

Bath Deserves Better

Public Meeting 11th July 2017

Speakers:

- Alex Lea
- Dionne Pemberton

SAVE
BATH
LIBRARIES

“Over the next four years I want to lead a Council which puts the interests of residents first”

Tim Warren

The Bath
Chronicle

NEWS

**Little Bath support for the
'integrated' central library
wanted by the council**

*“B&NES’ interpretation of the findings support its wish to “integrate” library and council services, **but an analysis of the findings shows the numbers paint a very different picture”***

Amanda Cameron, Senior
Reporter, April 2017

The Library is Moving

The library is moving to a new, modern refurbished location opposite the University innovation and study centre on Manvers Street close to transport links and Southgate shopping Centre.

It is not closing, it is moving.

- The public space will be equivalent to the relevant library area in the Podium, laid out to maximise



Proposed timetable

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Jan 2017 | Work starts with the community around designs |
| Spring 2017 | Temporary library adapted in Podium |
| Spring 2018 | Opening of new library |

*“It is our decision to make and we
will not flinch from that”*

Martin Veal
Council Meeting, February 2017



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



Tweet



Frances Bellord
@FrancesBellord



@ben4bath When was the decision made to move the library from the Podium to Manvers Street made and why weren't the public consulted?

12/01/2017, 11:41



Ben Howlett MP ✓ · 12/01/2017
Replying to @FrancesBellord



before Christmas. Feedback on plans due in coming weeks from @bathnes bathnes.gov.uk/services/



Tweet



Ben Howlett MP ✓
@ben4bath



Replying to @caroambrose and @SaveBathLibrary my apologies. The Library will be moving. Do send in your views to @bathnes when feedback opens.

16/01/2017, 11:10 from [London, England](#)

