

**Central
Bedfordshire
Libraries**

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Barton Library Road Map

Find out more at:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

The library today

Barton Library is a single storey building opened in 1973. The building received some remedial repair in December 2012 and was refurbished internally in 2005. It is in an excellent site at the centre of village and close to shops. Barton Library is in a 'cold spot' for Central Bedfordshire Services so could provide a venue for C.B.C. outreach activities.



People and Place

Barton Library is functioning well within the community with the second highest number of active users of the community libraries and has a good visitor count.

The library largely attracts comfortable retired older people and some middle aged parents with school age children. Children aged **0-14** are more likely to be library users than average. There is a very active Children's Centre in the village.

There are no significant social deprivation issues in Barton.

There is generally a higher age profile in Barton than the Central Bedfordshire average but the library is underrepresented by older retired couples living in areas for retired people.

'Libraries for the Future' consultation – what people said

47% of respondents wanted the library to be a 'Family Library' followed by **20%** for an Information and Learning Library. The consultation also revealed 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 the introduction of toilets (**28%**) and improvements to opening hours (**15%**), there was also support for the introduction of e-mail newsletters (**17%**). **27%** wanted more choice of lending materials.

Short term improvements

Barton 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, smaller scale activities etc. Older people are under-represented in overall library usage. Greater co-ordination is required with children's activities and other children's providers on the village.

The installation of a public toilet could be examined with the option of using capital funding in the future.

Opening hours should be examined in consultation with the community.

A pilot DVD collection should be trialled.

The installation of RFID service technology will provide an opportunity to review space layout.

The building has the potential to be used out of hours for small groups, surgeries and advice sessions. C.B.C. may also wish to examine Barton as a potential outreach location for information about Council Services. This could be examined with cross council departments, partners and the local community.