Policy Statements for Libraries

Suffolk Green Party

Their Suffolk Manifesto can be seen here:

Details of their libraries policy is below:

“G. Cultural and leisure services
The Green Party believes the success of a society should be measured in terms of factors affecting people's quality of life, such as personal freedom, social equity, health and happiness, rather than narrow economic indicators. For this reason it is vital to protect cultural and leisure services in Suffolk, and:

Provide the impetus for libraries to be developed as community spaces, run on appropriate budgets, and extended to the wider community and interest groups. The transfer of libraries to the new IPS in Suffolk is bringing grave concerns to library users, many of whom see this divestment as a first step towards libraries as a subscription rather than core public service. We advocate a return to Council management of libraries, with closer monitoring of the performance of the IPS in the interim, alongside retention of staffing budgets”.

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Suffolk Labour Party

Details of their libraries policy is below:

“Suffolk County Council Labour Group is absolutely committed to the continuing provision of a universal, fully-funded, publicly run library service which is accountable to the electorate. The current administrations policy of putting the service at arms length and not making available sufficient funds to properly run the service is, in our view, fundamentally wrong.

We will continue to campaign to bring the service back into professional management by the Council and the direct control of the elected representatives of this County who are, after all, chosen by the people of this County. In the meantime, we will continue to press for a fully-funded libraries contract and for robust scrutiny and review of the service”.
Suffolk Liberal Democrats

Their Suffolk Election Themes can be found at:

Details of their libraries theme is below:

“5. Safety for our Library service, including mobile libraries
Under the Tories the situation of Suffolk Libraries has been perilous.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!
Liberal Democrats will:

• Support ALL our libraries to meet current needs and satisfy foreseeable trends
• Enable mobile libraries to continue to provide a service in rural areas
• Ensure that the new business structure for libraries is stable and that long term finance is guaranteed”

Details of their libraries policy can be found at:
http://carolinepage.blog.suffolk.libdems.org/2013/04/16/suffolk-libraries-and-suffolk-libdems/

It is copied below:

“The Suffolk Lib Dem Group recognises the immense value of libraries to the Suffolk community. In particular because libraries :

• Provide materials for study to help both young and mature students - and particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds;
• Provide materials for leisure helping people relax, thus enhancing or maintaining their mental health;
• Provide a centre for social interaction - which enhances community cohesion;
• Provide a place for quiet study for those who don’t enjoy such facilities at home;
• Provide a source of reference material in both physical and on-line formats;
• Provide internet access for people who can’t afford such equipment, don’t have the space to accommodate it, have occasional need or just need help with the processes.

Policy
It is essential that

• the above facilities should be provided
• the provision must meet current needs and satisfy foreseeable trends
• the business structure should be stable and finance should be certain
• accommodation should be conveniently located for existing population centres, thinking particularly of those that are disadvantaged
• adequate public transport and car parking facilities should be available.
• accommodation should attract users, being clean, comfortable and accessible
• mobile libraries should be provided and used effectively to ensure a service in low population density rural areas
• staff should be friendly, welcoming and willing to help new users of any age, not just the long established library buffs”.