

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Rec'd 8 APR 2016

Referred to:-

April 5<sup>th</sup> 2016

Dear Ms Burns  
Chief Executive  
Darlington Council  
The Town Hall  
DARLINGTON  
DL1 9TG

### Library

This is a part copy of the letter I sent to Cllr Bill Dixon today. I do realise the problems that the council is facing, but i hope that you will take time to read my appeal.

Darlington is a Quaker Town. The Quakers were amongst the first groups to recognise the importance of education for all the importance of libraries. They introduced the idea to many towns and villages, just as Edward Pease donated Crown Street to the Townspeople of Darlington. This is our heritage especially the Archives which contain much of the Town's history.

It is not possible to separate Local Studies and Archives from the Lending Library. The former are an essential part of any library. Both fiction and reference users need the Archives and the skills of qualified librarians. No true Trade Union Member will countenance replacing job vacancies, brought about by redundancies, with volunteers.

The Library has a Grade II listing so the building itself cannot be pulled down. It does not lend itself to alteration into offices or shops. There are too many empty examples of both. This used to be a pleasant market town. I thought so when I moved here in 1975. Since then the Town has been allowed to become more and more down at heel. Lovely independent shops have been driven out and replaced with fast food chains, nail bars, cheap clothes outlets and charity shops. Many of the buildings in which they are situated are of historical merit but have become neglected. The many empty buildings are vandalised. Stand outside of the Market and look across at High Row.

We have lost our Museum, our Art Gallery and the Arts Centre. The latter was left derelict for a long time and became a vandalised eyesore. Crown Street Library is one of the few remaining assets of the Town. When it goes, what follows? Presumably we will not have a Theatre (which receives Heritage Lottery Funding) or Head of Steam. How long will they last?

Please think again about Crown Street Library.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]