To Garry Moore and the City Councillors.

Please find enclosed a petition from the residents of Spreydon and the wider south-east Christchurch area, supporting the retention of Spreydon Library.

The petition contains 4320 signatures, representing a "loud and clear" message from this community that residents value the library immensely and are vehemently against it closing.

What this petition doesn't express is residents' universal astonishment that the Council would even suggest closing the library, not to mention the considerable distress that the proposed closure has caused, particularly for senior citizens and families with young children, for whom the library is a near-daily part of their lives.

Since initial media reports that the Council was considering closure of three community libraries and the Mobile Library, it has been pointed out to Councillors that they (or at least the elected members before them) had made a promise to residents that Spreydon Library would remain open until at least 2013. Not only do residents expect this promise to be honoured, they also expect that the library will be properly maintained – and not threatened with closure again.

On behalf of residents of south-east Christchurch we also wish to express support for the Bishopdale, Redwood and Mobile Libraries. Along with Spreydon Library, these facilities provide entertainment, education and enlightenment for all ages and provide a real sense of community for residents. The support expressed during the collection of signatures for this petition is all the evidence the Council should need to know that residents are not prepared to let their libraries be closed!

Bryan and Janet Macbeth, 281 Barrington Street, Spreydon, Christchurch. Telephone (03) 332 2968

Save Spreydon Library!

"We the undersigned, express our deep concern at the prospect of the closure of Spreydon Library. The Library is an integral part of our community and we strongly urge the Christchurch City Council to support its continued operation."

NB: In signing this petition I confirm that I am over 16 years of age and have not added my name to this petition before.

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