Benjamin Tassell

From:

Robert Clayton < RClayton@rutland.gov.uk>

Sent: To:

30 August 2022 17:38

TO:

Benjamin Tassell

Subject:

Warm Spaces in Rutland

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Dear Benjamin

Hope all is well with you. I have been asked to make contact with each of the towns and parishes where our libraries are located to see if there is interest in extending the opening sessions of the libraries, to provide a warm space for local people, given the anticipated fuel and cost of living pressures this winter.

You may be aware that Ryhall Parish Council already supports additional "Open House" sessions at Ryhall library, where a team of volunteers open the library for two extra afternoons a week, beyond the hours the County Council provides. Ketton Parish Council has previously run similar sessions, and is considering reinstating them for this winter.

We would like to enquire whether Oakham Town Council would be supportive of such an initiative in Oakham, and if it is, whether it would be in a position to assist with volunteer recruitment and management. Is this something that could be discussed with your elected members? The County Council would continue to operate the library for its core hours, the volunteer sessions would extend the hours of operation and provide a warm, safe space for people to visit. There will would be a requirement for the volunteers to run the library, although we would ensure the self-service kiosk and will would be working during the sessions.

I'm happy to either have an initial phone chat or come over for a meeting if that would be helpful.

Best wishes.

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