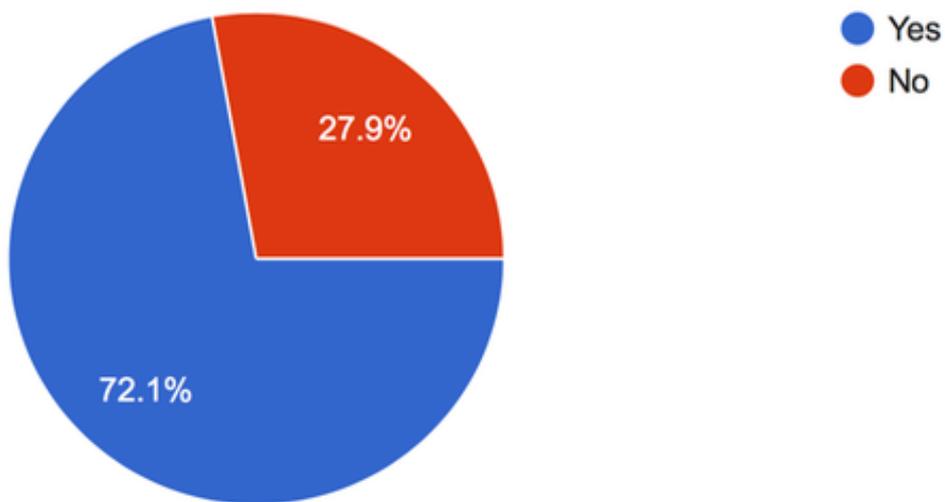


Long Ashton Library Survey – Summary of Results

A total of 359 residents in the parish responded to the survey, either electronically or on paper.

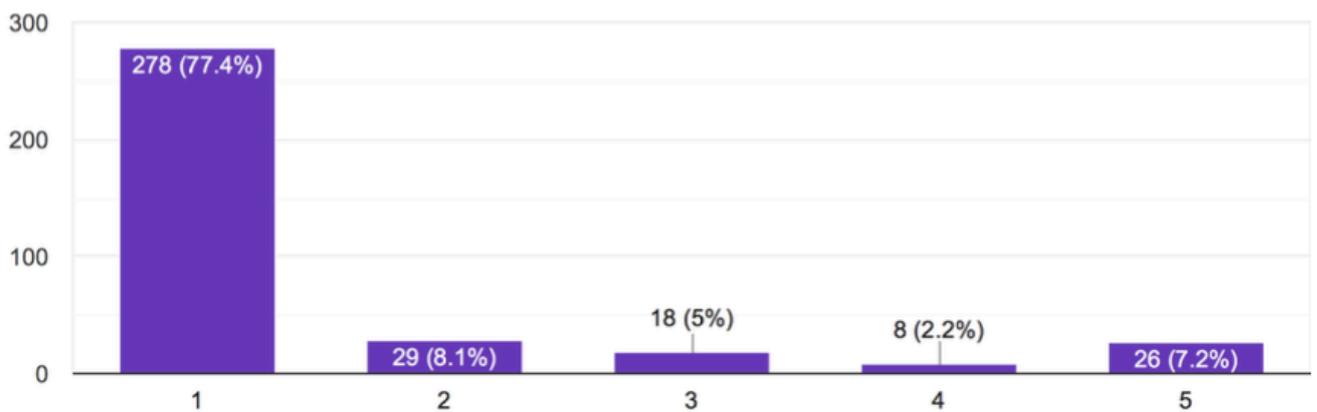
1) Were you aware that Long Ashton Library is due to close in autumn 2018?

- 359 responses
- The vast majority of respondents (72%) were aware that the library was closing.