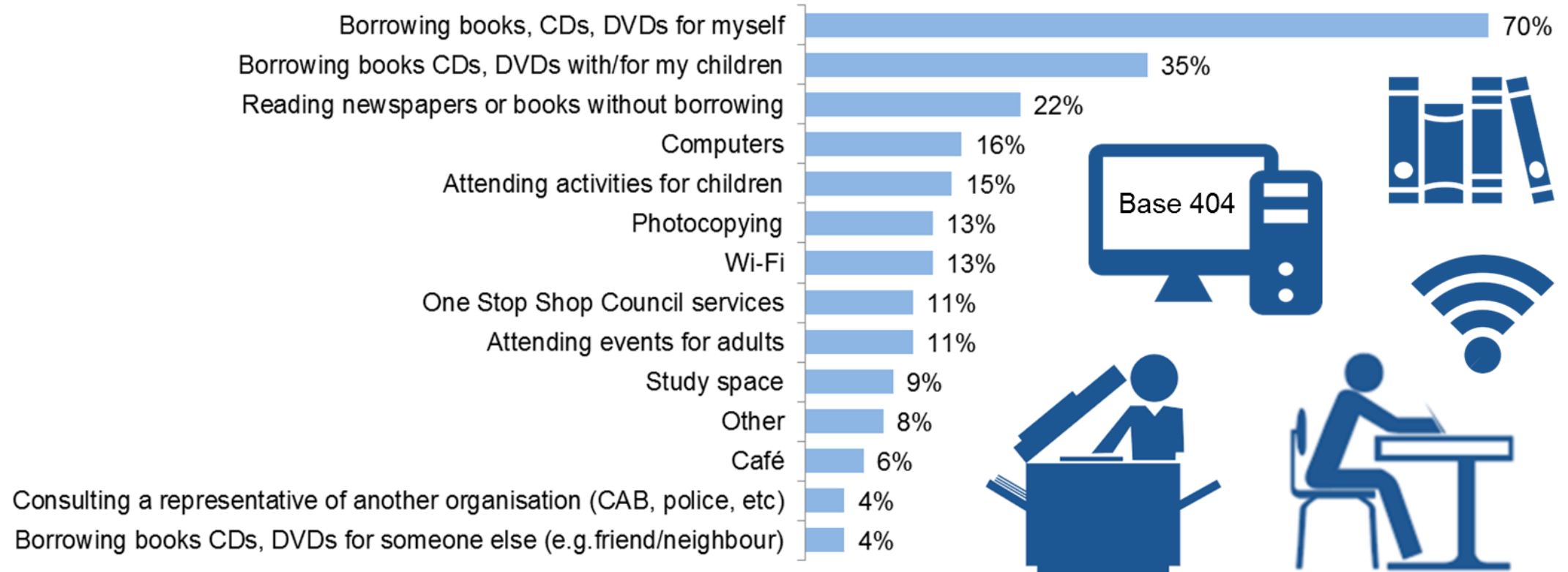
False Statements

“Your perception of a library is about a book, well my perception is not like that. 9% of the people that come into the current library are either returning books or taking books out.”

Martin Veal

Bath Newseum January 2017

2015 Voicebox Survey



Unlawful Threats

“The service as it was will not be the same... but to be honest we could have quite easily made the decision to cut the library service completely.”

Martin Veal
Bath Newseum,
January 2017

Public Libraries & Museums Act 1964



Local authorities have a statutory duty 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons' in the area that want to make use of it

Unsubstantiated Savings Claims

“Modernising the library service will
contribute £800,000 a year”

Martin Veal
Bath Chronicle
December 2016

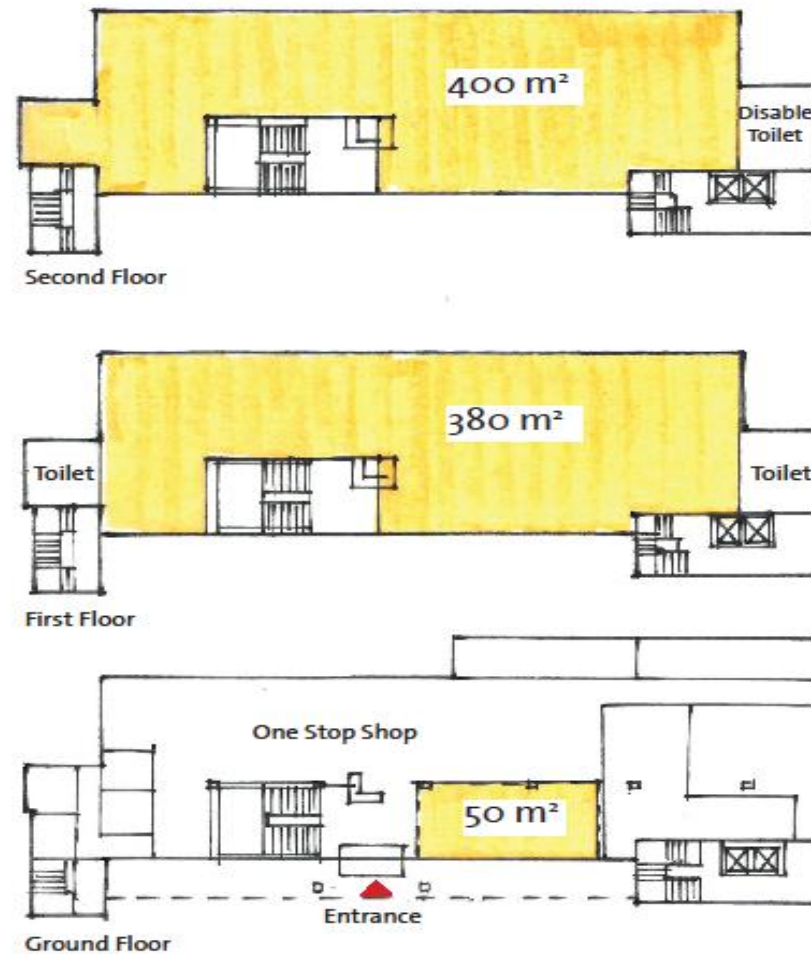
Comparison of Areas Between Podium & Lewis House

Bath Central Library - Podium
Existing Space: 2344m²



0 5 10 15 20 30m

Lewis House - Proposed Library
Proposed Public Space: 830m²



(Assumed One Stop Shop Area is Majority of Ground Floor Space)

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



Residents are Wrong

*“The Council has not
taken a decision”*

B&NES Principal Solicitor
14 Feb 2017

‘B&NES will be internationally renowned as a beautifully inventive C21st place, where everyone is invited to think big to create an extraordinary legacy for future generations.’

