

## Carnegie Community Trust CIO

<http://carnegiehernehill.org.uk/>



Registered charity 1164005

Jeff Doorn  
Chair, Friends of Carnegie Library

9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Jeff,

You will be aware that the Carnegie Community Trust will soon be submitting its proposals for the next stage of the Asset Transfer process. I understand that a CIO set up by the Friends of Carnegie Library will also be submitting proposals.

The Trust is concerned that while this process is proceeding Lambeth Council will continue to implement its proposals to install Greenwich Leisure Ltd in the building. Furthermore, the building will remain closed and there will be no library service. Once Greenwich Leisure is installed in the building, with all the attendant alterations to the structure that will involve, they will be very hard to shift.

The Trust has compared its proposals with what has been put in the public domain about the other application. While there appear to be some significant differences there are also wide areas of common ground.

In recent weeks we have been talking to a range of local interests about the future of the Carnegie. I think there is a growing realisation that the building is at serious risk of being lost to the community, leaving Herne Hill with, at best, a rump non-staffed library of sorts and some ad hoc use of rooms under the management of Greenwich Leisure. There is a strong local demand for a united front to negotiate a better outcome with Lambeth. It has been put to us that we should explore the possibility of one Asset Transfer application.

So, we would like to explore the possibility of working together on a single Asset Transfer proposal and, should this be possible, making a joint approach to Lambeth for the immediate re-opening of the building and the library service while the Asset Transfer process is completed. If successful this would have some restraining effect on the ambitions of Greenwich Leisure.

I am therefore writing to advise you that the Carnegie Community Trust is willing to engage in a conversation with the Friends of Carnegie Library and its CIO to see if this is possible. It has been suggested that the conversation be facilitated by a trained independent mediator and we are happy with that.

I would be grateful if you would put this letter before your committee and let me have your thoughts.

Yours sincerely

**Carol Boucher**  
Chair  
Carnegie Community Trust CIO

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