

## Written statements from County Councillors

### Agenda Item Number 9 : Mobile Library Service

Ian Gardner (08.06.16; 10:02)

The mobile Library service will be missed by a few in Chesil villages but many can access the Chickerell Library.

Pauline Batstone (14.06.16; 20:35)

I write to support the concerns expressed by the Secretary of the Friends of Sturminster Library in her statement on behalf of the Friends to your committee. Rural isolation is increasing for older people as facilities are withdrawn. If the Mobile Library service ceases, I hope that the Council will look at how the gaps in provision can be filled, in particular by working with the community transport schemes to bring people to books or books to people.

Ros Kayes (15.06.16; 15:11)

I have grave concerns about proposed changes to the mobile library service.

The savings to be made here are small in respect of the overall divisional budget but the impact of the changes would be significant for those unable to access libraries by car. These include our most vulnerable residents. Mostly the elderly living alone but also young families without transport.

Transport is the issue. With cuts to bus subsidies those living in villages will be even more isolated. Were buses to be available it would only be the chronically disabled who would be unable to access books. The cuts add two extra groups of the disadvantaged. Both in terms of early years education and mental wellbeing for the elderly and disabled, access to reading material is essential. I think these proposals will have knock on effects on a number of other services and we should be thinking in a more joined up way. We should continue the service as it currently operates.

### Agenda Item Number 10 : Community Offer for Living and Learning

Ian Gardner (08.06.16; 10:02)

Not sure why Portland is considered and Chickerell not which is a growing Town and houses the largest employment area outside of Bournemouth & Poole. Having said that I am not that sold on the concept in any case.

## Written statement from members of the public

### Agenda Item Number 9 : Mobile Library Service

Friends of Sturminster Newton Library (Michaela Knowles, Secretary) (14.06.16; 20:07)

We oppose the cessation of North Dorset's public mobile service for the following reasons:

- Lack of public transport means those without cars lose their independence, making them unnecessarily reliant on others;
- The mobile library is one of the few facilities left in many villages which brings people together socially, thus reducing isolation;
- Consideration needs to be given instead to the alternative option of rationalising library provision in urban areas, where there are good transport links to take users to central libraries and far shorter distances involved (see clusters on map below).

