

Stotfold Library



Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) began working with Stotfold Town Council in January 2020 on a proposal to relocate the existing library into The Greenacre Centre, specifically the Oak Hall. The hall, once intended for sports and community events, had become underused. The Town Council saw the opportunity to transform it into a vibrant community hub, combining a library with a café.

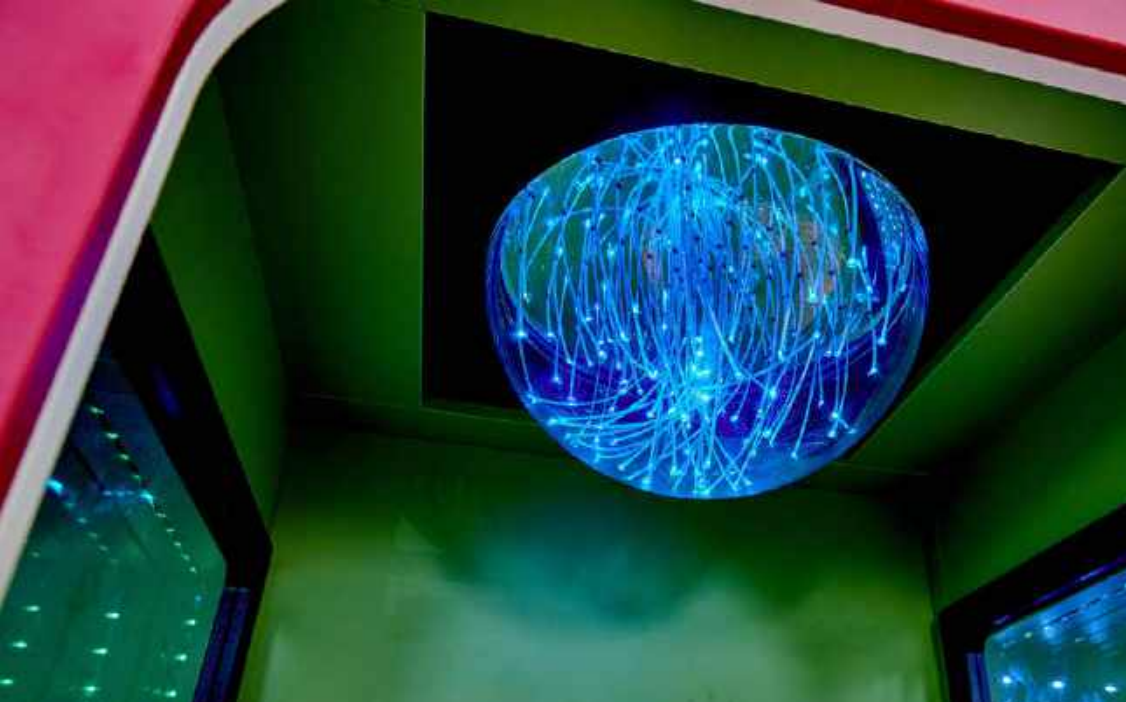




In August 2024, following a detailed tender process, FG Library Products were appointed to deliver the design and installation phases. Their role was to bring the concept to life, ensuring the new library met the community's needs and created a modern, welcoming environment.







The design priorities focused on making the most of the larger footprint, with particular emphasis on the Children's area and the overall acoustic environment. Distinct zones were developed for young adults, study, IT, and self-service, ensuring a smooth customer journey throughout the building. The integration of a café has further strengthened the library's role as a vibrant community hub, but it also introduced new considerations. With high ceilings, hard flooring, and multiple activities taking place simultaneously, managing sound levels became a key design challenge. Acoustic treatments were therefore carefully planned to balance the lively atmosphere of social spaces with the quieter needs of study and reading areas. At the same time, the success of the space relies on all sections of the community using it considerably, recognising that the library must accommodate a wide range of purposes and experiences.



Final Word

“The new Stotfold Library opened on 11 June 2025 to an enthusiastic reception from both staff and residents. Visitors immediately embraced the space, reflected in a 91% rise in footfall—from 5,548 in June/July 2024 to 10,590 in June/July 2025. The library now stands as a thriving centre of learning, leisure, and community connection.”