

Q7 Is there anything else you would like us to consider about the space needs of Ilsley Public Library?

126 responded; 190 declined

This question sought ideas that had not been prompted by the previous six questions or that the responders apparently felt were so important they deserved to be repeated. Most responses addressed matters the other questions had not posed.

My overall take is that access to the library was the most urgent problem by a wide margin.

Thirty-one responses cited (a) the lack of parking per se, (b) poor at-grade access from outdoors, or (c) the need for drop boxes where individuals could return books, etc., without having to park their cars. Some local officials think motorists will cope with a shortage of parking if they are truly drawn to attractive places: the “build it, and they will come” theory. I think we need to pay close attention to this issue.

Here are the points made by five or more respondents:

- a) 17 want more parking next to Ilsley. Many of these think that it will be even more difficult to find parking once the new Town Office Building is open, and even now they find the parking inadequate. (I think such feelings are likely to increase if the EDI project happens unless it includes a major parking garage.)
- b) 9 re-stated their recommendations that the children’s library be enlarged, brightened up, and rejuvenated. One person who largely agreed with these points, also wrote “I know this section needs more growing room, but part of its charm is the child-like size of the space – low ceilings, short stacks, little cubbies, high windows. My daughter thinks it’s the best kind of hobbit hole, filed with books.”
- c) 8 persons recommended that IPL improve the ease, safety, and appearance of at-grade access. One noted also that the ramp serving the Community Room is hazardous for older persons in the winter.
- d) 7 respondents strongly urged that our Garden be saved.
- e) 6 people want to relocate – and perhaps enlarge – the space where adults currently use computers. They share concerns that computers users cause disturbances and excessive noise. (Several more people complained that Ilsley is too noisy.)

- f) 6 individuals said the town should not incur more debt, and therefore IPL should not expand.
- g) 6 want to create a separate space for teen-agers -- perhaps with work stations.
- h) 6 more asked that IPL install drive-up drop-boxes in the parking area behind the library and at Mary Hogan School so borrowers could return books, etc., without having to park their vehicles.
- i) 5 people want more, better, and cleaner restrooms.