

HAMBLE-LE-RICE PARISH COUNCIL



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Sarah King
Corporate Director
Eastleigh Borough Council
Eastleigh House
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Hants

18th October 2019

Dear Sarah

We are delighted at the success of The Mercury which has become a well-regarded resource in the village. There is lots of potential to develop the project further and we would like to be involved however, the setting up and day to day running has been a much bigger undertaking than anyone imagined especially without the infrastructure and backing of Hampshire Library Services. Indeed, EBC originally stated the Parish Council's role would be limited to finding and supporting the volunteers. Whilst many issues have been resolved there is still a great deal of work to do to ensure the day to day running of the building and the services is appropriate and compliant.

Whilst a group of very dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers are supporting the Mercury good practice requires thorough recruitment procedures and appropriate training to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, policies and procedures.

We continue to be interested in running the library if there is an appropriate financial package to reflect the time and commitment involved. Should the offer of £10,000 be reviewed in recognition of the resource required we would request that you talk to us again.

Naturally we want to be involved with the facility but not at the cost of other functions and in the absence of any further negotiations it is not possible at this time. We trust you will be able to find another provider quickly as it is with great regret that we now give notice that from 31st October 2019 HPC's support for the Mercury will be limited to:

- Continuing to source and support community outreach services
- Officer attendance at monthly Board Meetings or volunteer meetings
- Funding, from existing grants, of a Children's story writing competition organised by volunteers

Yours sincerely

Simon Hand
Chair, Hamble-le-Rice Parish Council.

Jeanette Symes
Deputy Clerk