

Liden Case Study

Liden village centre has a range of facilities including a church, community centre and library. Between the community centre and library spaces is Liden Community Rooms which until recently was used as a base for the home library service which has been relocated to another site. Alongside an on-going village centre refurbishment project, this provided an opportunity to work with local members to test an approach to thinking about community-based assets and services in a local area.

The pilot project in Liden began by discussing with local Ward Councillors what they felt were factors for success for enhancing use of the community rooms, whilst considering what best use of this whole space and the wider village centre is in the long term, and what library provision should look like as part of this.

Local Members set out that they wanted to ensure continued ability for the buildings to be used and to enhance sustainability services and facilities offered there, noting that the current service models would likely not be sustainable.

The Community Asset Transfer process was applied and groups were invited to submit proposals to be involved, outlining how they would enhance the use of the space by the local community. Through this process 105.5 Radio Station was selected as the preferred partner and have since moved in to the Community Rooms, enhancing use of the space, bringing visitors in to Liden and in to the library space, enhancing the offer. Whilst this was an early project in the pilot schemes, and the Council had yet to confirm its proposed finding changes for the library service, 105.5 Radio identified that it would be keen to explore ways to support and enhance the library offer, as they would have staff and volunteers on site. This will be a key starting point for further conversations with the local community and with 10.5 to explore a potential model for access to a sustainable library services model in Liden, and how the community could best support this.