

# The Hatch End Association



61 The Avenue  
Hatch End  
Pinner  
HA5 4EL  
020 8428 1756  
julianmaw@aol.com

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Harrow Council,  
Harrow Library Services,  
South Wing, Third Floor,  
Civic 1, Station Road,  
Harrow HA1 2XF

Dear Sirs,

## **Harrow Libraries Consultation 2014-2015 Survey.**

I am replying to the consultation on behalf of the Hatch End Association [HEA] which represents some 1800 households in Hatch End, The association has interacted with its members and attended drop-in and other meetings to form the general opinion of its members. Our response generally follows the individual response document circulated for the consultation.

Looking forward a few years it is felt strongly that the number of libraries should be maintained or increased with stock on display and extended opening hours. This is to give equality access for choosing stock and computer access. However it is accepted that the form of service provided may change, with use of self service and community supported libraries becoming common. The library is regarded as a social centre and the principal requirements are ~ display of stock for browsing; facilities for preschool children to introduce reading; free computer access to support school children and student as well as adults without personal internet access. The HEA supports the Council in generating additional income in ways other than library service provision.

With regard to the specific proposed closures it is felt strongly that Hatch End Library should not be closed. We do not consider the statistics of use clearly indicate that the Library is one of the least used so the basis for selection is wrong. More importantly the nearest alternate library is in Pinner which requires public transport to reach and adjacent car parking is inadequate for private transport access. This difficulty in access to an alternative library will prejudice the use of the library service by older and invalid users, young mothers with children in push chairs and school children. These are the main users of library services and may not be able to afford frequent visits.

Finally the Hatch End Library forms part of the Harrow Arts Centre and is part of the culture of the arts and should be maintained as part of the new vision for the Centre being proposed by the Council. We consider this unique position of Hatch End Library as part of the Harrow Arts Centre complex means it is imperative that the Library remains open on this overall site.

Yours sincerely

Mr Julian Maw