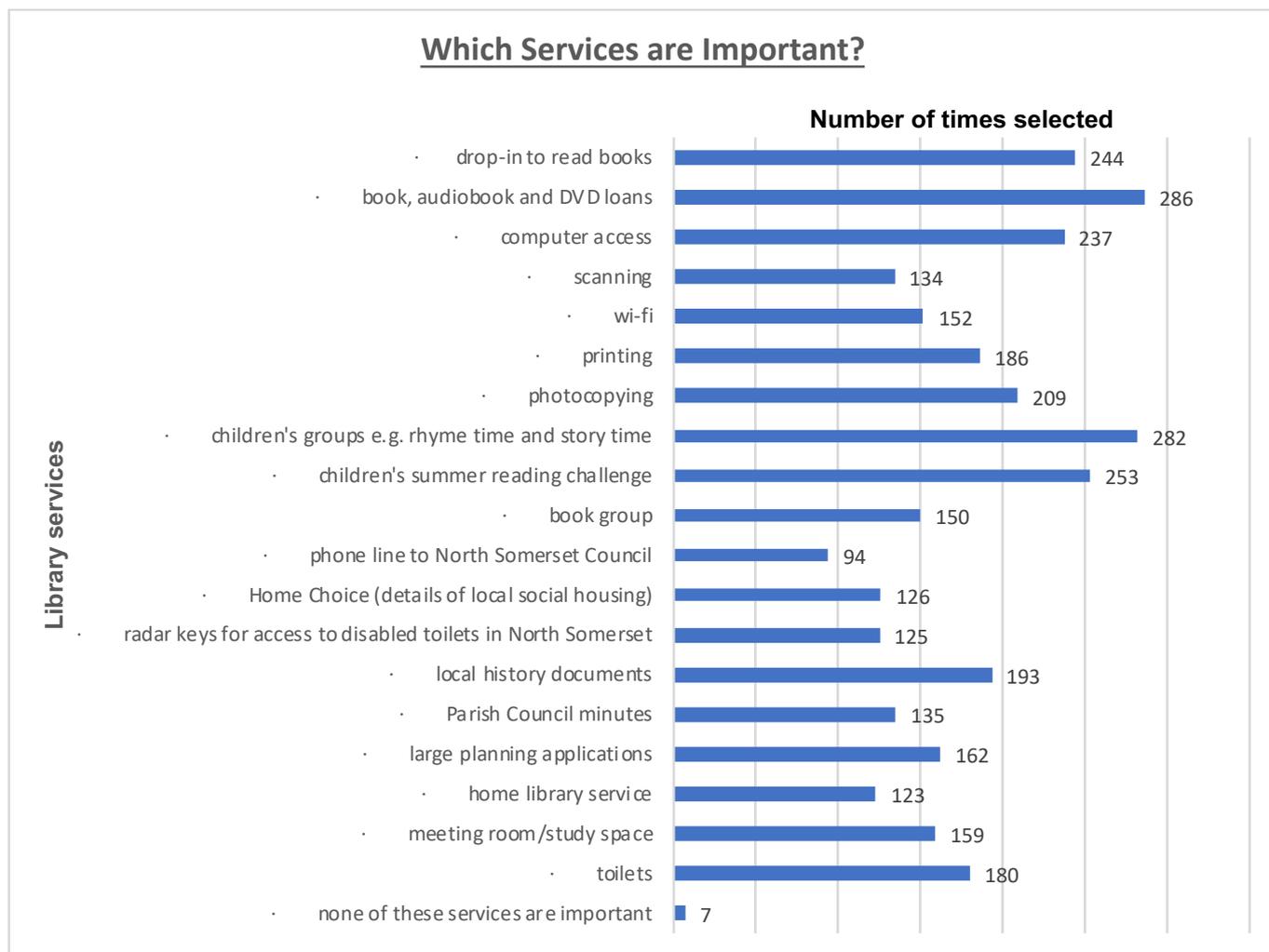
2) Do you agree with this statement: "It is important to maintain a library service in our village" (1=strongly agree, 5=strongly disagree)?

- 359 responses
- The vast majority of respondents (77%) strongly agreed with the statement. This could be compared with 7% who strongly disagreed with the statement.



