# Save the Worcestershire Hive

The Friends of the Hive, the joint Worcester University and Community Library are very concerned about a plan by the Worcestershire County Council to cut the funding for the Hive Archive (previously the Worcester County Records’ Office Archive) by £405,000. This represents in excess of a 50% cut in funding. The implications of this cut are drastic. This Archive provides access to material about the history of Worcestershire that is used by local and family historians, genealogists and researchers from the West Midlands Universities.

It is particularly important to the University of Worcester. Over the past forty or so years this university has developed research activity at under-graduate, post-graduate and post- doctoral research levels. It has achieved over 200 PhD referrals. We are greatly concerned that this exemplary research record will be jeopardized by the cuts the County Council intend to make. Records’ Offices, which the Hive still is, have existed for over a century (the first was established in 1913) and successive Legislation has conferred on these organizations Statutory Responsibilities that make the downgrading of the Archive and Archaeology Services at the Hive impossible. We know that the Records’ Office/Hive Archive has been well used over the past forty plus years and we ask that people who use the services available at the Hive sign our petition which is intended to demonstrate to the County Council that a large number of people in Worcestershire care about their heritage.

The Archive also contains material relating to places that in the past were part of the County of Worcestershire; Dudley, King’s Norton, Shipston-on-Stour and West Bromwich for instance. We would welcome support from these places that used to be part of Worcestershire.

To sign our petition, go to the following URL:

https:/www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-the-worcester-hive-archive

We would also like to receive letters of support. Please address these to:

Dr. Frank Crompton.

The George Marshall Medical Museum,

The Charles Hastings Education Centre,

Charles Hastings Way,

WORCESTER WR5 IDD

                                 .

Thank you in anticipation of your help with this matter.

Regards,

Dr. Frank Crompton for the Friends of the Worcester Hive