

## **ATTACHMENT TO LETTER TO MS LOUISE FREETH, RBWM FROM SUNNINGHILL & ASCOT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **ANALYSIS OF SUNNINGHILL -vs- ETON WICK LIBRARIES**

For Sunninghill Library the reasons for closure are:

Very old building, not fit for purpose  
Low visitor counts other than directly after school (3-4pm).

Both Libraries open for 26 hours per week.

On average Sunninghill had 13.1 visitors per hour of opening.

Eton Wick had an average of 10.2 visitors each hour, yet there is no mention of visitor numbers being low for Eton Wick.

For Eton Wick there is a long list of reasons for keeping the library open, but none for closure.

### **LOCATION**

As Eton Wick, Sunninghill Library can also lay claim to being in an equally beneficial location. It is well situated in the heart of the village, opposite the primary school, close to the Cordes Hall, just off the popular High Street, close to the Comrades club and Ascot Day Centre, and in the centre of a large residential area.

### **TRANSPORT**

Poor transport links are identified for Eton Wick, but not for Sunninghill, although it only has a very limited bus service.

### **FINANCES**

The schedule shows a saving of £5000 from reducing the opening hours of Eton Wick Library from 17 to 13 hours and a saving of £28,000 from the closure of Sunninghill Library. The Borough now agrees that the Sunninghill figure is wrong for three reasons:

- The correct annual building costs are £5,000, not £12,000.
- The borough is committed to pay the building costs until 2026, under an agreement with the Sunninghill Reading Room Trust, so no building cost savings are deliverable until this date.
- The income of £2,000 each year will be lost if closed.

The saving from closure over the next 5 years is therefore £14,000, and £19,000 thereafter.

### **OPENING HOURS**

In January 2021 Council approved a reduction in library hours.

- For Sunninghill Library the hours were reduced from 26 to 20 hours per week.
- For Eton Wick Library the hours were reduced from 26 hours to 17 hours per week.

Under the current reduction proposals:

- The hours for Eton Wick are further reduced from 17 to 13 hours each week
- The hours for Sunninghill are reduced from 20 to zero hours.

If, over the two phases of reductions, the hours of both Libraries had been reduced from 26 to 13 hours the cost savings would have been identical due to equal staff cost reductions.

If over the two phases both Libraries were closed the staff savings would still be identical but the Eton Wick closure would also save £2000 per year in building costs.

There are no building cost savings for Sunninghill Library until 2026, under the terms of the Lease agreement.

The conclusion should be that both Libraries are retained, but the Schedule presents a very different picture, in favour of Eton Wick.