



Project Reference:  
CL11A2

Project Title:  
Relocation &  
Refurbishment,  
Paulton Library Hub,  
1-2 Hill Court,  
High Street,  
Paulton,  
BS39 7QG

Construction Period:  
85 Days / Completed  
on 15th April 2013

Budget:  
£222,839

Main Contractor:  
Ken Biggs

## Paulton Community Library Hub

Relocation &  
Refurbishment

The Paulton Community Hub is part of Bath & North East Somerset Council's Community Library Programme. Bath & North East Somerset Council has been working on the project since 2009, and are very grateful for the continued support from Paulton Parish Council and local ward Councillors Cllr John Bull (Labour, Paulton) and Cllr Liz Hardman (Labour, Paulton).

B&NES Architectural Assistant, Christopher Taylor has been responsible for the design of the new 'Hub' and has worked closely with Contractor Ken Biggs throughout the project.



Start of refurbishment



Newly refurbished 'Hub' Library

This new eagerly awaited community venture hopes to help with the regeneration of the village and attract more visitors into Paulton. The Hub aims to provide an up-to-date service for the community with its modern and clean new-look library which is suitable for all ages. The library facilities also include free Wi-Fi, a provision of daily newspapers to

read, a 'Hub Grub' café area and toilets / baby changing is available for its customers.

The library has also been equipped with a self-service machine to provide an additional service during its opening hours, whilst over 70 people have volunteered their

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services to help extend the library opening times from the previous 14 hours to 39 hours per week from Monday to Saturday.

Included in the building design and in line with B&NES Low Carbon Footprint, an energy efficient air source heat pump has been installed to provide background heating and cooling, generating a 50 per cent saving over traditional heating systems.

The Hub also provides a great facility for new businesses or local groups, with the opportunity to hire its newly refurbished private meeting room which is fully furnished and includes free Wi-Fi.

A large car park with ample parking is situated to the rear of the building which will benefit both its business and library visitors.

The Council-run Paulton Library was initially based in the local Methodist Church, and is now more centrally located in the Hill Court Shopping Centre, in the heart of the High Street, which was previously

occupied by a chemist chain. Les Wild, Chair of Paulton Parish Council, has commented on the new Hub: "This is the jewel in the crown for the regeneration of the village centre."

'The Hub' Community Library opened on Monday 15th April 2013, with an official opening ceremony taking place at 10am on Wednesday 17th April to thank everyone involved with the project.

Set up costs for the project have been provided by capital funding, with the ongoing revenue costs covered by Paulton's Library budget, lease charges from the external coffee bar operators and income received from meeting room bookings.

Targets have been set for The Hub, and hopefully library membership and visits to the library will increase by 50 per cent over the next five years. Other local businesses and shops on the High Street should also benefit from the increasing visitors to the area.

The overall look of The Hub has been given a face-lift with the provision of corporately branded and colourful external and internal graphics and signage, which is bold and easy-to-read throughout the library with inspiring quotes printed on the walls, and the building's front façade is clearly visible from the road to gain attention from passing commuters. All of the graphics and signage have been provided by Bath & North East Somerset Council's Print Services in conjunction with Freestyle Designs, Bath.

Paulton's Hub is the first of its kind locally in an experimental, new approach to the way in which libraries and community services are provided. The project has achieved everything it set out to achieve, though this has only been made possible by the full support of the community and the generosity of time given by volunteers. The Hub hopes to continue to provide a great service to the village for many years to come.