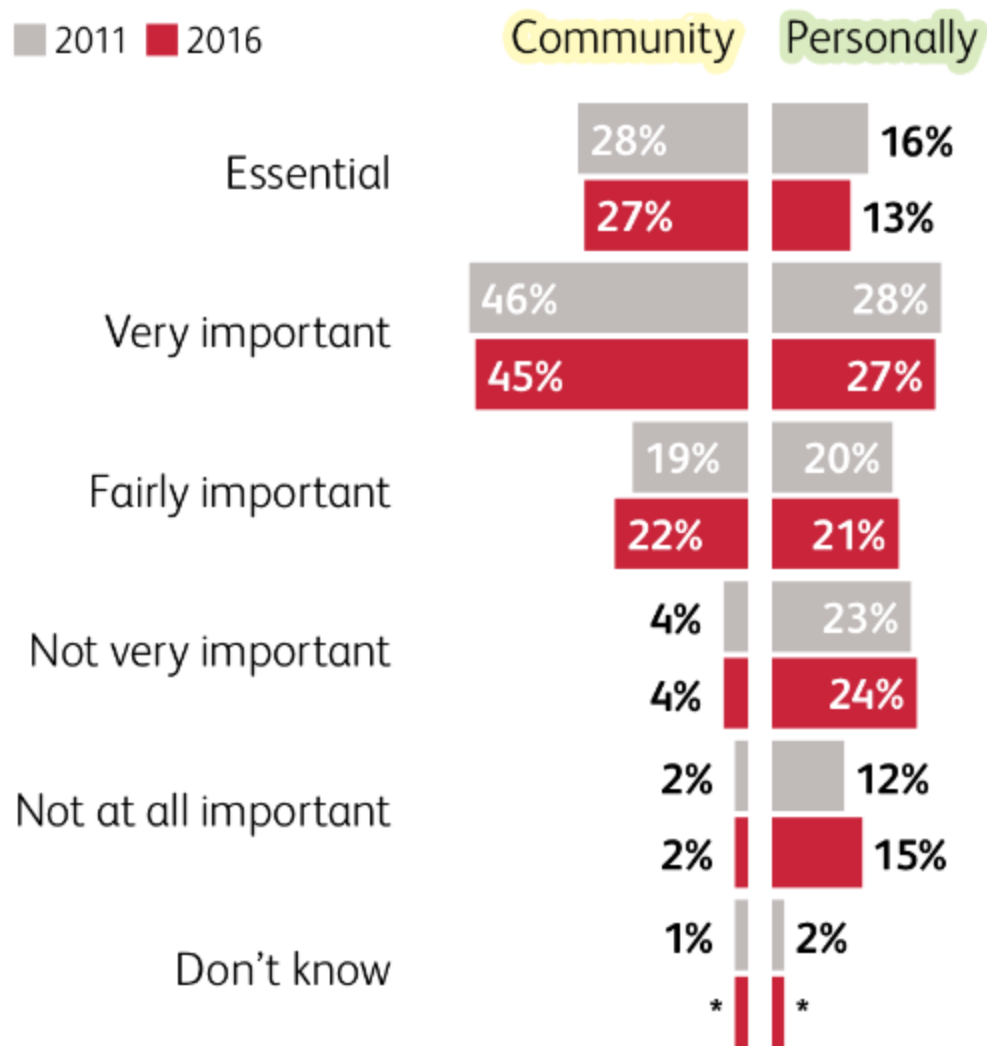


Will you commit to put residents first?

- Don't tell us your solution (integration) is the only solution
- Working with us & librarians to ensure resident-led options are included
- Ensuring those options are evidence-based with full business case
- Insisting cabinet members respond to correspondence within days
- Publicly correcting false or misleading statements to rebuild public trust

Importance of libraries to the community and personally

■ 2011 ■ 2016



2016

ALMOST
3/4 of people say public libraries important for communities



AROUND
2/5 of people say libraries important to themselves personally



Library users more likely to say libraries important for community and for themselves personally