



THE RT. HON. PRITI PATEL MP

WITHAM

HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Cllr David Finch
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Our Ref: ZA52840

9 July 2019

Dear David,

The future of library services

Thank you for your email this morning providing notification that the Council is now removing proposals to close local libraries which were previously consulted upon. I am aware that you have also announced this at a Council meeting today, with further details set to follow later this month at the forthcoming Public Cabinet meeting.


I welcome the commitment to keep library services open and am pleased that the Council has listened to the representations I have made on behalf of residents and local communities. Seven of the eight libraries in the Witham constituency could have closed as a result of being classified as Tier 3 and Tier 4 and you will know that local communities have come together strongly to work on plans to keep local library services open.

Your email refers to developing a new investment strategy for libraries and the offer for community management of libraries. I would be grateful if you could provide me with further information, including the future plans for each of the eight libraries in the Witham constituency, and Danbury and Prettygate, which are close to the constituency boundary and used by Witham residents.

The decision not to close libraries is welcome, especially coming in the week that the Summer Reading Challenge will begin where our libraries will be filled with young people. However, we do need to see more details of the strategy to see how we can ensure that our libraries can thrive and modernise to meet the needs of our communities.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

with all good wishes


Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Member of Parliament for Witham

Putting the Witham Constituency, Essex and Britain first.