Copmanthorpe Explore Gateway Library Pen Portrait
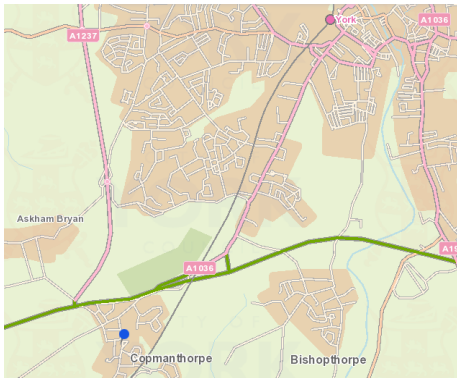
The Building

The building was constructed in 1985 and has not undergone any significant structural changes since. Its floor space is around average for a community library. City of York Council (CYC) does not own the building but has a long term lease.

Although Copmanthorpe Library is located in a shopping area, the entrance is tucked away and lacks any opportunity for eye-catching window displays. With car parking, public transport and an accessible toilet, the accessibility of the building is relatively good. Copmanthorpe Library is open 23.5 hours per week, which is relatively lengthy for a community library, but it is not open past 6.30pm on any evening.

Community Assets

Copmanthorpe library has a small meeting room off the main library, which is used to host craft groups and reading groups. The library helps to combat social isolation through a varied programme of activities all year round, including a weekly craft group for adults, three reading groups, a weekly storytime and Fun Friday crafts for children. It also has focused children's events such as the summer reading challenge which contribute towards children's literacy. Copmanthorpe contributes to a digital literacy agenda through beginner's computer workshops, free PCs and Wi-Fi.

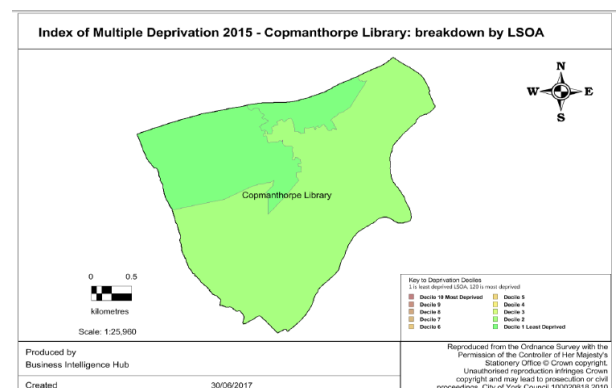As well as strengthening community resilience through a successful volunteering programme, Copmanthorpe Library also has an active Friends Group who support the library by running events. The library has strong links with the Parish council and with local schools.

Partners offer activities from the building. Local community groups use the library for displays and residents can come to the library to take part in consultations, promoting active citizenship.

While there are other services in the village engaging residents in events, these tend to be aimed at a general audience, rather than addressing specific needs such as public health or digital engagement. Copmanthorpe Recreation Centre is home to numerous groups such as scouts, sports clubs, an out of school club etc. The Women's Institute were granted permission in October 2016 to demolish and rebuild their community hall. The churches in Copmanthorpe, Copmanthorpe Methodist Church and St Giles's Church, between them are host to multiple groups including a community cinema club and an elderly people's lunch club.

Population profile

Copmanthorpe Ward is one of York's most affluent areas, with both the lower super output areas contained within it falling within England's least deprived 10% according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015. This is reflected in a range of measures including child poverty rates, anti-social behaviour and premature mortality all of which are better in Copmanthorpe than in York as a whole. 42% of residents have a level 4 qualifications and the education sector is the single most prominent industry in which residents work.
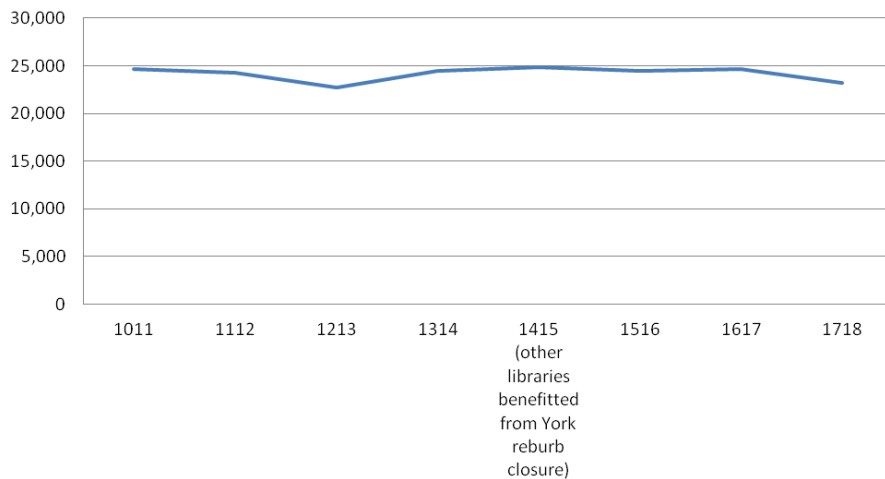
The ethnicity profile of Copmanthorpe is not very diverse, with 96% of residents identifying as White British in the 2011 census. The age profile is older than York as a whole, without the student age residents you see in other areas. With 17% of people being in their 60s, this library catchment area, along with those at Haxby and Bishopthorpe are likely to be areas which strongly feel the impact of an aging population over the next 20 years.

Community cohesion; 73% feel that they "belong to their local area" and 87% being satisfied with "their local area as a place to live", both of which are very close to the average results for York as a whole.
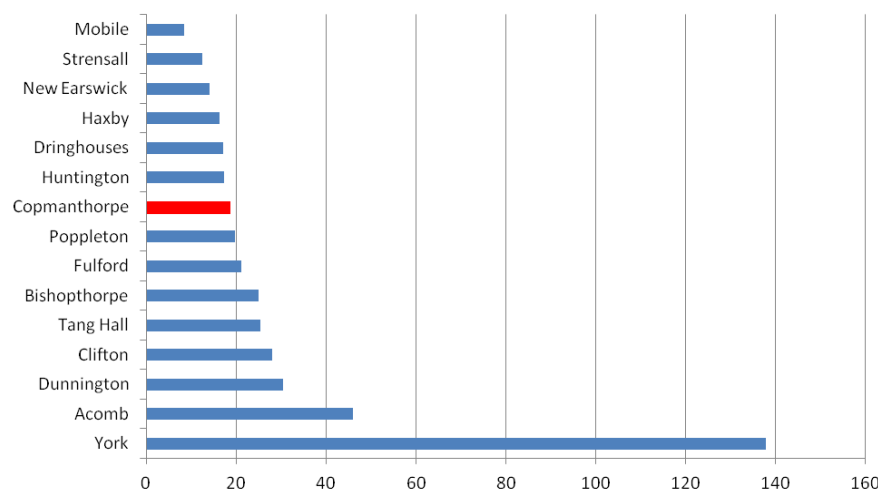
Current Usage

Physical Visits to Copmanthorpe 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

Library visits per opening hour during half terms

(Used half term figures to exclude anomalies caused by classroom use of libraries at New Earswick and Fulford)

The user profile of Copmanthorpe Library departs from the population profile most significantly in terms of having more women (81% of users, 52% of population), more retired people (50% of users, 19% of population) and more people experiencing disability or ill health (20% of users, compared to 14% of the population whose day to day activities limited by ill health or disability in the census). Whilst these trends are common across libraries, the gender imbalance is more pronounced at Copmanthorpe than at any other branch.