

Item 18 Information note Walsden Library

Background

Part of the initial dialogue regarding the closure of Walsden Library was to identify any potential alternative to outright cessation of service.

One of the alternatives put forward was to speak with the residents of Yew Tree Court situated nearby to enquire whether there was any possibility of rehousing it there.

Members were concerned that amongst the pressures experienced by CMBC in respect of flooding and Covid 19, this issue may have been missed.

We have been advised by Sarah Richardson for CMBC

“I can confirm that the manager at Yew Tree Court was contacted and a visit was made to the premises. Unfortunately, we were unable to progress our discussions with them.

You will recall that Calderdale Cabinet agreed back in Sept 2019 that the library service would cease if alternative premises could not be found within 12 weeks. I am satisfied that significant efforts have been made to follow up any options identified, and discussions have gone on for significantly longer than 12 weeks.”

Alternative use for land – Walsden Neighbourhood Watch Enquiry

At the meeting of the Emergency Committee 3rd June 2020 a request to support turning the old Library space into a community garden to promote people's wellbeing.

As requested, further information regarding the detail of what they are planning has been requested but to date no response.

We have made CAFM (Calderdale Assets and Facilities Management), who have responsibility for the land and building, aware of the interest of the Walden Neighbourhood Watch email and they have advised that they have not yet considered disposal of the site. We have asked to be kept informed of any such proposals.

Further action

We await a detailed proposal by the group before being in a position to consider this further.