

Following is a letter sent on behalf of Save Oxfordshire's Libraries, a group currently representing the 20 libraries under the threat of losing County Council funding. Please note, that since we are yet to formalise our working/action group, we are one of the groups mentioned in the PS of the document as one of the two groups yet to have a public meeting to agree that we are opposed to bidding for funding to create a do-it-yourself service.

Becky Crockett
26 February 2011

Mr. John Jackson
Director Social & Community Services
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford OX1 1ND

25 February 2011

Dear Mr. Jackson,

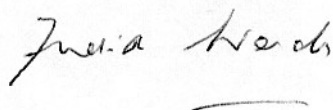
I am writing to inform you that an alliance has been formed of the various groups campaigning to prevent the closure of libraries in Oxfordshire. The alliance is called simply Save Oxfordshire Libraries.

At this stage, the group consists of representatives from each of the libraries on the list announced at the end of last year as potentially scheduled for closure. We shall now be seeking to enlist support from as many as possible of the other libraries in Oxfordshire: we believe that any solution to the financial difficulties facing the county library service should encompass the entire service.

We also wish to inform you that a substantial majority among the original 20 are opposed to bidding for funding to create a do-it-yourself service. It is our belief that fragmenting the service would create an irreversible deterioration in its quality and have a seriously detrimental impact on local communities. We are also convinced that any attempt to set up a large number of new voluntary groups to fund and run libraries in the current financial climate would be unlikely to succeed, and probably simply delay the eventual closures that communities are striving to avoid.

We will all expect to respond in much greater detail during the consultation period.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Judith Wardle, on behalf of Save Oxfordshire Libraries
21 Common Road, North Leigh OX29 6RD.

P.S. Two library groups felt the speed of the process meant they had to retain the option to bid for funding because of the fear of losing their library completely, but they are still committed to campaigning for the maintenance of a countywide service. Two more are awaiting the outcome of a public meeting in their area.