

**Central  
Bedfordshire  
Libraries**

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# Ampthill Library Road Map

**Find out more at:**

**[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)**

## The library today

Amphill Library is in a Victorian building, originally the Board Room of the Amphill Poor House. It was converted into a library in 1994. The library is in need of internal and external decoration. The library has older shelving at a height no longer recommended by library suppliers. There is little space currently for activities, particularly children's activities.



## People and Place

Amphill Library is a very well used community library with a high number of active users and a high visitor count. It is the best performing library of the community libraries. It also has the joint second largest use of the People's Network in the authority.

Amphill attracts comfortably well off older people and industrial workers and early to middle aged parents who are heavily involved with their children's education. Children aged **0-14** are more likely to be library users than average.

Amphill does not have any significant social deprivation issues. There is a higher proportion of people aged **65yrs+** than the Central Bedfordshire average and user analysis showed that there may be opportunities to market the service more to this age group as they are currently under represented.

The population is set to grow from **11,810** in 2009 to **12,280** in 2014 and **600** new dwellings are planned.

## **‘Libraries for the Future’ consultation – what people said**

**59%** of respondents wanted the library to be a ‘Family Library’ followed by **17%** for an Information and Learning Library. The consultation also reiterated an interest in DVDs for loan.

## **‘Big Library Debate’ – what people said**

Most participants wanted the library to remain as it was although there was some fear of library closures which may have prompted this response. There was support for more lending materials (**18%**) and improvements to opening hours (**13%**), there was also support for DVDs to borrow (**40%**).

## **Short term improvements**

Amptill is a well-used library but there is potential to increase active users and community participation. This could involve the use of volunteers in outreach, and smaller scale activities.

The building would benefit from a refresh of decoration and layout and this could be achieved through installing RFID self service facilities and minor capital works. The community could be actively involved in this process. There is the potential to create a ‘read and relax’ area to improve the ambiance of the building.

Opening hours should be examined in consultation with the community.

A pilot DVD collection should be trialled.

The building has the potential to be used out of hours (particularly after refurbishment) for small groups, surgeries and advice sessions. This should be examined with the help of Facilities Management and the local community.