

REPORT OF THE  
Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside  
PART II

**238. LIBRARY SERVICE TRANSFORMATION: STRATEGY TO 2020**

1. On 18 April 2016 the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside approved the Strategy for the Library Service to provide a comprehensive, high quality and affordable service which meets customers' demands for a modern service - making the most of emerging digital technologies and investing in library buildings.

2. Good progress is being made on one of the key proposals, which is to replace the Mobile Library Service from 2 July 2016 with a Home Library Service delivered by volunteers for those customers unable to access their nearest static library. Letters and emails were sent to every mobile library customer. A number of customers have expressed an interest in the Home Library Service.

3. A further letter was sent to those Parish Councils which had the 24 busiest mobile library stops, offering free learning sessions on request which could be delivered in any community setting with Wi-Fi, possibly being incorporated to an existing coffee morning or lunch club. These sessions demonstrate how to download e-books, e-magazines and other e-resources.

4. Parish Councils have been asked to alert the County Council to existing, or proposed, community transport arrangements which could be used to bring communities in to their local libraries. Other Parish Councils have also been consulted throughout the county to explore similar options.

**239. TILE BARN OUTDOOR CENTRE - POPPY PODS**

1. Tile Barn Outdoor Centre, in Brockenhurst, has been a camping and outdoor centre since the early 1970's in the heart of the New Forest. It was set up to provide cost effective outdoor residential experiences to school children in Hampshire. It can cater for up to 350 young people in fully equipped campsites and a 37 bed bunkhouse facility.

2. The Centre has a rich military history as a hospital site for Indian and New Zealand troops during World War I where more than 21,000 troops were treated. The site's historic role of offering respite for the Armed Forces has been renewed with the construction of 20 wooden camping pods. These Poppy Pods are free to use for military service personnel, veterans and their families, to use during weekends and holidays, whilst schools and youth organisations can use them during

term time. Pine seeds from Gallipoli have been planted at the site and each Poppy Pod is named after a battle from Amiens to Ypres. The Poppy Pods are part of the County Council's legacy to Armed Service personnel, to recognise and remember the sacrifices made and faced by the Armed Forces Community.

3. The construction of the Poppy Pods was made possible thanks to £250,000 from the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant scheme, one of their highest financial grants to date, and a £50,000 donation from the Brockenhurst Branch of the Royal British Legion which was used to build a communal hub building.

**COUNCILLOR ANDREW GIBSON**  
**Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside**