

**Cambridgeshire Libraries, Archives & Information Service**

# **Comberton Library**

## **Library Profile 2006/07**

**September, 2007**

## Foreword

For several years Cambridgeshire's library service has been developing the information it provides about the development and performance of its libraries. In a spirit of open and pro-active provision of information about the service, for the last few years a series of library profiles and other information sources has been made available in both paper and electronic formats.

The library profile is intended to give a rounded view of how each library in the service is performing in relation to others of a similar size within the authority; it is designed to provide contextual information about the library – access, local age profile, community growth and other outreach library services operating in the area; and it investigates the learning, promotional and other activities in which the library has been engaged.

This library profile is a core element in a three-part plan to enable library customers and staff to be better informed about their library. A series of library information posters is displayed in every library - giving snapshot information on performance and other activities, and during the course of the last few years a programme of Library Development events has been rolled out. Using the library profile as the basis for engagement, these events enable library staff and managers to talk to local people, councillors and others about their library, its progress and its future. Findings from the events have been used to inform the service's ongoing planning processes, and progress against the actions identified is now displayed in each library.

If you would like to make any comments or enquiries about your library profile please contact

Lesley Noblett  
Head of Libraries, Archives and Information  
Cambridgeshire Libraries & Information Service  
Library Headquarters  
Ascham Road Site  
Cambridge CB4 2BD

Tel: 01223 717023

[Lesley.Noblett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lesley.Noblett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## Library Profile

### COMBERTON LIBRARY 2006/07

*Note: This profile represents a snapshot of the library during the year 2006/07. The profile is updated annually. Please check our website for up-to-date information ( [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library) )*

#### **A Summary Of Comberton Library**

Comberton Library is a small but increasingly lively service point, located in a village college, serving the local community and a wider hinterland. After several years of declining activity levels the trend for this library seems to have turned, with both numbers of books issued and visits to the library rising.

#### **An Extended View Of Comberton Library**

##### **1. Accommodation**

The library is an integral part of Comberton Village College, although the site is in a poor position on the edge of the village. The library is quite small at 92 square metres.

The counter was, a few years ago, adapted to meet DDA requirements and a ramp to improve access was provided. New automatic doors have also been fitted. Rearranging the shelving has opened up the library and it has also benefited from having the lobby repainted, new notice board and new guiding fitted. The library was repainted during the Summer of 2006 and alterations have been made to the lobby and include a staff toilet. The Peoples Network has provided three public use computers with Internet access.

##### **2. Opening hours**

This library opens for **19** hours a week:

Monday	2.00-7.00
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	10.00-1.00; 2.00-5.00
Thursday	Closed
Friday	2.00-7.00
Saturday	10.00-1.00

##### **3. Accessibility**

**Car Park** – Yes, shared with visitors to the College.

**Public Transport** –Stagecoach/Cambus Route 118/119 from Cambridge.

**Public Toilet** – No

**Ease of Access** – Wheelchair friendly and fully accessible to all.

**Public Telephone** – No.

#### 4. IT equipment

Number of People's Network and other computers	PN-Adult	PN-Children's	Learning Centre	Library Catalogue only	Local Studies – CD ROMs	Total
	3	No	No	No	No	3

#### 5. Activities

- Learning: Peoples Network “taster” courses are still being held at Comberton.
- Reading Groups: Comberton Library supports 3 Reading Groups, which meet monthly, one in the library, one in Comberton Village and one in the village of Hardwick.
- Exhibitions/displays: Exhibitions and displays are mounted as the opportunities arise and have included Bookstart, Circulating books and a Crafts Day held in Summer 2005.
- Children's Activities: Comberton Library participates in the Library Services summer reading scheme for children every year. The “Reading Voyage” was very successful and attracted much interest and enthusiastic participation. The Teddy Bears Picnic was much enjoyed by all the participants. Comberton Cub Scouts have been doing their Book Lovers Badge with support from the library. It is hoped to have class visits from the Primary School in the village.

#### 6. Special Events Through the Year

Customer Appreciation Day was a great success last year, it's first year of implementation, to illustrate our appreciation of our customers.

#### Library Users And The Local Community

##### 1. Active/regular users

- Number of borrowers registered at this library: 1606
- Number of borrowers with one or more items on loan: 263
- Number of “active” borrowers at this library (those who have borrowed within last 12 months): 744

##### 2. Membership – new members during 2006/07

Average new members per month	14
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	22

### 3. Visits

	Visits		
	2005/06	2006/07	%+/-
This Library	12441	13715	10%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	18098	16831	-7%

	Visits per open hour		
	2005/06	2006/07	%+/-
This Library	13	14	0%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	18	17	-5%

### 4. Long term trend in visits

	% change over 5 years
This Library	-3%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	-8%

### 5. Local community age profile

This table shows the age breakdown of residents within the catchment area of the library, together with information about the age of customers currently using the library.

Age Group	Residents (from 2001 Census)		Library Customers (from PLUS surveys)
	Number	% of Library Catchment	% of Library Customers
0-4	691	5.6%	7.0%
5-9	836	6.8%	15.9%
10-14	914	7.4%	10.9%
15-19	727	5.9%	1.3%
20-24	421	3.4%	0.6%
25-34	1408	11.5%	3.8%
35-44	2031	16.5%	21.6%
45-54	2041	16.6%	8.9%
55-64	1453	11.8%	10.2%
65-74	955	7.8%	11.4%
75 or over	795	6.5%	8.2%

## 1. Library Users Feedback

This information is compiled from the Adult PLUS Survey, taken in September 2006

	Very Good	Good	Adequate	Poor	Very Poor
Opening Hours	15.1%	39.7%	38.4%	6.8%	0.0%
Staff Helpfulness	75.7%	24.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Choice Of Books	9.5%	59.5%	23.0%	8.1%	0.0%
Condition Of Books	22.1%	64.7%	13.2%	0.0%	0.0%
This Library Overall	24.4%	61.5%	14.1%	0.0%	0.0%

## Stock And Issues Figures

### 1. Stock holding

2006/07	At this library	Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire
Adult books	3457	4752
Junior books	3921	1195
Reference books	141	171
Total:	7519	6118

### 2. No. of books borrowed

	Books borrowed		
	2005/06	2006/07	% +/-
This Library	31707	33707	6%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	32844	31713	-3%

### 3. Books Borrowed Per Hour Open

	Books borrowed per hour open		
	2005/06	2006/07	% +/-
This Library	32	34	7%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	33	32	-3%

#### 4. Junior Books Borrowed As a Percentage Of Total

	Junior books borrowed as a % of total		
	2005/06	2006/07	% +/-
This Library	52	56	4%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	51	50	0%

#### 5. Long term trend in book issues

	% change over 5 years
This Library	-2%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	-1%

#### Enquiries

	Enquiries		
	2005/06	2006/07	%+/-
This Library	1664	2327	40%
Average for this level of library in Cambridgeshire	3208	3124	-3%

Note: These enquiries are in-person queries received across the library counter. They do not include telephone enquiries, which are directed to Cambridgeshire County Council's central Contact Centre.

#### **Library Supervisors Comment:**

The very pleasing improvement in book issues has been maintained and it was felt that the alteration in opening hours to include Saturday morning has helped in this respect.

#### **Customer Services Manager / Area Managers' Comments**

Comberton Library has clearly felt the benefit of recent changes to the building, opening hours and staffing arrangements. Despite its location on the edge of the village, the availability of car parking is a great advantage for both local residents and those coming from further afield, and it looks as if the framework for a busy and successful future has now been put in place.