

**SAVE
OUR
LIBRARIES
ESSEX**

All-Essex March and Rally

**Stop County Council Cuts-
KEEP ALL OUR
LIBRARIES OPEN!**

Saturday 9th February

**Meet 12pm, High Street,
Chelmsford
(outside Saracens Head Hotel)**

- **Say YES to local libraries!**
- **Say YES to a professional library service!**
- **Say NO to cuts and closures!**



Save Our Libraries Essex - SOLE

SAVE OUR LIBRARIES ESSEX

Essex County Council plan to take an axe to our local library services.

They claim that they no longer have a legal duty to provide 44 of our branches - that's 60% of all Essex libraries.

They want to shut down 25 'Tier 4' libraries outright and a further 19 'Tier 3' libraries may only stay open if volunteers can run them.



Could 'the community' step in?

The Council say that they may support community groups to manage a library.

In reality, we believe groups would not be 'given' a library to run. Instead, they would have to buy or rent premises and raise money to run them.

Volunteers can't be a substitute for professional library staff and the Council's talk of 'shelves in a community centre', or 'dropping books off in a shop' are no substitute for the service we get from our branch libraries.

Libraries are a vital part of all our communities. For many people they are often one of their few local sources of support, information, activities and of course access to books, computers and other media.

These are not victimless cuts. It will be groups such as the elderly, the poor and families with children who will suffer most from the proposed changes. Not everyone can get easily to a 'hub' library in a big town.

These proposals will tear the heart out of the whole of our library service.

The saving as a result of councillors' slashing our libraries? Just 0.1% of the total County Council budget of £915 million.

The Council will hold a consultation on these plans. We need to make sure they hear our voices.

There are campaigns around many local branch libraries, but we also need to support the call to defend the whole of our service.

Don't let the council set one library against another. No one should be without a library!

What you can do

Find out if your local branch library is under threat at

<https://bit.ly/2FPYGOK>

Contact your County, district and parish councillors and your MP to let them know we want our libraries to stay open, stay professional and stay public!

Sign our petition and get your friends and family to sign too!

You can also sign the online petition:

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-our-essex-libraries>

Follow our campaign and join the fight to save Essex Libraries!



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