

STATEMENT FROM:



BILLY ARMSTRONG MLA

ULSTER UNIONIST ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR MID-ULSTER

- Prospect House, Coagh Rd, Stewartstown BT71 5JH. **Tel: 028 87738641**
- 20 High Street, Moneymore BT45 7PD. **Tel: 028 86748090**
- Room 308, Parliament Buildings, Stormont BT4 3XX. **Tel: 028 90520305**
- Keep up to date on www.billyarmstrong.co.uk
- Email directly to billy@billyarmstrong.co.uk
- Follow on [twitter](#) - [@unionistbilly](#)

Monday, 07 March 2011

Release: Immediate

Ulster Unionist Party representatives meet with Libraries NI

Ulster Unionist Assembly Member for Mid-Ulster, Billy Armstrong, Sandra Overend, Office Manager, and Robert Kelly, prospective Council candidate for the Moneymore area have met with Helen Osborn and Muriel Todd of Libraries NI on Friday to discuss their ability to meet the demands for a Modern Public Library service within Northern Ireland and specifically their proposals to close Moneymore and Draperstown libraries.

Billy said, "Firstly, I am encouraged by the responsiveness of the Libraries NI representatives to discuss each library's current situation, their feasibility and to talk about possible strategic plans that could be progressed to enable both library services to continue in Moneymore and Draperstown.

However, it is absolutely vital that people within the community in each area contact Libraries NI through the consultation exercise to share their views and opinions, their needs and desires for a future library service for their local area, and challenge Libraries NI to meet those demands. I reiterate my call to the people of Mid-Ulster, Use it or Lose it!

Sandra Overend, Office Manager for Billy Armstrong MLA, and prospective candidate for the NI Assembly Election added, "It is apparent that Libraries NI has not, up until now, been communicating to the community who use the library and even more importantly, they have not been promoting usage of the libraries to the wider public. It is essential that people who want to protect their local library services take action now and let their voices be heard.

"I am, however, heartened that Libraries NI is satisfied that libraries in Cookstown and Magherafelt are capable of delivering the service to meet the strategic vision and refurbishments are planned for Maghera and Coalisland libraries dependent of funding available.

Robert Kelly, prospective Council Candidate for the Ballinderry District Electoral Area, which includes Moneymore said, "I welcomed the opportunity to meet with Libraries NI to emphasise personally the needs and desires of the people of Moneymore to retain our library here, and to discuss the possible outcome of this consultation. I trust that we gave Helen and Muriel 'food for thought'."

The consultation period closes on 8th April 2011 and can be accessed either through your local library or online at www.librariesni.org.uk. For further assistance contact Billy's UUP Offices on 028 87738641 or 86748090.

ENDS

Photo attached: Helen Osborn and Muriel Todd of Libraries NI met with Billy Armstrong MLA in his Moneymore Office along with Sandra Overend, Office Manager and Prospective Candidate for the NI Assembly Election and Robert Kelly, prospective Council Candidate for Ballinderry.