



# Library Opening Hours

## Briefing Note for Town and Parish Council Chairmen and Clerks

Dear Chairman / Clerk,

I wanted to write to you to inform you of some changes to Central Bedfordshire Library opening hours. You will remember that, last year, we consulted on some proposed changes, which were to reduce opening hours by a total of 30 per week across all 12 libraries in Central Bedfordshire in order to meet £85,000 savings targets.

Since then, we have listened to the feedback we received from residents and, coupled with a reduction in efficiency savings to £56,000, we have been able to make some changes which will mean an increase of overall opening hours across our estate, as well as including a Saturday afternoon service for all libraries.

We have also realigned our opening hours across the board, so that eight of our libraries, will now see either an increase in opening times or no reduction at all.

These changes to opening hours will take effect from October 1 when Central Bedfordshire Libraries will be grouped into three categories, each with their own uniform opening hours.

### These categories are:

Area Libraries	Community Libraries	Main Libraries
Biggleswade	Barton	Dunstable
Flitwick	Potton	Leighton Buzzard
Sandy	Stotfold	
Shefford	Toddington	
Houghton Regis	Amphill	





**It will mean that:**

- Community Libraries (Barton, Potton, Stotfold and Toddington, but not Ampthill) will be open for the same or longer hours than they are now. This means that, in total, these libraries will operate for 17 hours more a week than at present.
- Area Libraries (Biggleswade, Flitwick, Sandy and Shefford, but not Houghton Regis) will all open for the same or longer hours than they are now. This means that, in total, these libraries will operate for 13 hours more a week than at present.
- All libraries will open on Saturday afternoons, whereas only four of the 12 libraries are currently open Saturday afternoons.
- Community libraries will open on both afternoons and mornings during the week. This is a change from the original proposal, which did not include morning opening.
- All libraries will close on Mondays
- Main Libraries (Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard) will lose 5 hours a week as per the original consultation proposal (from 48 hours per week to 43)

The changes will include being closed on Mondays, so that we can better manage our resources with a professionally run service. Therefore new opening hours (from October 1) will be:

**Community Libraries**

(Ampthill, Barton, Potton, Stotfold and Toddington)

Libraries will be open 27 hours a week which is an overall increase of 17 hours per week)

Day	Opening Hours	
Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	9am	1pm
Wednesday	2pm	6pm
Thursday	9am	1pm
Friday	9am – 1pm	2pm – 6pm
Saturday	9am	4pm





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## Area Libraries

(Biggleswade, Flitwick, Houghton Regis, Sandy, Shefford)

Libraries will be open for 43 hours per week, which is an overall increase of 13 hours per week)

Day	Opening Hours	
Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	9am	6pm
Wednesday	9am	6pm
Thursday	9am	6pm
Friday	9am	6pm
Saturday	9am	4pm

## Main Libraries

(Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard)

Libraries will be open for 43 hours per week, which is an overall decrease of 10 hours per week)

Day	Opening Hours	
Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	9am	6pm
Wednesday	9am	6pm
Thursday	9am	6pm
Friday	9am	6pm
Saturday	9am	4pm

If you have any further queries, please contact me at [nicola.avery@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.avery@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely  
Nicola Avery  
Library Services Manager

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**Contact us...**

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