

Title Facts about the Muswell Hill Library Consultation

For Muswell Hill community; Library users.

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## MUSWELL HILL LIBRARY CONSULTATION

The following facts are provided to address mis-information being circulated about the Muswell Hill library consultation. The consultation runs until 25 August 16.

### **1. The library cannot be adapted for just £60,000**

Independent experts who recognise the constraints of working in a listed building, start at £680,000. The council firmly disputes that any quality works could be done to the library building for £60,000. The adaptations needed at the library include accessible toilets, and a lift to the aging building. This would be an extensive construction project within a listed building, and a figure of £60,000 for such works is simply unrealistic.

### **2. Muswell Hill will still have a community library**

Haringey Council is committed to maintaining its network of nine libraries and we have an opportunity to move the Muswell Hill Library to a new, modern and accessible facility. The current disabled toilets. It is also an aging building in need of repair and improvements to heating, cooling and electrics. To make these improvements to the building would be expensive, and as such we are seeking to move the library to a new facility in the heart of the Muswell Hill community. We are also one of the few local authorities who are continuing to invest in our libraries network rather than close them.

### **3. There is no 'third option' for the consultation**

It would be misleading to add a third option to the consultation (such as developing the land at the rear of the library to fund the library improvements) because this option is not financially viable. The funds raised from a small development at the rear of the library would not raise sufficient funds to pay for the library improvements compared to the financial benefits of selling the library and rear land as one larger unit. Moving the library would provide the community with a new, larger, accessible and operationally sustainable library facility at a time of limited resources.

### **4. There will be disabled parking and access to the proposed new library**

The main entrance to the proposed new library at 54/56 Muswell Hill is at the top of the hill, before the incline. At this point the pavement is virtually flat. There is provision for disabled parking and drop-off at the rear of the site, with an accessible entrance to the library.

### **5. The council does not have a budget to make improvements to the library**

There is no budget for the improving the current library building. The feasibility study mentions a budget of £200,000 for this project this figure was used as a nominal value

to the project to enable us to commission the feasibility study. The move to the new building would be funded by a portion of the proceeds from selling the existing library building.

**6. Toilets in the new library will be for library users only**

The new library will have accessible toilets, with baby change facilities. These will be for library users only. The adjacent unit, being sold by the developers as a cafe, will have their own facilities for their customers.

**7. The new library has not been designed yet**

We have deliberately not designed the new proposed library because there is an opportunity to do this in partnership with the community, depending on the outcome of this consultation. The new library space is 25% larger than the existing library, and will provide modern facilities in a new and flexible space. This space could be used for a range of library and community uses, and will be fully accessible for all members of our community.