

## Strensall Explore Gateway Pen Portrait

### The Building

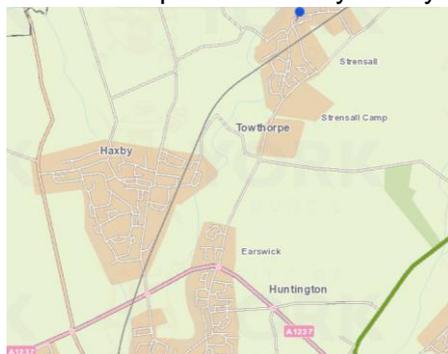
The property was built in 1875. The land and building is owned by CYC. The top floor is made up of two residential flats which are leased to Yorkshire Housing, and in turn rented out to tenants. A 2013 condition survey found that building maintenance costs over 20 years would be £68,485.

Parking is on-street only, but a bus service operates outside the library. The building has level access but no accessible toilet. Strensall Library opens 18.5 hours per week, which is relatively short compared to other village libraries, and this does not cover any evenings. The library is on the main road through the village near to some shops and pubs.



### Community Assets

Strensall Explore Gateway library offers a range of activities within the main body of the library and can run events outside of opening hours if the full space is required. The library helps to combat social isolation through a varied programme including reading groups, kindermusik and more. Regular children's activities such as the summer reading challenge contribute towards children's literacy, and there are computer workshops for beginners addressing adult digital literacy too, alongside free PCs and wifi.



Strensall Library aims to strengthen community resilience through a volunteering programme, but has the lowest take-up of all the libraries at around 7 volunteering hours per week. An attempt to establish a Friends Group met with limited success, and attempts to engage various community groups have similarly had a mixed reception.

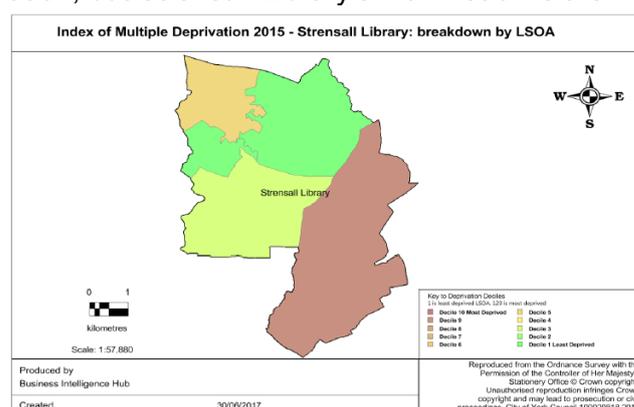
The library has strong links with the Parish Council and with some pre-schools and care homes. Partners offer activities from the building for example property marking from the police. Local community groups use the library for displays and residents can come to the library to take part in consultations, promoting active citizenship.

Also in the village, Strensall and Towthorpe Village Hall offers fitness activities, bingo, slimming clubs etc. The army barracks run a range of activities from Hurst Hall on their site, mostly aimed at children. The churches in Strensall, Strensall Methodist and St Mary The Virgin offer some outreach activities including singing and social groups. The offer tends to be aimed at a general audience rather than addressing specific needs such as digital literacy or employability.

### Population profile

Strensall Ward covers a range of areas in terms of deprivation, but Strensall Library's main reach is the village itself, which is the medium area in the top left of the diagram. This means that there is nothing interesting to say about child poverty rates, anti-social behaviour, the number of adults with no qualifications and premature mortality.

The population of Strensall is not particularly diverse, with 95% residents identifying as 'White British' in the 2011 census. The age profile is similar to York as a whole, but without the high number of 15 to 24 year

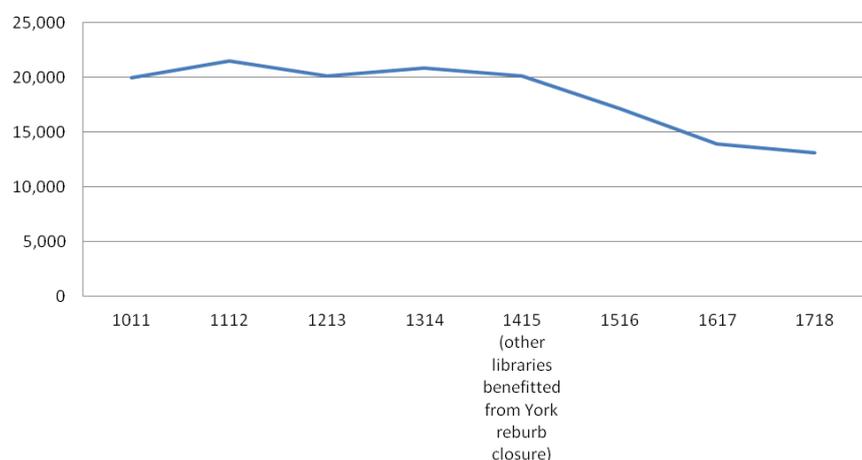


olds you see in areas closer to the universities, and more people in their 40s and 50s.

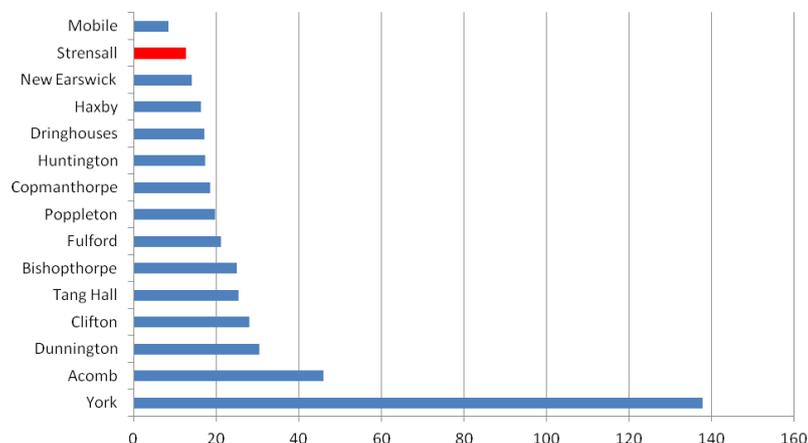
Community cohesion appears to be good, with 85% feeling that they “belong to their local area” and 95% being satisfied with “their local area as a place to live” in a CYC residents’ survey.

## Current Usage

### Physical Visits to Strensall Library over time



Visits including Reading Cafes		1718
1	York	426440
2	Acomb	109785
3	Rowntree Park	93253
4	Tang Hall	55352
5	Homestead Park	42693
6	Clifton	40212
7	Bishopthorpe	28397
8	Huntington	25734
9	Haxby	25337
10	Fulford	25322
11	New Earswick	24544
12	Copmanthorpe	23164
13	Poppleton	23137
14	Dringhouses	22924
15	Dunnington	20404
16	Mobile	14091
17	Strensall	13129
18	Sycamore House	255



Strensall is the only one of Explore’s libraries on a downwards trend.

### Library visits per opening hour during half terms

The user profile of Strensall departs from the population profile most significantly in terms of having more women (75% of users, 51% of population), more retired people (58% of users, 16% of population) and

more people experiencing disability or ill health (29% of users, compared to 13% of the population whose day to day activities limited by ill health or disability in the census). All these trends are fairly common in libraries, but are more prominent at Strensall than at most of Explore's libraries.