

Debenham Library Foundation

Debenham Resource Centre
22 Cross Green
Debenham IP14 6RW

Tuesday, 27 May 2014

Annual report to Debenham Parish Council

Debenham Library Foundation was formally registered as a charitable incorporated organisation in October 2013. The library working group which was set up on the initiative of the Parish Council, at the time of the County Council's consultation on the future of libraries, is now a committee of the foundation. It continues to run the project to move the library to larger premises.

The first few months of 2014 have been devoted to fund raising and sufficient money is now available to go ahead with the move which is estimated to cost £40,000.

Debenham Parish Council's contribution of £2,499 is hugely important as a demonstration to other funders of community support, as well as being a substantial part of the total funding needed. Other funders include Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk Libraries IPS.

The Foundation hopes that the agreements needed for the library to move from Cross Green to the Sir Robert Hitcham CEVA Primary School can be put in place soon. These are a little complex but everyone involved is determined the move should take place and committed to finding the best leasing arrangement.

Meanwhile, the library continues to be a popular and valuable local resource under the management of Maureen John. Suffolk Libraries (the Industrial and Provident Society) which now runs the libraries has managed to maintain, and in some cases improve, the service to the public, despite a reduction in budget compared with the previous directly-run county council service.

Debenham Library Foundation is a voting member of the IPS along with other library community groups. Debenham Parish Council, Suffolk Libraries IPS and The Governors of primary school, nominate trustees.

Plans are now being developed to improve and develop Debenham library when it moves to the larger premises. The space will be flexible, allowing it to be used for meetings and classes as well as holding a larger stock of books to browse. All suggestions will be welcomed by Maureen John.

Andrew Grant-Adamson
Chair,
Debenham Library Foundation