

## **PETITIONS**

To report on the receipt of the following two petitions:-

1. **Save Woodley's Tame Valley – Say No to Expansion of Bredbury Industrial Estate**

No. of Signatories: 1,490

We wish to present a petition signed by 1490\* residents of Stockport and neighbouring towns plus comments asking you not to approve any expansion of the Bredbury Parkway Industrial Estate into the protected green space of our lovely Tame Valley. You will already have received our letter detailing our many reasons for objecting to such a development.

*\*extracted from a larger petition including names from further afield.*

2. **Rescind the proposal to close and replace the Central Library with a much reduced library service located in the empty ex-Argos unit in the Merseyway.**

No. of Signatories: 4,001

The petitioners call upon the Council to reject the Cabinet's decision to leave Central Library closed and to transfer library services to the Merseyway.

We do not need to repeat the reminders of the heritage value of the Central Library as a listed Carnegie Library, but we do want to note the appalling way in which the Cabinet has conducted its consultation with the public on this matter.

We have written to the Council Leader about these concerns but have not received a reply. The public consultation reads more like a survey of preferences for the redesign of the ex-Argos unit and it did not give enough information. In particular it left out the fact that a bid has already been made to the Government's Future High Streets Fund which includes the transfer of library services to the Merseyway.

The midway addition to the consultation of a list of FAQs plus the apology for the omission of the word 'temporary' to describe the move to the Argos unit, have surely invalidated the consultation, since the earlier respondents did not have that information.

The incompetent consultation should be scrapped and the council should fund the reopening of the Central Library Building. It is an insult to suggest that what is on offer in the Argos unit is a replacement for Central Library.

There is a great deal of anger in Stockport about these proposals. There is a belief that this is a precursor to the disposal of the Central Library building.

4,001 petitioners have signed support for the view that the central library building was paid for and built as a free library for the people of Stockport and that it should remain intact as our Central Library.

They have signed support for the view that removal of the library facilities from the building is an act of vandalism and that shutting the building and selling or developing it for another use that prevents the people of Stockport using the building, is theft.

The continuing closure of Central Library and transfer of library services to Merseyway should not go ahead.