

**Motion to Council – 20th June. 2012 – To be Moved by
Howard Martin. Labour Group
As Amended.**

Council endorses and supports the decision by the District Council Planning Committee to formally object to the consultation by Worcestershire County Council (WCC) to close Kidderminster Library Gallery and disperse its functions to other sites within the Library. However, it also notes and welcomes WCC's withdrawal of the County Planning Application, at this time, for further consideration and consultation.

Council notes the ambience and unique nature of the services on offer there, which were custom built to provide a high quality arts environment for both performers and artists from a range of backgrounds, including many of an international standard.

Further, Council believes the alternative locations currently suggested will not be "fit for purpose" and will damage the reputation of Kidderminster as a respected venue for the wide range and quality of events it houses, leading to a potential loss of those events to local residents.

It also believes the plan, in its current form, will prejudice the range, options and vibrancy of public space in Kidderminster Town Centre going against the intentions of the "State of the Area Debate" to regenerate the area and improve and maintain the "offer" and diversity of both the daytime and night time economy.

Council understands the aim of WCC in its need to reduce overheads but it believes that the potential sacrifice of such a special and unique facility would be detrimental to community life in the District and should be avoided at all costs to protect the best interests of those we represent.

Therefore Council resolves to advise WCC of the terms of this motion and to work with them and representatives of interested community and user groups, as appropriate, to find a solution to retain the existing Gallery intact, in situ, for its current purpose, on the top floor of Kidderminster Library.

HJM

Rev 19 June 2012.