

Appendix 1 - Overview of Progress of Community Managed Libraries April – September 2016

Blaengwynfi Library – 9 hours (2015 – 9 hours)

Blaengwynfi Library is based at the Welfare Hall and run by the Hall Management Committee with the support of volunteers. The library is open for 9 hours per week.

Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2015 – September 2015	Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2016 – September 2016
531	448

Briton Ferry Library – 18 hours (2015 – 18 hours)

Briton Ferry Library is run by a charitable trust and is staffed by volunteers. There have been a number of structural issues over the year relating to long term maintenance of the clock tower. Communities First have office accommodation in the library and support a number of initiatives from the building.

Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2015 – September 2015	Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2016 – September 2016
2355	1922

Cwmllynfell Library – 8 hours (2015 – 6 hours)

Cwmllynfell Library is managed by the Community Council / Hall Committee and is staffed by volunteers from the community with support from the hall manager.

Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2015 – September 2015	Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2016 – September 2016
638	307

Cymmer – 15.5 hours (2015 15.5 hours)

Cymmer Library is managed by the Friends of Cymmer Afan Library (www.cymmercommunitylibrary.org). A Charitable Trust was set up to operate the library service from the existing building. The Trust have been successful in obtaining external funding for the continued employment of a part time qualified member of staff to manage the service. In addition the Trust have obtained funding to introduce a community café and also secured resources for a project officer and a cleaner.

Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2015 – September 2015	Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2016 – September 2016
1303	943

Gwaun Cae Gurwen – 10 hours (2015 - 10 hours)

Gwaun Cae Gurwen Library (Y Lolfa) is managed by a charitable group and is staffed by volunteers. The library has appointed a paid co-ordinator to oversee the development of activities at the library. They have updated and replaced the public access computers.

Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2015 – September 2015	Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2016 – September 2016
1424	1293

Resolven – 16 hours (2015 - 18 hours)

Resolven Library (Resolven District Cyber and Resource Centre) is managed by a charitable group supported by the Community Council and staffed by volunteers. They have been successful in reducing the running costs and replacing some ICT provision.

Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2015 – September 2015	Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2016 – September 2016
2501	2112

Seven Sisters – 4 hours (2015 - 3 hours)

Seven Sisters Library is managed and run with the continued support of the Community Hall Committee of Seven Sisters.

Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2015 – September 2015	Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2016 – September 2016
210	94

Taibach – 16 hours (2015 – 16 hours)

Taibach Library is run and managed through the Friends of Taibach Library group which set itself up as a Charitable Trust to ensure the continued delivery of a library service.

Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2015 – September 2015	Number of Books and Other Items Issued April 2016 – September 2016
3191	2012

Ystalyfera – n/a

Ystalyfera Library has been closed temporarily since July 2016 due to the resignation of the previous volunteer coordinator. It is hopeful that the library will reopen early in 2017. The Library Service has provided a mobile library at two stops in the village to ensure temporary library provision.

Visitors

Visitor figures are not included in this report as they are not kept in the majority of the community libraries. Also, as methods of data collection differ any comparison between them would not be appropriate.

In summary, Community Managed Libraries are open for 95 hours per week. Overall across all libraries the number of issues has decreased by 26% against the same period in 2015. It should be noted that the figures recorded are taken from the library management system (LMS) and it is

acknowledged that some libraries do not always use the LMS when issuing items.

Buildings

Eight of the nine Community Managed Libraries are still based in the original library building. Ystalyfera is the only one to have relocated. There have been building maintenance issues at Briton Ferry Library, some of which were identified in the 2013 Library Review. Taibach Library currently share premises and operating costs with Flying Start.

Digital Services

The Library Service continues to provide access to, and volunteer training for the Library Management System. Internet access is available at all of the libraries except at Seven Sisters and Ystalyfera. One of the community libraries has introduced a charge for internet use. Seven of the community libraries now have their own internet provider and are no longer connected to the authority's network. Therefore it is not possible to monitor their usage.

Community Engagement

There is evidence of community engagement but it is not possible to measure how successful they are. Some community libraries regularly hold exhibitions, events and reading groups.

Sustainability

In conclusion, the hard work and enthusiasm of the volunteers who regularly staff the libraries must be commended and acknowledged in maintaining a valuable service to small communities throughout Neath Port Talbot.