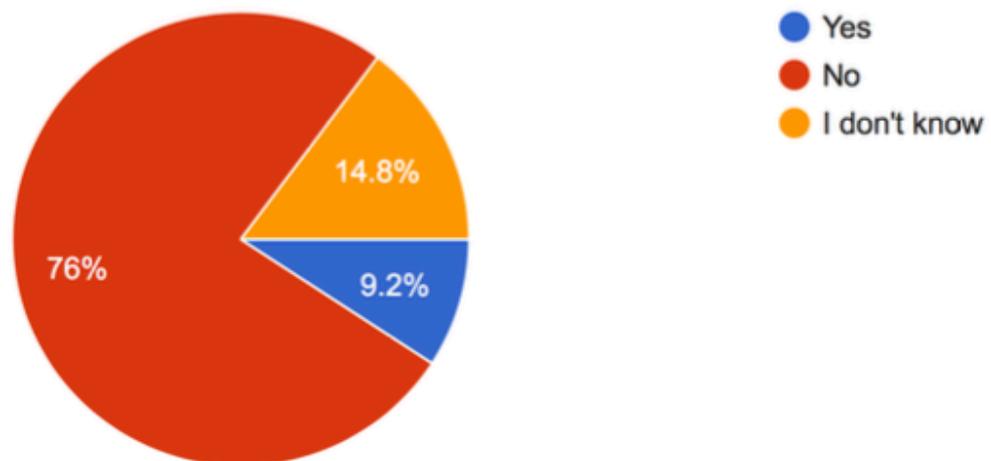
3) Which of these existing library services do you think are important?

- 359 responses
- Respondents could select multiple services from list given.
- Book, audiobook and DVD loans were most important to respondents, followed by children’s groups, the children’s summer reading challenge and being able to drop in to read books. Having a phone line to North Somerset Council was deemed to be the least important service.
- Seven respondents felt that none of these services are important.



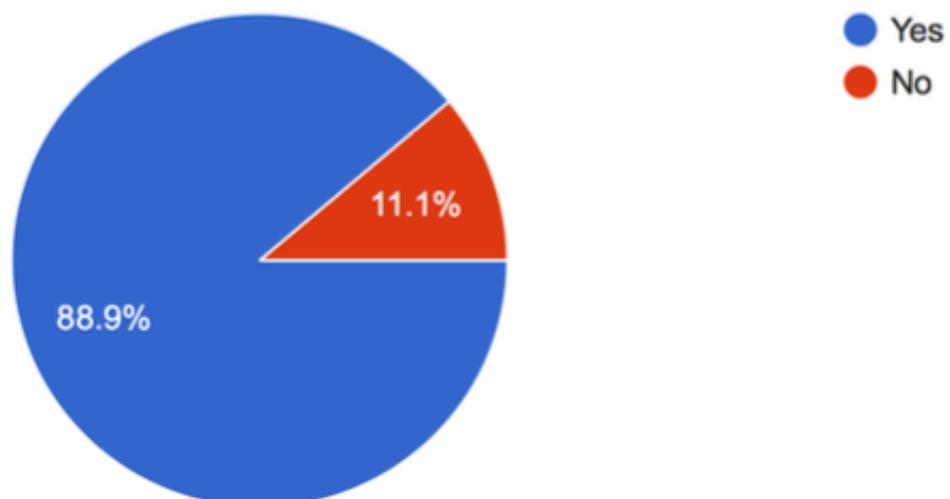
4) North Somerset Council is proposing to provide a mobile library service for two afternoons per week. Do you think this meets the needs of our village?

- 359 responses
- The vast majority of respondents (76%) felt that a mobile service would not meet the needs of the village.



