

## HAMBLE-LE-RICE PARISH COUNCIL



Parish Council Office  
2 High Street  
Hamble-Le-Rice  
Southampton SO31 4JE  
clerk@hamblepc.org.uk  
023 8045 3422

Mr N Tustian  
Chief Executive  
Eastleigh Borough Council  
Eastleigh House  
Eastleigh  
Hants  
9<sup>th</sup> April 2019

*Dear Nick,*

At last night's meeting the Council considered the offer of the £10,000 grant towards the set up and running of the Mercury and although they appreciated the spirit in which it was offered, felt on balance that it would not address the long-term issues.

At the outset the role of the parish was limited to finding and supporting the volunteers with EBC and HCC dealing with the day to day of running the facility (see the attached email). Although the volunteers are keen and willing there remains a need for staffing to coordinate and run the Library.

The Parish Council feel it is time for EBC to step in and resolve the running of the building. The absence of HCC has fallen on us and we simply don't have the resources to support the project to the extent that is needed. There continues to be local criticism that the building is still not open and operational, which is understandable. What isn't understood by the local community is why the building is dependant exclusively on volunteers and why EBC are not providing a staffed facility?

Everyone recognises that time and circumstances have changed, and we all understand the problems that has created. We want to work with you to provide support and the roll out of local services, but in the context of an EBC strategy and plan for the building.

I am around most of this week but will be off on leave the week commencing the 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Yours sincerely

*Amanda Jobling*  
Clerk