



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Cedar Drive Thrapston Northamptonshire NN14 4LZ
Telephone 01832 742000
Email corpsupport@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk
www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk

DECISION NOTICE – COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

Reference: 2018.002

24 May 2018

Proposed Asset of Community Value – Thrapston Library
Nominated By: Thrapston Town Council - 29/03/18
Deadline for listing decision: 24/05/18
Current Owner – Northamptonshire County Council
<p>Action Taken Prior to Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification to current owner of nomination • Consultation with Chair of Policy and Resources Committee (Cllr R Lewis) and Ward Members for both Market and Lakes Wards (Cllrs A Smith, R Beattie, W Brackenbury and V Carter) as required under Council’s Community Right to Bid Policy. (Please note that Cllr VC declared an interest as a Thrapston Town Councillor who had been involved in the decision that the Town Council should try and purchase the building).
<p>Considerations</p> <p><i>Does the proposed asset meet the definition of an asset of community value specified in Section 88 (1) paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Localism Act 2011 i.e. the main (i.e. non-ancillary) use furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community, or has recently done so, and is likely to do so in the future (during the next five years)?</i></p> <p><i>History of the Site</i></p> <p>The nominated site was built as a purpose-designed library and it has been in such use for over 20 years.</p> <p><i>Evidence of recent community use that furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community provided by the nominator:</i></p> <p>The nominator has noted that Thrapston Library is located in the heart of the town and provides many services to the community it serves. For some residents it is their lifeline to the outside world. As with other libraries, the County Council not only provides a library facility but also runs many services from this library, including (but not limited to) bus passes, blue badges, activities for under 5's, after school club. The overall facility therefore greatly contributes to the social wellbeing of the community. It is therefore my opinion that the nominated asset meets the recent community use criteria.</p>

Evidence of Future Community Use

Northamptonshire County Council confirmed, in March 2018, its intention to cease the delivery of Library Services, funded by itself, at the nominated site. It has opened dialogue with interested parties about the possibility of purchasing the building and continuing delivery of Library services as a Community (funded) Library.

Copies of Town Council Minutes have been provided which confirm the intention of the Town Council to investigate the possibility of purchasing the library building and surrounding land as a public asset, subject to valuations, surveys, etc. Although at this stage there is no commitment to continue the provision of library services because of a lack of information from Northamptonshire County Council, the Library Working Party noted that the town council's strategic plan is to seek to develop a community hub.

It is therefore my opinion that the asset has a realistic prospect of future community use.

Does the proposed asset meet any of the criteria for exemption specified in Section 88 (3) and associated regulations?

There is no evidence that the asset meets any of the criteria for exemption. The owner, Northamptonshire County Council has raised no objection to the nomination.

The views of the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee and Ward Members

Cllrs R Lewis, V Carter and W Brackenbury have formally indicated support for the nomination and consider that it meets the criteria for designation as an Asset of Community Value.

Decision

Having considered all the factors above, it is my view that the nominated asset falls within the category of an asset of community value as defined by the Localism Act and associated regulations and that it should be listed as such by this council.



Sharn Matthews

Executive Director

24/05/18