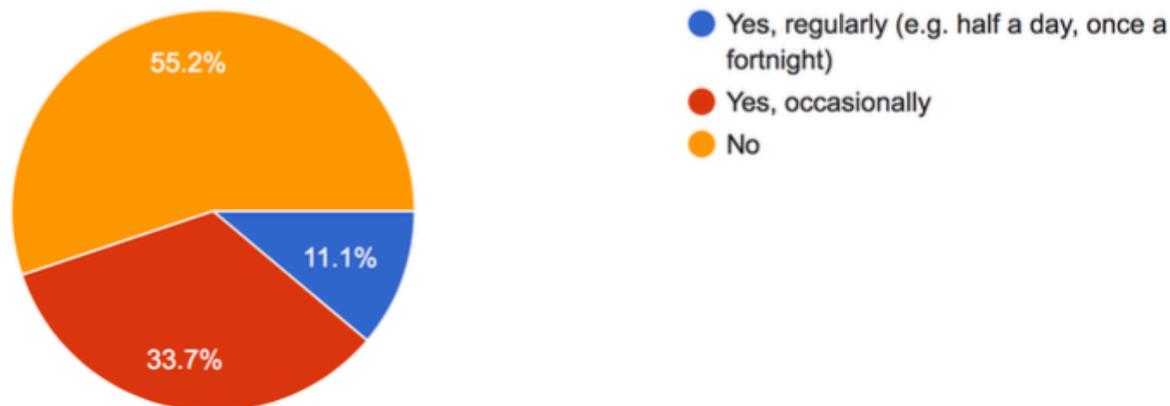
5) In order to maintain a similar service to present, the Parish Council is considering the possibility of setting up a community library based at another site. Would you support this?

- 359 responses
- The vast majority of respondents (89%) said that they would support a community library.



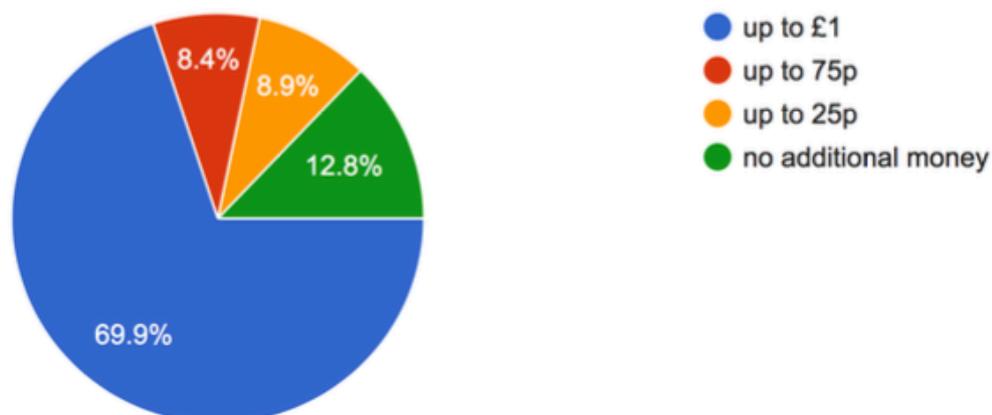
6) To establish a community library, a number of volunteers would be required. Typically, a volunteer would contribute six hours per month. Would you be prepared to volunteer?

- 359 responses
- The majority of respondents (55%) were not prepared to volunteer.



7) How much additional tax would your household be prepared to pay per month for library provision?

- 359 responses
- The vast majority of respondents (87.2%) said that they were prepared to pay additional tax for library provision, with 70% of respondents prepared to pay up to an additional £1 per month.



Results of Long Ashton Library Survey 2018

Comments

Respondents were given the opportunity to leave a comment.

The majority of comments were in favour of a library in the future or sad about the current library closing. Below are a few examples.

