

Public Speaking

Summary of statement by Andrew Frater:

Mr Frater said he was speaking in support of Councillor Light's motion on libraries. He thanked the District Council for offering financial support to Thaxted Library. This was welcome to the parish council and residents. The District Council's administration should take every opportunity to oppose removal of access to the wider national library network. He asked that the District Council's commitment to Thaxted Library be extended past 2019.

Summary of statement by Martyn Everett:

Mr Everett said he had worked for 28 years in public libraries, 3 years in a university library and 15 years in the library voluntary sector. He supported Councillor Light's motion on libraries. Funding cuts had seen cuts in opening hours, staffing and books available. The results of this had been severe, with the number of readers and items borrowed having fallen. Essex County Council had substantial reserves and did not need to cut library services. It had a duty to provide libraries for everyone, but closing 44 would remove library access to a third of its users. It would however not meet its statutory duty to provide libraries.