

Meeting of Parishioners & Councillors from Upper Wharfedale
with representation from NYCC to discuss the consultation of the
proposed withdrawal of the Mobile Library Service held on 4-4-11.

In Attendance: Mr. G. Schofield (Chairman)
C.C.s Mrs. S. Marshall & Mr. J. Roberts
NYCC reps.: Ms. Judith Walsh & Mr. Jonathan Spencer
20 Villagers from Upper Wharfedale villages

Mr. Schofield invited Ms. Walsh to address the Meeting.

Ms. Walsh thanked Mr. Schofield and reiterated all the statements she had made at the earlier Meeting with regard the economies of retaining a mobile library service, she had no further suggestions to make until after the Executive Meeting which was to be held in May. All the consultation documents were being studied at the moment. At present there has been no new decisions made.

A Parishioner pointed out the Authority in law must provide facilities for rural amenities but Ms. Walsh reiterated that this Meeting was not for further consultation but to allow views to be aired. Parishioners agreed with this but also pointed out their views would not be expressed as they no one to speak for them on the Executive Committee.

A Parishioner asked why were no other services were being cut which would help alleviate the cost of the running the mobile service. In answer, Ms. Walsh said comparison was not possible as there was only one other service similar to Upper Wharfedale at Eskdale which is a small village between Whitby and Scarborough.

Parishioners were given time and opportunity to speak. Many varied and valid opinions were expressed as to the absolute necessity that this service is maintained. When questioned the NYCC representatives stated that these opinions would not be taken into account. Parishioners were amazed and gave out some statistics. In Skipton area there are 740 users of the library service.
47 users live in Upper Wharfedale equating to 12% of total users.

The Council has a statutory duty to encourage services, not remove them. Our M.P. Mr. Julian Smith is to be approached to enquire what action can be taken. As by law the Council must provide facilities for the sustainability of rural amenities. It is hoped the mobile service will be kept open under the Public Liability Act 1964. £35,000 has been given to help maintain this service which would be of great help. Although NYCC have to save £2-3 million, there are other areas that could be culled to help meet this figure.

In closing NYCC representatives said if Parishioners have to travel to the Hub in Grassington from Kettlewell, Buckden and further up the Dale, funding may be available.

Mr. Roberts asked that any relevant documentation on the matter be forwarded to him.

The Meeting closed at 8.30pm.