

Cabinet – 19 May 2026

Councillor questions

Question from Cllr Richard Crabb, Sherborne West Ward

The library in Sherborne has been closed since 5th September 2025. The original intention was to provide new Extended Access to Sherborne Library and at the same time essential asbestos removal works would be completed. The Extended Access is to allow members to use facilities beyond staffed opening hours with access to WiFi, self-service and printing.

The library first closed on 5th September 2025 and was planned to re-open on the 18th October.

On 25th September we heard that the date to re-open would be extended to the 8th November. This was because of surveys needed by Building Control and the Dorset Fire Service. On 3rd November we heard that the re-opening would be extended again to the week beginning 15th December.

In January this year, we heard that both Building Control and Dorset Fire Service would need extensive surveys lasting 4-6 weeks for the approvals process. Since then, we have not received any further updates. Our residents understandably are concerned about what has happened to their library as to all practical intents and purposes it has closed completely.

Please could I therefore have an update on progress, and a commitment to complete the work to a given date that can be stuck to, preferably within the next month or two? Also, our residents would like an explanation of what caused the delays with the surveys. Clearly these have been postponed on multiple occasions.