

LIBRARY OF THINGS

A community resource hub for the people of Llandrindod Wells



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What is a Library of Things and how does it work

The Library of Things movement is relatively new but is growing in momentum across the World with new specialist and general hubs opening with increasing frequency.

These Libraries give people access to a wide range of items, from board games, kitchen ware and outdoor equipment to sporting goods, tools and even musical instruments.

The Library lends goods in the same way as a traditional book library, with the added bonus of being able to reserve items in advance. Individuals become members and borrow either on an ad hoc basis or as a monthly subscriber, for a small fee and in relation to the item value. A hammer for instance may be as little as £0.20 whilst a gazebo would cost in the region of £10 for weekend hire.

Monies raised by rental and subscription would be used to cover costs such as specialist software, rent, insurance etc. Any excess funds are invested back into the Library, to purchase useful items alongside those donated by either the community or Businesses.

How will this benefit the town and it's people



The benefits of the Library are far reaching, individuals save on the cost of buying or traditional rentals for items that they will use only occasionally. In addition, fewer items will end in landfill as they are used collectively and repaired rather than skipped when they are no longer needed.



The most successful hubs also run learning events as well as incorporating Repair Cafes. Communities come together and the appeal of borrowing is wide reaching. These may take the form of wallpapering lessons, how to check the oil in your car or sew a child's dress.

Easy access to tools, equipment and skills share makes the task of maintaining and improving both cheaper and easier.

What resources and facilities are required to run a Library of Things

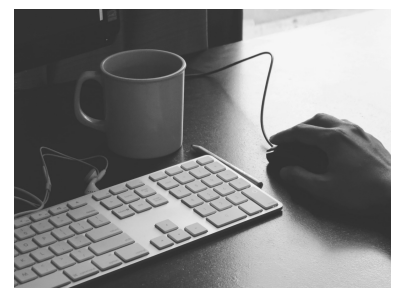
Firstly, the Library needs a home..... Initially, we had intended to house in the basement at Hwgg Studios however a damp issue has proved problematic. We have installed an industrial dehumidifier and whilst it is making progress, the space may require works to be carried out before it is in a fit state to open.

Alternatives are being sought and a potential site is in discussion but as yet nothing is agreed and any suggestions or offers would be gratefully received. Consideration needs to be taken with regard to any rent/rates costs and suitable access. More will be known regarding associated cost once the home has been agreed.

PAVO have offered support and will be able to help with volunteer recruitment.

I am confident that the local community will be more than generous with useful items and existing Libraries hvc been successful in gaining donations from the likes of B&Q etc.

LendEngine is a bespoke software system, free for up to 100 items and then tiered subscriptions to £20 per month.



Where are we now

The Library of Things project is still very much in the planning stages.



The idea and basic outline is complete.... until the 'home' issue is resolved, we are unable to finalise financial projections.

'We' are currently a team of 2 with support from Joe. No formal decisions have been made with regard to formation or operating procedures.

No funding has been applied for although opportunities have been discussed and researched. We have received positive feedback from the Town Council and it will be formally put forward at the next meeting.

What do we need to do to 'make it happen'

The Library needs a legal identity and form in order to move forward. This will enable fundraising, grant applications and the skills to address the 'detail'.

In time, we will need donations and people with the skills to test and check all goods are in proper working order.

Once a home is found, we will require help to build shelving and organise the Library items.

Initially, the Library will require volunteers however it is my vision to develop this to at least 1 paid position.

I would also be keen to incorporate other projects such as a Town Currency, Community Car etc.

