



West Mersea
Town Council

10 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex CO5 8JD
www.westmersea.org - info@westmersea.org
Telephone: 01206 382128

Councillor Susan Barker
Essex County Council

Our Ref PP/CAF/Library
Your Ref
Date 11 April 2019

Dear Cllr. Barker

West Mersea Town Council have been receiving regular updates from groups, who are anxious to preserve Mersea Island Library. We are aware that enhancement of libraries is necessary, but what appears to be proposed is clearly more like cost saving rather than reform.

We have been asked by MILE (Mersea Island Library Enthusiasts) to NOT consider an *Expression of Interest* and having discussed this issue at full council feel that Mersea would not be best served by a volunteer led library. This is applicable to those libraries that have been categorised as tier 3 of which Mersea is one.

Having examined the available information, we have serious reservations concerning the validity of your analysis, which has categorised Mersea library into tier 3. Since we believe the analysis is flawed this is a further reason not to support the idea of a community led library.

We highly value the library and its facilities here on Mersea. It does provide an essential social hub for the community and surrounding villages especially bearing in mind that West Mersea is a District Centre.

We are open to ideas of improving the service in a positive manner and would be happy to work with your staff to achieve this, but it needs to start off on an acceptable footing with paid professional staff, access to ELAN, the existing building and a wide range of regularly refreshed stock.

Yours sincerely

Petra Palfreyman

Petra Palfreyman
Town Clerk

West Mersea Town Council Town Clerk: Petra Palfreyman
Office Hours: 9am to 12pm, Monday, Tuesday and Friday
Wednesday and Thursday by appointment only