

LEDBURY LIBRARY AND TOURIST INFORMATION SERVICE

Report By: Area Customer Services Manager

Wards Affected

Ledbury, Backbury, Hope End and Frome

Purpose

1. To inform Members of the current position in respect to the relocation of the present Library at Homend, and Tourist Information Centre into new premises at The Masters House, St. Katherine's, Ledbury.

Financial Implications

2. None to be considered at this stage.

Background

Library

3. The current Ledbury Library is in an historic building, which is currently inadequate for Disability Discrimination Act compliance. There are steps into the building, narrow doorways and a further staircase, without a lift. All customers to the Library cannot access the full range of services, nor the building due to the stepped entrance.
4. The current floor space is 125m² with limited numbers of public computers, no facilities to correctly access Reference and Local Studies material and inadequate supervision of stock and customers for security purposes.
5. Relocation into St. Katherine's would provide an increased floor space using a variety of rooms, and level access for all users.
6. The public have been consulted through a Local Area Forum on 19th March 2003.
7. Refurbishment will start in November 2005 with a planned move in December 2005 or January 2006, subject to Listed Building Consent from English Heritage.
8. Tourist Information Centre
9. The expiration of the lease on the current building will allow for relocation to the St. Katherine's complex when the major refurbishment takes places in approximately two years.
10. Public consultation at the Local Area Forum on 13th June 2005, through the local office and the Tourist Association considered and approved the relocation in detail.
11. Relocation to the St. Katherine's complex would provide excellent and improved service in an accessible historic setting that would become one of the foremost

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
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tourist attractions in Ledbury, subject to sufficient space being allocated and a separate entrance.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the plans for the relocation of both the Library and the Tourist Information Centre be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified

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