



**HOWLS**  
HAY-ON-WYE  
LIBRARY SUPPORTERS

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017

\*\*\*\*\* Parliamentary Candidate for  
Brecon and Radnorshire

Dear \*\*\*\*\*,

We are asking all the parliamentary candidates for Brecon and Radnorshire in the forthcoming General Election, their position on the future of Hay Public Library, currently under threat from Powys County Council.

Last year Powys CC announced it would close Hay library along with ten other libraries unless local Town Councils stepped in. This was met with huge concern in Hay and the wider community. A community meeting was held in January 2017 attended by over 200 people; with a further 160 people coming to the drop-in meeting earlier in the day. Hay-on-Wye Library Supporters Group (HOWLS) was subsequently formed to save Hay Library and campaign for a guaranteed local authority funding for a professionally staffed library service to serve Hay and the surrounding area.

Hay Library is well loved and well used with 17,605 people visiting the library in 2015/16 and 19,053 Welsh and English-language items loaned. Free computer services, a newspaper and magazine reading area, and a well-used children's section, supported by our wonderful librarian Jayne Evans, are an essential community resource, especially for the poor and marginalised.

Voters in the Hay area will want to know where their candidates stand on the future of Hay Library, and the issue will be nationally prominent during the Hay Festival (25 May-4 June). So we would like you set out your views so that we can share them with our community on the HOWLS website and facebook.

Thank you and looking forward to your response,  
Yours sincerely

Anita Wright

Chair: Anita Wright Secretary Melanie Prince Treasurer: Kenny Campbell  
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