

Dear Sue and members of Market Drayton Town Council,

I am writing to the Town Councils of the 6 main market towns that benefit from a Public Library run by Shropshire Council. This service is one of undeniable value for residents, and one that the new administration is determined to seek novel ways to maintain, despite the current financial emergency.

I would like to invite yourselves to discuss ways that you may be able to have a more direct role in the service and help us to shape the service to your local requirements.

I fully acknowledge the importance of establishing clear benefits for your organisation and ensuring that your participation or any support offered is visibly advertised to residents to see the impact that you have.

From informal conversations with clerks and councillors across Shropshire, suggestions already put forward include sponsoring new stock (with the books stamped to acknowledge the contribution), the use or provision of office space or community space for your organisation's needs and as far as taking on the whole library.

To aid in your conversations and thoughts, I have attached the full needs assessment report for the county, as well as a shorter briefing note with key information and focused excerpts from the assessment specifically for your town.

I see this as a partnership approach to ensure the sustainable delivery of key services to the communities of Shropshire. Appropriate legal agreements would be developed to the satisfaction of both organisations.

I would really appreciate being able to discuss this matter at your earliest convenience, and if desired would be happy to attend meetings with officers, councillors and/or the public to listen to everybody's views on this matter.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Owen', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Councillor James Owen
Portfolio Holder for Housing and Leisure