

Do you want a positive future for Clifton Library?

The future of Clifton and Redland libraries is at risk. If you care about the future of Clifton Library and its role as a library and as a community facility there is only one party you can rely on locally to secure the best future for the library: that is the Green Party.

Why you can't rely on the Conservative Party

The Conservative Party and the prospective Conservative party councillor are happy for Clifton library to close as a library, arguing that it represents poor value for money for the community. They are happy for the library to be removed from council control and essentially privatised. They have exaggerated the costs of the library by failing to take into account the very significant sums of revenue that the library already generates from facility hire and user fees. They appear overconfident about how easy it will be to run the library as a community facility without financial support from the Council. The same is true of Stephen Perry, the independent candidate.

Why you can't rely on the Liberal Democrats

When the risk of closure to the libraries was raised the Liberal Democrats organised a petition on Stephen William's website. Since then the Clifton Liberal Democrat candidate appears to have done nothing to back up his stated commitment to keep the library open.

You can rely on the Green Party

You can rely on the commitment and approach of the Clifton Green Party and Jerome Thomas to get the best solution for our library and community centre in Clifton over the coming years. We believe the Council should continue to provide financial support for Clifton library. We recognise that there are needs and opportunities to reduce costs in the library and to generate revenue. A business plan needs to be developed for the library that takes into account the opportunities and the challenges. A small committed group needs to work on this with the library service.

If you want a positive future for Clifton Library what do you need to do?

- 1) You need to complete the Council's consultation survey which is available in paper form from the library or online at www.bristolfuturelibraries.co.uk and follow the links. You have until 30 June to do this.
- 2) Make your suggestions in the survey about how you would like the library to evolve.
- 3) When you complete the survey, in order to maximise the likelihood of the library retaining some library features in the future, you should disagree that Clifton library sits outside Group 1 and 2. This is because you believe that Clifton library is a library that needs development (a very small amount of development is needed to help it better meet its social, educational and cultural objectives) and answering the question in this way this will help weaken the argument for closure.

The Context

In many respects Clifton is already a successful library. It lent out 35,000 books and other items last year, it has 2,500 users. It has very good and reasonably used community meeting space. Its Reading Group, which meets monthly, represented Bristol at the Hay literary festival. And we recognise that in a time of severe spending cuts and changing roles for libraries the Library Service has to adapt and evolve.

What could the future look like for Clifton Library?



This is one vision, captured by a local illustrator, of an enhanced library and community centre at the heart of Clifton village. Outside the library the imposing wall has been removed and short stay cycle stands have been installed on the street. These changes will create a friendly meeting space in the heart of Clifton village. Inside the library a large movable sound proof partition could be installed between the two spaces on the ground floor to allow more community use to be made of the space including a local film club.

In the coming months there will be opportunities to contribute your ideas about how you want Clifton Library to change for the future. As a short term priority and to help us keep a clear vision for Clifton library at the heart of our community's thinking please vote for me, Jerome Thomas, as your local Clifton Green Party candidate on May 7. And I look forward to staying in touch about the library, whether or not I am elected as your councillor.

With best wishes,



**Jerome Thomas,
Green Party candidate for Clifton Ward**

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