

Barrow Library

FG Library is proud to present the total renovation of Barrow Library, located at the heart of Barrow-in-Furness. Set in a grade II listed Beaux-Arts style building, this 800sqm library set out to achieve a look and feel that embraced its traditional features and respected the historic surroundings. The library project team were also keen to modernise and improve the services that the library offered.

A key part of the design was to provide private spaces where users could curl up with a book or pursue individual study. The shelving layout was designed with good sightlines in mind, whilst still retaining the browsing, discovery experience. The zones were planned as intuitive, while ensuring that staff could be clearly seen by users seeking help.

The interior plan was sympathetic to the building with its distinctive features, such as the ornate, detailed coving and the original listed timber perimeter shelving, which we arranged to be completely restored by craftsmen from our own workshop.

Our brief, as well as designing the new layout, included all the interior decorating, electrical work and floor coverings. FG Library arranged for the books to be removed from the old shelving, packed and stored carefully off site while the refurbishment work was carried out. We then returned the books and re-shelved them in sequential order onto the new units.

Latitude shelving, counters, pods and furniture were all chosen to work with the building style, along with new internal signage and guiding.

The result was a stunning refurbishment that will give Barrow Library the opportunity to continue to deliver a quality library service, fit for the future.

'The refurbishment has brought our beautiful building to life – it is now a warm and inviting place to visit and to work. People say 'wow' when they walk in, we love it!'

Ruth Prosser, Senior Librarian, Barrow Library

'Inviting, draws you in.'

Paul Moore, Branch Support Assistant, Barrow Group

'Barrow Library is certainly a 'wow'! A beautiful old building, operating in a new innovative way with enthusiastic and committed staff.'

Diane Wood, Chief Executive, Cumbria County Council



