



Appendix 1

Friends of Centre Point and Holme Wood
Broadstone Way, Holme Wood, Bradford. BD4 9BU

To Bradford Council,

Please find enclosed a petition to save Holme Wood Library from closure, along with posters and letters local school children have made and a copy of an online petition by an ex local resident on the estate.

We as a Friends of Group, for the building the Library is located and the local area, are astounded by Holme Wood Library being 'earmarked' for closure, if a community group can not be found to run the library instead of paid staff.

A library that covers a large geographical area the size of Holme Wood needs experienced staff who are there not just to help with books but are also there as an information source for local residents.

The Library is also used by a lot of people, who do job search and CVs due to it being a free computer facility and by the elderly and those with mobility issues, due to the library being in a central position in the Holme Wood area.

The Library is vital for the area and if the Library was to go, we would hate to see if this would have a knock on effect to the Youth Centre next door, as they are part of the same building.

Please accept this petition from the Friends of Holme Wood Centre Point and Holme Wood and hope to hear from you soon

Kind Regards

A signature area consisting of four thick, horizontal black bars that completely obscure the text underneath. The bars are stacked vertically and appear to be drawn with a marker or thick pen.

The trustees and members of the Group

98 Signatures



PETITION TO:

Bradford Metropolitan District Council

***From the Friends of Holme Wood Centre Point & Holme Wood
and the local community***

To save Holme Wood Library from closure.

Since Holme Wood Library was included on a list of libraries to go community managed or be closed, Hopes Centre has since gone into liquidation and Holme Wood lost a vital resource.

We are petitioning Bradford Council not to take away another resource from the Holme Wood Community. The library is also a vital resource for a number of reasons including;

- Free book access for education
- The only free internet access for job seeking, access to online resources, children's home work, etc
- Community hub for local groups to meet
- Community hub for those with disabilities/older generation who are unable to travel far
- Free activities through school holidays, keeping children happy and entertained
- Regular children's rhyme and story times
- And much, much more.....

Friends of Centre Point and Holme Wood

Good afternoon everyone and thank for allowing us to speak today.

We are here today, not only as a Friends of group but also as residents of Holme Wood and citizens of Bradford.

The decision was made to close Holme Wood library in February 2016, much to the surprise and disappointment of local residents. The library is a much used resource on the estate and is a focal point of community life. The function and role of the library has been greatly increased since the recent closure of the Hopes Centre, which was a valuable provider of community services. In response to the Council decision to close the library, residents of Holme Wood have come together and formed a community action group: the Friends of Centrepoint and Holme Wood. The principle aim of this group was to prevent the closure of the library and to save this resource for the current and future residents of the area. Since the inception of the group, our remit has expanded to support the community as a whole. We are working on setting up new community groups and undertaking projects to improve the quality of life for people in this area.

Holme Wood Library is a key resource for the community of Holme Wood and surrounding BD4 area. Between 800 and 1000 people access the library each month and it is a key meeting point for people of all ages. In particular, the library is accessed by many local children on a regular basis, and the staff at the library work extremely hard to encourage a love of books and literature from the youngest to the oldest in the community. The library runs reading schemes for children and also encourages school children to read during the school holidays, particularly during the summer with the reading challenge. It provides a place to play for the youngest children on the estate runs weekly rhyme time sessions for the under fives, and is a meeting point for local childminders. It provides daily papers and a warm dry place to read them, along with company for some of the most isolated people in the community.

The library also provides computers with free internet access, which are utilised on a daily basis by a wide range of people, including school children doing homework and unemployed people carrying out job searches. Without access to this facility, many people will have to travel into the city centre, often on public transport at considerable cost, in order to access the internet. More than half of Holme Wood residents do not have a car and are dependent on local facilities being available within walking distance. This issue is also a key concern for the many disabled residents of Holme Wood, who would find it difficult to travel to alternative library facilities.

Other groups, such as the walking group, also use the library as a meeting point, which is important for social contact for members of the older generation in our community. The building is also used by the Royds Advice Service on a daily basis.

There are 6 primary schools within walking distance of the library – each with an average of 350 pupils, as well as 3 secondary schools, 2 of which have over 1000 pupils. At present, only one local school is able to make regular visits to the library on a whole class basis, as the library is closed three mornings per week. Other schools in the area would like to be able to access this provision, and this is one of the key areas that the Friends of Group would like to facilitate in future.

Holme Wood is a deprived area of Bradford and there is a huge need for the services and facilities that the library provides. The number of working age workless-benefit claimants in Holme Wood is 1645, representing 33.7% of the population, which is almost three times the England average at 11.4%. 52.7% of children in Holme Wood are in lone parent households, compared to just 27.2% nationally. 47% of Holme Wood residents have no formal qualifications compared with 22% nationally. Literacy and numeracy rates are below national average in both children and adults, and these will not improve with the loss of the library facility and the services it provides.

The Friends of Group is willing and able to work with the Council in order to assist with the future running of the library facility. We have researched the provision of library services in Bradford and have visited a community led library to understand more about the role of

volunteers in a community led facility. Due to the unique situation on Holme Wood, we believe that a community led library would not be able to function effectively or safely for the service users or the volunteers. We believe the best option for Holme Wood, would be to continue to keep it fully staffed so it can continue to provide all current services. There are a number of changes that could be made to reduce the running costs of the library which the Council could implement rather than making the decision to close. We also consider the hybrid model, such as that executed at Baildon and Clayton libraries, could be feasible if the Council would be willing to consider this and work with the volunteers that are able to assist. We feel that this would need to be undertaken alongside a review of the current service provision, for example reviewing the opening hours. The group also has a number of ideas that it would like to explore to increase the services that the library could provide for the community, such as a homework club.

To demonstrate the support of the people of Holme Wood, we have attained 120 signatures of local residents. We are presenting this petition to the Council today and asking you to review the decision to close our library. We ask for you to support the Friends of Group by continuing to provide the library facility and at least one paid member of staff, so we can work together for the benefit of Holme Wood and its residents. Thank you for inviting us here today and taking the time to listen us.