

9 FEBRUARY 2016.

DEAR SIR/MADAM,

I AM WRITING TO IMPLORE YOU TO RECONSIDER THE PLANS FOR THE CLOSURE OF LIBRARY SERVICES. I AM 42 YEARS OLD AND HAVE BEEN GOING TO CROWN STREET LIBRARY ALMOST DAILY FOR THE MAJORITY OF MY LIFE. THE STAFF HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EXCELLENT AND FRIENDLY, IT WOULD BE A TRAVESTY IF THEY LOST THEIR JOBS. IT IS AN ABSOLUTE DISGRACE THAT YOU ARE EVEN CONSIDERING CLOSING THE TOWN CENTRE LIBRARY; A BEAUTIFUL BUILDING AND ONE OF THE JEWELS IN DARLINGTON'S CROWN. IT AND ITS VARIED SERVICES SHOULD BE NURTURED. I AM APPALLED THAT MONEY IS BEING FUNNELLED INTO THE CIVIC THEATRE TO THE DETRIMENT OF LIBRARY SERVICES AND LIBRARY STAFFS JOBS.

THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING THIS TOWN WILL ONLY COMPRISE OF BETTING SHOPS AND TAKEAWAYS. WE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGING READING, NOT CLOSING LIBRARIES. AS FOR DISCONTINUING THE MOBILE LIBRARY; HOW ARE THE ELDERLY AND INFIRM SUPPOSED TO ACCESS THE VARIOUS SERVICES THE LIBRARY PROVIDES. I ACCEPT THAT COUNCILS ARE BEING SQUEEZED FINANCIALLY BUT THERE MUST BE SOLUTIONS THAT DON'T MARGINALIZE HUGE SWATHES OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE LIBRARY IS NOT JUST BOOKS, IT IS THE HEARTBEAT

OF OUR TOWN. IF THESE PROPOSALS GO THROUGH,
YOU SHOULD ALL HANG YOUR HEADS IN SHAME AS
THE REST OF US MOURN THE SLOW DEATH OF
OUR TOWN.

YOURS SINCERELY

[REDACTED]