

Rhuddlan Town Council strongly opposes Denbighshire County Council proposals to reduce opening hours at Rhuddlan Library by 50% from 1st April 2024.

The Town Council has always seen the library as one of the key community facilities provided in Rhuddlan by the County Council. This is shown by the fact that the town council provides a contribution of £12,000 a year to help with the library's running costs, this is nearly 20% of the library's costs. The council feels that this strong partnership arrangement is being ignored by the fact that Rhuddlan's library will suffer the same cuts as those libraries where no support is made by a local council.

The proposals for a 50% cut will have a massive negative affect on those residents who use the library and for the wider community. They will also have a negative effect on all of the fantastic work done by the library team, other County Council support teams, the Town Council, residents and community groups; all of which have made the library as successful as it is now.

The proposals will have a negative impact on:

1. **Education** – reduced hours will mean a massive loss in the opportunity for children to visit the library, to borrow books and participate in other educational activities. There will be less opportunities for older people to learn new skills especially IT skills which the library has done significant work in recent years to improve.
2. **Wellbeing of residents** – there will be less opportunity for residents, including older people and vulnerable people, to visit the library to meet friends, read the newspapers, use the internet and more importantly interface with support services to help them. There will be less opportunity for health and wellbeing promotion.
3. **The Welsh Language** – the library makes a major contribution in promoting the Welsh language and culture with its work with Menter Iaith, will this be lost?
4. **Community Engagement** – the library's position as a focal community point within the town will be massively reduced.

The town council strongly believes that the proposals for a 50% cut will massively damage the library's position and all of the years of work done to get it where it is today. The councils' Town Plan includes proposals to work with DCC and the library team to have a museum attached the library; which would be a major development of this facility. Reducing hours by 50% is a massive step backwards.