

## **AGENDA ITEM 5**

### **MAIDSTONE LOCALITY BOARD** **Libraries Update**

**To:** Maidstone Locality Board  
**From:** KCC Libraries, Registration and Archives  
**Date:** 4 December 2012  
**Subject:** Kent County Council – Future Library Services Programme  
**Classification:** Unclassified

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**Summary:** An update on the progress of the Future Library Services Programme for the Maidstone Locality Board.

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#### **1. Introduction**

Contact has been made and discussions have commenced in all communities in the Maidstone District that have existing static library service points outside the town centre.

#### **2. Current Position**

**Allington** – The local Primary School is interested in the potential to develop a Nursery and possible community space and out-of-hours school club at the Library end of the site. Follow-up meeting scheduled for January 2013.

**Bearsted** – Asset Development potential has been identified. The Library Service is working with KCC Property to look at all potential options for the site. Ongoing discussions with the Parish Council and two local residents.

**Coxheath** – Discussions underway with the Parish Council, linked to the development of the local Neighbourhood Plan.

**Staplehurst** – Asset Development potential has been identified. The Library Service is working with KCC Property. Discussions underway exploring opportunities for the whole site, including the potential to accommodate others in the building (e.g. Parish Council, Post Office, and the potential for a community café with a Community Interest Company).

**Headcorn** – Discussions underway with the Parish Council and School.

**Lenham** – Discussions underway with the Parish Council. The Library Service attended community consultation sessions about the local Neighbourhood Plan.

**Madginford** – A sub-committee of Bearsted Parish Council is to begin looking at potential opportunities.

**Marden** – Discussions underway with the Parish Council and local History Group.

**Shepway** – The Library Service is exploring potential to work with the Youth Service and/or the local church.

**Yalding** – Discussions underway with the Parish Council, which has expressed interest in running the library service there.

**Maidstone** – The Library Service is continuing to monitor performance at the new Kent History and Library Centre. No approaches have been received to date.

#### **Background Information:**

1. Information about the Future Library Services Programme can be found at: [www.kent.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.kent.gov.uk/libraries)
2. A copy of the report for the Communities Cabinet Committee (19 September 2012) can be found on the website: <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s34091/D2%20-%20Future%20Library%20Services.pdf>

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