

## Residents' views sought on proposals for Bishop Castle Library

Residents in Bishops Castle and the surrounding area are invited to give their views on proposals for their local library service.

The consultation starts on 20 July and will run until 31 August 2015.

The library service is one of several council-led services based at Enterprise House in Bishops Castle, which is operated by Enterprise South West Shropshire (ESWS).

Over the past six months the council has been working closely with key local partners including Enterprise South West Shropshire (ESWS) to develop opportunities and new ways to enhance services currently housed in Enterprise House.

The proposals are being put forward following months of community conversations with local partners including Bishop Castle Town Council and the Friends of the Library to explore the best options to ensure the future sustainability of the library.

The 3 options are:

1. Transferring the day to day running of the library to Enterprise South West Shropshire (ESWS). This means the library will remain in its existing location and opening times will not be affected. Existing library staff will transfer to ESWS who will continue to provide the same range of services currently available.
2. The library to remain under council management, though opening hours will be reduced.
3. This option asks residents if they feel there are any other sustainable and cost effective alternatives the council should consider

Councillor Steve Charmley Cabinet Member with responsibilities for Libraries said;

“Libraries are an integral part of the community and this is why we have been working extremely hard with our partners to ensure we can find sustainable solutions to enable libraries to continue to thrive for future generations to come.”

“We very much look forward to hearing people’s views on these proposals.”

Councillor Charlotte Barnes, local member for Bishops Castle added;

“Bishops Castle library is a very important place in Bishops Castle. User numbers are very high and its current location works well for people who use the library. I urge people to take part in this important consultation. This is our chance to make sure we have our say on this important facility and secure its future.”

Peter Phillips, Chair at Enterprise South West Shropshire commented;

“I do hope residents will give their support - and further suggestions are most welcome! At a time when public services like libraries are facing challenging times, we have the chance of keeping our much loved library going. Indeed, with all the enthusiasm that local groups can bring, we can see it flourishing.”

Comments can be submitted online by going to [shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved](http://shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved) and searching for Bishops Castle Library.

Residents can also pick up a questionnaire along with the proposals and Frequently Asked Questions at the Bishops Castle Library.

Deadline for submissions is Monday 31st August 2015.

### **Further information**

The consultation is part of a wider piece of work Shropshire Council is undertaking with partner organisations and communities across Shropshire, to ensure libraries and other key face to face services continue to be delivered in a sustainable and more cost effective ways.

Enterprise House in Bishops Castle hosts a number of Shropshire Council led services including Bishop's Castle Library, a Register Office and Customer First Point through which customers can access a number of council led services