

**JULIAN SMITH MP**

Skipton & Ripon



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

**LONDON SW1A 0AA**

Mr Richard Flinton  
Chief Executive  
North Yorkshire County Council  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire DL7 8AH

Our ref: SR2835

05 January 2015

Dear Mr Flinton

I want to set out my views on Skipton Library, and library services across Craven, as part of the ongoing consultation on library services across North Yorkshire.

Since the consultation began, I have received a number of representations from constituents concerned about the future of library services in the town. While the current consultation proposes that Skipton remains a 'hub' library, there are concerns about the support it will receive from North Yorkshire County Council and the impact this will have on the proposed 'community managed' libraries as they evolve in Cross Hills, Benthams and Ingleton.

All of these libraries are at the heart of the community. Accessible to all on the town's High Street, it is right that Skipton Library be a 'core' library, but we must ensure that it receives the corresponding support in terms of professional support. This is particularly so as it also provides help and guidance to the libraries which are now supported by volunteers across the rest of Craven, efforts which I supported following the last consultation in 2010/11.

The County Council showed itself willing to listen and engage with communities during the last consultation, and I urge you to do the same on this occasion. I would be grateful if we could discuss this matter further when we meet on 30 January.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julian Smith".

**JULIAN SMITH MP**