



Friends of Market Bosworth Community Library



Newsletter Summer 2015

Welcome to our first newsletter

Since we first met last November, the steering group of MBCL (Market Bosworth Community Library) have had a number of tasks to complete on your behalf. This newsletter has been written by Sue and Isabel to bring you up to date information about our library and its future. Please contact us if you have any queries.

So far, the steering group has:

- * written a business plan that has now been approved by LCC (Leicestershire County Council) and opened a bank account
- * attended training and networking meetings with the 36 other community library groups
- * prepared an application to set ourselves up as a charity
- * started a website which you can view on www.marketbosworthcommunitylibrary.org

Future tasks will include arranging the legal transfer of the building to MBCL, arranging insurance and further preparatory work towards training our volunteers.

What next? The first community library to be handed over will be Barrow in July 2015. We now expect the handover for Market Bosworth in March 2016. Negotiations are taking place between the Market Bosworth School and LCC about the shared premises, utilities and the running costs which MBCL will have to pay after the handover.

For the first two years, we will still have financial support from LCC and this amount will gradually decrease over a five year period. We have to cover some of our own

initial costs and will eventually have to find all our own funding, possibly through applications to trusts and foundations as well as through fund raising activities.

LCC libraries will continue to work with us, will supply the book stock and we will have the existing ICT equipment. LCC will lease the building to us rent free and will provide continuing expert support through one of the remaining LCC hub libraries, whom we can contact during opening hours for specific advice and technical support. Borrowers will still be able use the LCC libraries website to reserve and renew books.

Training for Volunteers who want to work as library assistants will be arranged prior to the transfer. Training will cover:

- * using the LCC computer system to check out and return books
- * reserving books, joining new users, operating the fines system
- * assisting the public with queries and supporting those using the public use computers.

Our main task will be to maintain the current opening hours and we will work together to support each other so that our library is a welcoming place for volunteers and users. We would like some of our volunteers to become team leaders for each session that the library is open.

We plan to hold another meeting with you in the Autumn to start discussions about your involvement in the future of MBCL.

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