

## Launch of the New Library Service

Swindon Borough Council has adopted a new Libraries Strategy and there will be changes to the service taking place from the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

### Core Libraries

Swindon's core Libraries of Central, West Swindon, Highworth, Park and North Swindon will be moving to new staffed hours from 5 April. The Borough Council is funding staffed hours of 47.5 hours a week for Central and 15 hours per week elsewhere in the network. Parish Councils in West Swindon, Highworth and Central Swindon South have supplemented these hours with additional funding, so the staffed hours will be as follows:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Central</b>	10:00-17:30	10:00-17:30	10:00-17:30	10:00-17:30	10:00-17:30	10:00-16:00	11:00-15:00
<b>North</b>	14:00-18:00		10:00-14:00		12:00-16:00	13:00-16:00	
<b>West Swindon</b>	13:00-17:00	10:00-18:00	13:00-17:00	13:00-17:00	10:00-18:00	10:00-13:00	
<b>Highworth</b>	10:00-16:00	10:00-18:00		09:00-16:00	12:00-18:00	10:00-13:00	
<b>Park*</b>	10:00-19:00	11:00-15:00	11:00-18:00	10:00-19:00	11:00-18:00	10:00-13:00	

*\*These times are subject to formal agreement*

The Council is keen to ensure the core libraries remain accessible to library users and is procuring technology to enable the libraries to be accessed outside of staffed hours. This will be installed on a phased basis across the core libraries from April. Once installed, the core libraries will be accessible from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, 8am – 7pm Saturday and 9am to 5pm on Sunday. Library members will need to register to use self-serve access and training will be provided. More details on this will be provided via the Council's website as it becomes available.

### Community Libraries

Swindon Borough Council will also maintain the non-core libraries of Covingham, Even Swindon, Liden, Moredon, Old Town, Penhill, Pinehurst, Upper Stratton, and Wroughton Libraries until the end of August 2017. These will be staffed for 15 hours per week, except Even Swindon that will be staffed to its current opening hours. Walcot Library is currently subject to a community bid that seeks to convert this to community-led services ahead of August 2017. Pending approval of that bid, it will continue to operate to its current staffed hours.

From 5 April, the staffed hours for these Libraries will be as follows:

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
COVINGHAM		12:00-17:00	12:00-17:00	10:00-15:00			
EVEN SWINDON	10:00-12:30		14:00-16:30	14:00-19:00			

LIDEN	10:00-15:00		10:00-15:00		12:00-17:00		
MOREDON		10:00-15:00		12:00-17:00	10:00-15:00		
OLD TOWN		12:00-17:00	10:00-15:00		10:00-15:00		
PENHILL		10:00-15:00		10:00-15:00	12:00-17:00		
PINETREES	12:00-17:00		10:00-15:00	12:00-17:00			
UPPER STRATTON		10:00-15:00		12:00-17:00	10:00-15:00		
WROUGHTON	13:00-17:00	11:00-15:00			13:00-17:00	10:00 – 13:00	
WALCOT*		14:00 – 16:30		14:00 – 16:30			
* These are current staffed hours							

The Council is supporting the development of community-led Library services in these Libraries to secure local access to Library services after 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017. The Council is currently working with community organisations on their development of business plans ahead of the submission deadline of 31 March, and further news about that work will be known in April.

### Temporary Closures

In order to prepare for the changes there will be a number of temporary closures to prepare for the introduction of the new opening times, staff training and stock relocation. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Days	Library closed	Hours
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> March	West Swindon	Closed from 13:00 Open in the morning
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Park Library	Closed from 13:00 Open in the morning
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> March	North Library	Closed from 14:00 Open in the morning
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> and 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Central & Highworth Libraries	Closed until 13:00 Open in the afternoon
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> to Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	All Libraries	All day

### Regular Activities

In light of the changes to staffed and opening hours, some regular activities that take place in our libraries such as the very popular Story and Rhyme times may be disrupted. We understand how important and valuable these services are and will endeavour to reschedule these where possible and

will publicise and update Library users as alternative arrangements are made. From the beginning of April 2017 please check with your local libraries directly to see what activities will be running.

### **New Charges**

As of 5<sup>th</sup> April we will be increasing some current charges and introducing charges for some services that have been free until now.

- Book reservations will cost £1 whether placed online or by staff.
- Fines will increase to 30p per day per adult book and 15p per day per book for children's books though there's still no fines on the under 5's card.
- DVD rentals will increase to £2.50
- A charge is also being introduced for members of Readers Groups that source their books through us which will be £10 and which will cover the cost of 10 requested books over the course of a year.
- A full list of fees and charges will be available on our website in due course.

[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20021/councillors\\_democracy\\_and\\_elections/606/libraries\\_and\\_community\\_assets](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20021/councillors_democracy_and_elections/606/libraries_and_community_assets)

### **Volunteering**

Swindon Libraries are looking for volunteers to get involved in a variety of activities. There is something for everyone, whatever your interest and whatever time you have available. By volunteering you can develop your skills, meet new people and contribute to your local community. We have a range of roles available at various times throughout the year, including IT, Gardening, Storytime, Duke of Edinburgh and Events volunteers.

Further details can be found on our website;

[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20026/libraries/303/volunteer\\_to\\_help\\_your\\_local\\_library](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20026/libraries/303/volunteer_to_help_your_local_library)

The background to the strategy, the details of the consultation and the needs assessment that was undertaken as part of the development of the new strategy can be found on the SBC website here:

[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20021/councillors\\_democracy\\_and\\_elections/606/review\\_of\\_community\\_bas](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20021/councillors_democracy_and_elections/606/review_of_community_bas)