

This is a summary of the new project for Billinge Parish Council –(£5000 Library Grant Offer)

Our community is establishing a new Community Library based at **Billinge Public Hall on Main Street**, which will serve as an inclusive and accessible space for learning, connection, and digital participation. The library will be named by local children through a community competition, ensuring that the project begins with local pride and ownership.

The aim of this proposal is to improve access to digital technology and skills for residents of Billinge and the surrounding area. The grant funding will be used to purchase **two laptops, six tablets, and two docking stations**, along with the installation of **enhanced broadband** to ensure fast and reliable internet access throughout the building. These upgrades will create a flexible and fully equipped digital area within the library, providing essential access for those who may not have internet or devices at home.

The new equipment will allow visitors to complete online tasks such as job searches, schoolwork, accessing government and health services, and managing personal affairs. It will also enable the library to support small group learning sessions and workshops. With improved broadband, the Public Hall will also be able to host hybrid events, online meetings, and digital literacy classes that bring residents together both in person and virtually.

We plan to work closely with **Billinge Parish Council**, residents' **groups**, and **volunteers** to deliver a programme of **digital training opportunities**. These sessions will cover essential digital skills, online safety, using tablets and mobile devices, and accessing online community resources. Sessions will be free and open to all, with particular focus on older residents, families, and jobseekers who would benefit most from improved digital confidence.

The project supports local and council objectives of promoting inclusion, lifelong learning, and community engagement. By providing access to technology, training, and connectivity, the new community-managed library will strengthen Billinge's sense of community and provide a welcoming hub for residents of all ages.

All grant funding will be used responsibly and in full compliance with the Council's Terms and Conditions. Accurate financial and activity records will be maintained, and progress will be shared with stakeholders to demonstrate value, accountability, and long-term community benefit.