- I think it's so important to have a library to encourage a love of reading in young children and it's a special experience to be able to pop to a local library and spend time choosing from such a large selection of books.
- We visit the library almost every week with our two children and it is an integral part of our lives. We all enjoy reading, watching DVDs and researching information through books. I am concerned that a mobile service would be on days when our children are at school and as we both are working parents we could not access the service. If the Nailsea library gets closed, then we are stuffed. I cannot justify driving all the way to Clevedon to get a book. Both the time and petrol alone would not make it worth our while. We are fully supportive of a community library and recognise it takes huge commitment. Is there any way the library and cafe could be combined? Either in the same premises or in the Community Centre? I appreciate they have different uses but the social aspect of a cafe and library cannot be underestimated. If we have more communal areas then it will reduce isolation and loneliness and encourage the community to be healthier.
- We're so disappointed that the library is having to close. It's a great local community service that is well used by residents in the village. Having access to a library can significantly improve children's interest in reading as it gives them a wide choice of reading material to try out.
- Very sorry to read of impending closure, the library seems to be well supported when I visit with children and not so young using the facilities. A big loss to the community.
- Long Ashton prides itself on being a real village with a community spirit. We are so fortunate to have many of the amenities so important to keeping a village thriving, two excellent primary schools, a post office, a good local shop, an excellent farm shop, pubs and restaurants. A local library contributes to this wellbeing and community spirit. Reading through the list of services that the library currently provides highlights the need to maintain this service. The library is the hub for the needs of the diverse population of the village serving all age groups and all salary brackets.
- Having a library is so important for the young and the old (it keeps them in touch with people and local goings on).
- This is a vital service to our village. It is especially needed for young mums with children and the elderly. Where else will we have access to all the leaflets presently available for all aspects of living? Whilst the present site is very expensive, a new venue needs to be found and if needs must, be manned by volunteers. It does however, need a paid worker to organise the openings.
- I think it's really disappointing. I regularly visit with my young children to read and borrow books. It's a great way to encourage a love of reading and the appreciation of a 'real' book (not electronic). We're constantly being told to avoid

Results of Long Ashton Library Survey 2018

screen time and encourage children to be independent readers (including being able to read blurbs and thumb through paperbacks). I think there should be another 'hub' in the village somewhere. It's a shame as its current location is very convenient.

- The library is essential to community cohesion, something that can't be reduced to monetary value
- I use the Long Ashton Library as a work place (which I could not do with a mobile service). My company have hired out their meeting room. The Library is well-used by old and young - it's a real hub for the community and would be a tremendous loss to the village.
- The library is more than just books. It is a community centre for meeting and accessing information that some cannot get at home. It also provides a significant point of social contact for members of the community

Some comments were not in favour of a library in the village. Below are a few examples.

- Costa coffee would be more useful for the village
- Using the space for a coffee shop which is open all day would be more useful for the village as a whole.
- I don't think we need a library, also the bus will come twice a week for anyone who wants to use it. Rhymetime etc can move to one of the other venues in the village. I do not support any tax money being used to support a new library.
- It would be interesting to have a mobile library.

Some comments referred to a possible community library service in the future. Below are a few examples.

- Has anyone approached Hebron or Keeds Hall about using some space? Maybe some books on moveable shelving that could be stored in cupboards when space needed for services?
- It would be good to see some of the services provided by LACA. Is there an area by the cafe perhaps for a library and similar services to be provided? The volunteers do a great job already and a library could fit in well there. My main reason for using the library is my 5-year-old who loves it. An afternoon service is unlikely to meet our needs. A Saturday morning service would surely be better. From experience this is the busiest day of the week for the library.
- Some of the services listed should be provided by the community centre.
- In my parents' village, the council closed the local library. The village decided to set up a community library and collocated it with the council office within the village. That way, the village had access to facilities in one place. It appears to be working well and is being used more than it previously was. Perhaps locating the library within the Community Centre would be an idea - particularly if the Children's Centre is also moving there (so I have heard?). That way, all the facilities are located in one place. Many people use the Community Centre for other groups, or the cafe. People would be more aware of it and what it can offer. They could get a drink from the cafe and use the library for reading, quiet space, as a business hub, work, internet access, study spaces for students, learning zones, media space, toddler zones/rhyme

Results of Long Ashton Library Survey 2018

time etc. I think the key thing is to make it somewhere safe and a hub for people to meet, to socialise and interact - not just with each other, but with the books etc on offer.

- My opinions are a) As LACA is according to its constitution a whole community association (not just Keedwell Hill) I believe they should take the lead role in providing any ongoing facilities b) I have no objection to the PC providing a one-off set up fee but c) After that, any service costs must be met by the people who use the service and not by the public purse.