

Totnes Public Consultation – analysis of responses – a summary

- **305 responses received**
- **96% of respondents already use the library**
- **Age profile: Most respondents (61.7%) are over 45
Only 6.8% are 25 or under**

Over 65	28.2%
46 - 65	33.5%
26 – 45	22%
16 – 25	2.9%
Under 16	3.9%

9.5% of respondents did not disclose their age

- **Top 5 improvements seen as Essential or desirable:**

More books/audiobooks	94.1%
Quiet reading/study area	92.8%
Public toilets	83.2%
Larger children's area	79.4%
More accessible and better signed entrance	78%

- **The only improvement deemed not important by the majority of respondents (60.6%) is a CD listening facility**

The Building and access

People would like a library that:

- Is clearly signposted from the town
- Is accessible by all, with improved lift access and appropriate furniture and fittings to make it easy to use by everyone
- Is comfortable to use with efficient heating and air handling in place
- Makes the best use of available natural light

Interior Space

People would like to see:

- A **quiet reading area** with comfortable seating and natural light, perhaps taking advantage of the views from the large windows
- A larger **children's area** with seating, positioned away from the quiet areas of the library
- A **study area** with tables and chairs
- A **computer area**
- **Exhibition/display space** for local artists/craftsmen/schoolchildren

- An area to display **Community information** for local organisations/events
- A **meeting space** for library groups and or community hire
- **Public toilets**
- Facilities for **coffee/refreshments** on site
- An area for parents to leave **pushchairs** that is secure and away from library shelves
- **Performance space** for events

Stock

People would like to borrow:

- **Books/audiobooks in new formats** e.g. ebooks, Playaways, MP3 and MP4
- More **new publications**
- More **quality fiction**
- More **Non-Fiction** and specialist books
- More books for **children and teenagers**

Computers

People would like:

- **More computers** and **longer free sessions**
- More people would like **WiFi** than are opposed to it
- Computer sessions with **support or tuition**

Events & Activities

People would like to see:

- **Reading/writing groups** and other groups or clubs in the library
- **Author events** and other talks or performances
- **Children's events** and activities

Further consultation: what next?

The next stage is to talk to different user groups and stakeholders to focus on specific areas of the library or specific issues. Workshops have already been held with current library staff and parents of small children who currently attend the library's Bounce & Rhyme sessions. Further workshops are planned with teenagers from the Pulse Youth Group; current staff at The Mansion; current users of the 'school hall'; parents & staff from The Rainbow Nursery and people attending drop-in sessions organised by South Hams Lifestyles. We will also be consulting parents and children at The Grove Primary School.

Comparison with 2008 consultation conducted by Friends of the library

Similar priorities emerged from both consultation exercises i.e.

High priority = more books, larger children's area and designated quiet study area

Low priority = CD listening facility