

Petitions Committee
Tuesday 19 March 2013
Item No. 5

Newtongrange Library

Pétition containing 1231 signatures

**Ref No** _____

(for official use only)

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL – FORM TO BE USED TO LODGE A PETITION

Before completing this form you should read Midlothian Council's "Procedures for Dealing with Petitions" which can be found on the Council's website at www.midlothian.gov.uk/petitions. Copies can also be obtained by telephoning the Council Secretariat on 0131 271 3156.

The completed form should be delivered:-

- by email to petitions@midlothian.gov.uk; or
- by mail or by hand to Petitions Staff, Council Secretariat, Corporate Resources Division, Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN.

If you require any further information or advice, please contact the Petitions Staff, Council Secretariat by telephoning 0131 271 3156.

Details of Principal Petitioner

Please enter the name of person raising the petition. Please include a contact address to which correspondence may be sent and a contact telephone number. Only the principal petitioner's name and no other details will be made public.

Name:	Julie Read
Address:	16 Park Road
	Newtongrange
	Midlothian
Tel No:	[REDACTED]
e-mail:	[REDACTED]

Petition Statement

Please state clearly the purpose of your petition and what action you wish Midlothian Council to take.

"Keep Newtongrange library in its current location on the high street."

Following community consultations in January it is clear that the Newbattle Community High School 2016 project is building momentum and what a fantastic opportunity this is to make a new centre of excellence for our young people in its catchment area.

However we are concerned over one of the issues that has been raised during these consultations specifically the possible relocation of many of the facilities from Newtongrange village to the new school campus.

Relocation of our library would rip the heart out of the village and our community. Newtongrange library is very well supported and used in its current position as the recent 'Love your Library' event demonstrated, attracting in the region of 200 people; why move it?

In the Newtongrange Neighbourhood Plan (September 2012) by 2018 the number of over 75s is predicted to rise by more than 30%. To move the library from the centre of the community would cause irreparable damage for these citizens as accessing the new centre would not be possible for many.

Libraries are one of the most essential and precious resources we have for all in the community. If plans go ahead to relocate Newtongrange library to the Newbattle Community School Campus in 2016 - where ever that may be, as is currently being discussed the community will suffer in many ways:

• The high street is currently being regenerated with the opening of high quality new businesses making Newtongrange a more desirable place to live. Relocating the library and other resources away from the centre could have a direct impact on trade for these businesses as there would be one or 2 less reasons to go to the village.

• Newtongrange is attracting many young families looking for more affordable housing within commuter distance of Edinburgh; the re-opening of the Waverley Line will continue to contribute to this. Without a library within walking distance of the nursery and primary schools, the health clinic for mums and babies, the church Jelly Tots sessions for mums and babies/toddlers it would make the village considerably less attractive for these families.

• Many, ourselves included, moved to Newtongrange because of its village amenities and village/community atmosphere - something quite rare. If the library was to relocate how many people would 'drop in' to use it? It would take a planned visit by bus or car; not an option for many - the elderly, young families or those without a car.

Relocating it demonstrates a failed understanding of the social, cultural and educational importance of libraries at the centre of our communities and the role librarians play in providing services.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the Petition

Before a petition is submitted, you may have already raised the issue in question with the relevant Council Division or other agency and it would be helpful if you could briefly outline what measures if any you have taken. This could include, for example, details of any individuals or organisations approached. Please limit any information to no more than 4 sides of A4 paper.

I attended Catherine Johnstone's surgery at Newtongrange Library on 5 March 2013

Presenting your Petition

As the principal petitioner you will be invited to appear before the Council's Petitions Committee to speak in support of the petition and also to answer any questions which members of the Committee may wish to put to you and assist them in reaching their decision.

You may be accompanied by one supporter who may speak on your behalf.

Signature of Principal Petitioner

When satisfied that the petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Procedures for Dealing with Petitions, the Principal Petitioner should sign and date the form in the box below.

All other signatures gathered should be appended to the form.

Signature

Julie Read

Date

4 March 2013

(Please type your name if sending by e-mail)

Name in block capitals

Julie Read

(Please type your name if sending by e-mail)

Appended Information

Please ensure that the following items are appended to this form:-

- Other signatories to the petition (if any)
- Copies of relevant correspondence
- Any additional information for consideration

Submission

Please submit this form and attachments, by mail or in person, to:-

Petitions Staff
Council Secretariat
Midlothian Council
Midlothian House
Buccleuch Street
Dalkeith
EH22 1DN

or by email to petitions@midlothian.gov.uk