Burton Latimer Library Survey March 2019

Summary of feedback

Number of responses received: **72**

Q1: The County Council’s decision to reduce funding for library services across Northamptonshire means that Burton Latimer Library would have to close unless the Town Council – or some other community organisation – is prepared to step in. In view of this, do you support Burton Latimer Town Council’s proposal to maintain a professionally-staffed library in our town in the future?



Q2: Please explain the reason for your choice

Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The library needs qualified staff to run a quality service. I think it is vital for our town to continue to provide library services. It is a great facility for the community. The children's sessions are amazing. Everyone is entitled to have access to books and the activities the library holds. Essential part of the community for all ages. Especially children. I think it’s a necessity to continue running a library in Burton Latimer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I believe that libraries are unfortunately outdated and generally under used due to lack of requirement. I believe that the council buying the building would be an unnecessary expense that would serve the town spend elsewhere better. This would be a long-term investment in a dying service, at a cost to residents that do not use it. I have small children and love having a library, but it serves little use to me on a regular basis. I think a 20-year loan on a business that doesn’t even break even is madness – just look at the figures.

- I can remember as a child spending many happy hours at my then local library. We need to encourage our children to put down their computers etc. and visit the library to enjoy reading the many choices of books. Also a good meeting place for our residents to get together. I have as yet not used the facilities being a newbie to Burton Latimer but certainly look forward to doing so in the near future.
- We need a library.
- Libraries are part of community.
- Libraries are such a valuable resource for the whole community and closure would be a great loss for the town.
- The library isn't just a source of education and reading For some it is a community hub and a source of friendship and company for people who would otherwise be very Lonely It also serves as a meeting place for some young people and families
- The library provides many more facilities than just lending books. If it closed we would lose all the social services available.
- Always seems busy and focal community area in addition reading and access to books important. My daughter uses the library for her homework, I would be upset to see it close. I would be happy to volunteer a little if that was useful to you.
- The library is an Important part if our town not just for books. Blue badges, place for young parents to get support, older and lonely people to meet WiFi and computer access. Overall, a great resource for our town.
- I may not regularly use the facilities but would like the reassurance that it is available when I need it.
- The reason for my choice is that we as pensioners use the library. It is convenient for us, otherwise we would have to travel to Kettering.
- Personally I do not use the library facilities, but I am aware that many residents of Burton Latimer do use it. Therefore it would be sacrilege to lose this amenity. I believe it should be retained for the good of the community.
- The library is at the heart of our community and has a huge role to play in the future of Burton Latimer.

- It isn't clear to me (a) total cost for BLTC (b) what level of usage there is of the library service (c) what if any overlap there is with services that could be run in the Civic Centre (d) whether any thought has been given to possible commercial fundraising for the town, and (e) whether the opportunity cost of the proposal has been understood, especially as compared with other possible uses of the funds.
- As much as I do love the library, these days we do have the use of a kindle, iPad etc. I don't feel we use the library enough to justify paying for it as a community, and over the given months I believe it will not work on a funded community as you hear people's opinion now! It should be a choice to contribute not forced on the community. Our council tax is already high with promises of no increase, but we still seem to get an increase one way or another.
- Because it's a burden to the taxpayer.
- Considering the population of Burton Latimer, 100 people's opinions from a meeting do NOT account for what people want. Information leaflets need to be posted to households and people made aware the precept will rise! Votes on the matter need to be for everyone not just those that attend a meeting!! The town council need to involve the WHOLE town.

- It's a good community facility and should not be lost.
- We use the library for the children. It's a great asset to the community and would be a shame to see it close. Encourage all involved to find a way to keep it open.
- I don't get to use the library really as I commute quite a distance to work and miss opening times, although I am getting to a family tree workshop very soon. I see on Facebook all the services and support it gives to our local community. It must be kept.
- The library is a valuable part of the town. Reading should be encouraged for all ages, and should be accessible for all. A library is the best way to offer this.
- The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. Dr Seuss
- I believe the library offers a service to the community. Its removal would damage the sense of community and many people would be inconvenienced.
- The library is a basic aspect of community life in the town for learning, leisure and employment (both voluntary and paid). It is already a hub

Q3: Are there any other comments or suggestions about the library or BLTC's proposal that you would like to add?

- You have my backing to save the library.
- If it remains open I would love to see under-5s activities. Especially for children.
- All existing groups to be catered for wherever possible. An option to increase the hours in future years if the library proves to be successful.
- Glad it will be staffed by a professional.
- When talking to one of the librarians about the possible closure they said NCC was very fussy about donations. Receiving used books, even those not in the best condition should be used to stock the library, maybe look at other areas in the same situation and collaborate resources....
- The proposal is a welcome initiative by the lowest tier of government that is timely as we start to face the current challenges and possibilities of the unitary proposals.
- If the library were to organise events to fundraise this would help with the increasing cost of replacement books and other items required to maintain the library stock in an ongoing basis. Could the BLTC arrange to purchase the civic centre which is rented from Kettering Town Council as this is another regular cost to the council?
- Just hang on to our library! It is important that we have one – we all make use of it. Look after our heritage we have lost so many things that made Burton lovely. We are already a rat run with takeaways. Let's keep something positive for Burton.
- Involve everyone!!!! Not everyone is aware of the plans. People need information to read and be able to cast their views. Not everyone wants to attend meetings.

- I would like to see a full financial proposal from BLTC before committing to this project. In addition, have the Councillors the requisite skills to undertake and control expenditure within this service. This is a long-term commitment and how will it impact on future precept charges. Is there a way to incorporate the Civic Centre into the Library and only maintain one building rather than two?
- I hope you can do it.
- Thank you for taking the time to save our library under this plan.
- I think it's absolutely ridiculous that you are saying you need professional librarians. Firstly qualified librarians cost more money and it just shows you don't quite understand the change libraries are going through to adapt to the century. It's also insulting to the other people running libraries at the moment who are not professional librarians but have built a successful career in libraries. That's just my opinion though and I wish this Community the best of luck.
- Maybe update the library with computers, run computer classes for adults? Run small classes of anything that will help the library so it is not always aimed at children. There are lots of adults that need support – use the library to help these people.
- Just 'thank you' BLTC
- Could additional finance be raised towards its running by seeking sponsorship from local business, or perhaps sell the naming rights to the library much as is done for sports venues?
- I would like to say I hope groups for children will still be an option.
- I'm in full support of this proposal.
- I would be interested to know the proposed opening times. In my opinion daily opening for short periods is preferable to longer opening times on fewer days.
- The features that seem to be most popular, such as groups and internet use, could be help at the Civic Centre for a far better use of the centre and lower cost to the town council.