

Minutes

PETITION HEARING - CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PROPERTY AND BUSINESS SERVICES

17 November 2010

Meeting held at Committee Room 5 - Civic Centre,
High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW



	<p>MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors: Jonathan Bianco, Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services</p>
	<p>OFFICERS PRESENT: Jean Palmer, Corporate Director – Planning and Community Services Mohamed Bhimanai – Project Manager Culture, Sport and Leisure Charles Francis – Democratic Services Officer</p>
1.	<p>TO CONFIRM THAT THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN PUBLIC. (Agenda Item 1)</p> <p>All items were considered in public.</p>
2.	<p>NORTHWOOD HILLS LIBRARY - PETITION REGARDING THE ANNEXE (Agenda Item 3)</p> <p>Councillors John Morgan and Andrew Retter attended the meeting as Ward Councillors and Councillor Retter spoke at the meeting.</p> <p>Concerns and suggestions raised at the meeting included the following:</p> <p>The points raised by Petitioners were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Petition objected to the potential closure of the Northwood Hills Library annexe which had been used by the Rainbow Health Centre (RHC) since 1987.• The RHC was a voluntary organisation which provided counselling and alternative faith healing and helped people suffering from mild to chronic illnesses.• The RHC was used by clients from across Hillingdon as well as from outside the Borough• The RHC provided refreshments free of charge and was a venue for users to make new friends.• The RHC provided two year professional courses for complementary therapy and approximately 25 students graduated from the course last year.• If the library annexe was unavailable, RHC enquired about what other options there were and whether the Council could suggest alternative premises.

A Ward Councillor addressed the meeting and the following points were made:

- There was great sympathy with the petitioners' desire to remain in the library.
- The refurbishment of the Northwood Hill library annexe was part of the refit programme to all 17 of Hillingdon's libraries for the benefit of the whole community.
- A number of alternative venues were suggested and included:
 1. Emmanuel Church, Northwood
 2. Fairfield – home of Northwood Hills Evangelical Church – Windsor Close
 3. United Reform Church, Joel Street
 4. St Edmund's Church, Pinner Road

Other speakers – Andrew Riley (Chairman of Northwood Hills Residents Association)

At the discretion of the Chairman, Mr Riley addressed the meeting.

- The Chairman of Northwood Hills Residents Association offered to assist RHC find alternative premises and offered to host an article in the Resident's magazine

Councillor Jonathan Bianco listened to the concerns of the petitioners and responded to the points raised.

- With regards to the service provided by RHC, it was acknowledged that this was a useful and sought after practice and no one wished it to disappear.
- At the other end of the spectrum, it must be recognised that Hillingdon was bucking the trend and investing in local libraries rather than close then like they had been in a number of Local Authorities.
- To date, the Refurbishment programme had been very successful. A considerable number of residents used library resources including the computer terminals.
- There was no provision made to accommodate RHC in the refurbished library.
- With regards to relocation, it was hoped that the Council could assist RHC to find alternative premises. It was acknowledged that the Council owned relatively few facilities in the area but the Northwood Young People's Centre in Haliwell Road was suggested.

DECISION

That the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Noted the views of the petitioners.**
- 2. Advised the petitioners that:**

(a) the council would progress with the library refurbishment and instruct officers to work with The Rainbow Healing Centre to try and find alternative premises.

	<p>REASON FOR DECISION</p> <p>To investigate further details of the petitioners.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</p> <p>None.</p>
	<p>The meeting, which commenced at 7.00 pm, closed at 7.20 pm.</p>

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Charles Francis on 01895 556454
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