



Sanderstead Residents Association ask the following questions, please about CROYDON COUNCIL LIBRARY CLOSURE PROPOSALS

1] The total number of visits to Croydon libraries in 2015/16 was 1,951,000 and by 2019/20 had fallen to 1,465,000 a decrease of approximately 25% over the whole of Croydon. For Sanderstead library, the visits were 35,230 in 2015/16 and 35,222 in 2019/20, the only Croydon library with no decrease whatsoever.

Why is this factor being ignored?

2] The library has space for other than the current activities and, is therefore capable, without extensive work of absorbing Library Plan proposals.

Why has this not been factored in?

3] Sanderstead library is on the Local List of buildings and structures within Croydon considered to have special local architectural or historic interest by the public and the Council. The garden has a preservation ordered tree and a memorial rose bed as well as a community wild flower garden.

Will any future proposal honour the commitment in the Conservation and Heritage Policy?

4] The existing location occupies a central position in Sanderstead Ward and is served by a frequent [5/hour in each direction] service with stops right outside as well as being in walkable distance for much of the community.

Has this consideration been factored into the evaluation?

5] The alternative library is given as Selsdon, 1.3 miles away. This is in fact 2 miles away with no direct 'bus service and will, therefore require a change of 'bus. Because of this closure will encourage car use to access it as the only viable alternative transport option?

If Selsdon is considered an acceptable alternative, what assessment of transport modal change has been made and with what effect on traffic congestion and exhaust pollution?

6] The library has step free access for disabled and young mothers etc. which would make it impossible for these residents to access other library facilities easily.

What assessment has been made to ensure such groups are not disadvantaged?

7] The library is of community value because it is the direct provider of a number of services, which have social, and community value, such as access to information and literacy support, promoting social cohesion residents need, closer to where they live.

To maintain these key objectives of the Library Plan what alternative facilities are proposed for Sanderstead residents?

8] It is the only publicly owned community facility in Sanderstead and could form a library/hub and be a centre for more services thereby reducing costs as set out by the council's own policy regarding hubs.

Has this be considered and if not, why?

9 Sanderstead Ward has a higher rate of people over the age of 65 (23.8%) than Croydon as a whole 13.8% so residents should not be further inconvenienced by its closure. Elderly & Vulnerable residents are already socially isolated and this would impact on their health and wellbeing.

Has this been taken into consideration and with what conclusion?