

Library campaigners look to turn page on closures at Scottish Parliament

Library campaigners from around the country have joined forces ahead of a debate at the Scottish Parliament this week.

Friends of Scotland's Libraries, comprising of library campaigners from Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Glasgow, Moray, Perthshire and Stirlingshire will be at Holyrood on Wednesday, 5th February.

A 'Save Local Libraries' members debate received cross-party support after it was submitted by Scottish Green's Mark Ruskell MSP, following correspondence with CILIPS, which represents Scotland's library and information professionals.

Campaigners will meet with Members of the Scottish Parliament ahead of the debate on Wednesday afternoon.

Hayden Lorimer, from Save Aberdeen Libraries, welcomes the debate. He said: "It's encouraging that a parliamentary debate about protecting library services has received cross-party support. We are looking forward to seeing several of our MSPs participating in the debate, identifying solutions that will avoid any new cycle of library closures around Scotland."

Laura Anne Collier, from Friends of Scotland's Libraries, added: "Representatives of several local library campaigns from around Scotland will be travelling to Edinburgh and hope to share stories from their communities with MSPs before the debate takes place.

"Our organisation has emerged as campaigners from across the country have come together in solidarity to call for a serious national conversation about the vital role libraries play in the future of communities. We want to see Scotland's libraries thrive rather than simply fight for survival.

"We hope this debate is a sign that our MSPs are willing to start the conversation on how we can ensure that local authorities are meeting their obligations to provide public libraries. We believe that Scotland can become a world leader in high-quality library provision with the right support and resourcing from our local and national governments."

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