



Andrew Rosindell M.P.

Member of Parliament for Romford

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Councillor Paul Middleton

Cabinet Member for Customer Services
Havering Town Hall
Main Road
ROMFORD
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Thursday 1st August 2024

Dear Cllr. Middleton

Collier Row and Gidea Park Libraries

As the newly elected Member of Parliament for Romford, I am writing to formally register my strong objection to the proposed closure of both Gidea Park and Collier Row libraries, as proposed within Havering Council's consultation pertaining to the 'Havering Library Strategy 2024-2029'.

Since the last time I wrote to you objecting to the proposed closures, **over 600 local people** have taken time to make their opposition to these plans known to me. They deserve to have their views listened to by Havering Council.

Over this period, local people have conveyed how essential these facilities are to everyone in the community, but most especially to our ever increasing young and older people in Havering. It is now abundantly clear the closure of any library facilities will cause severe harm to the good people that I proudly represent.

Havering Council must urgently consider a new approach to community facilities. By bringing an array of organisations such as the Police, Post Office, Council Services, and Libraries into amalgamated centres, or 'community hubs', the Council would better deliver essential public services, increase library footfall, and all whilst being more cost-effective.

Therefore, I strongly urge Havering Council to listen to local people and immediately stop any plans to close Collier Row and Gidea Park Libraries, taking a new approach to local services that delivers the level of service that local people pay their hard-earned money to receive.

Yours ever,

Copy for information to:
Cllr. Ray Morgon
Leader, Havering Council