

## **SUGGESTIONS ON FILLING IN CULTURE 2020 QUESTIONNAIRE**

Q1a) Tick "Neither agree nor disagree"

b) Tick "Don't know/no opinion"

c) Tick "Strongly disagree"

A key issue is the use of "affordable," which seems to be essentially meaningless in a borough like Lambeth where some people can afford hardly anything and others can afford almost everything.

Leaving all the boxes blank might be unwise as other people will tick them and give the answers Lambeth want. Dissent is needed.

Q2 Tick 2 and, particularly bearing in mind that the Carnegie includes an art gallery, consider ticking 6 even if you are not a show off. Be wary of ticking 4 and 5 since these put the burden of service provision on bodies other than the council.

Q3 This is open ended and the committee are reluctant to suggest a specific response but suggest that you include some general comment about affordability and mention that everyone should have access to a well-stocked professionally run free public library within a short walk of their home.

Q4, 5 and 6 are not directly relevant to libraries and the committee do not express an opinion on them. In response to Q7 you may wish to mention that libraries are important in promoting health. In particular they are

- A source of information on health and exercise
- For many older people and younger children a walk to the local library is excellent exercise
- Some libraries offer specific health promotion activities, for example the yoga classes for women and men at the Carnegie.

Q8 Tick "Strongly oppose" and include in response to 8a that you want an expanded and improved library service instead of cuts.

Q9 Tick "Neither support nor oppose" and include in 9a that Tate South Lambeth should remain open permanently.

Q10 Tick "Strongly oppose," and include under 10a some comment to the effect that the service proposed will be neither comprehensive nor efficient and you expect Lambeth to provide a proper network of local free public libraries.

Q11 Tick "Strongly oppose" and comment under 11a that these services should be part of normal public library provision.

Qs 12, 13 and 14 Tick "Strongly oppose" and comment under a in each case that the council should continue to fund these libraries so that they provide a professional library service. Please avoid any distinction between libraries. Closing any library will be used to argue that provision elsewhere in the borough is unduly generous.

Qs 15,16 and 17 These do not directly affect libraries and the committee do not feel it appropriate to suggest answers.

Q18 Tick "Strongly oppose." The Friends are members of Lambeth Local History Forum which is unanimous in strongly opposing the proposed relocation of the borough archives to Brixton Library on the ground that the building does not offer suitable accommodation. Black Cultural Archives is a national body focussed on a specific aspect of our country's history and most definitely does not want to be involved with one particular borough's general archives.

Quite apart from these archives considerations, moving the borough archives to Brixton Library's building would require a library which is often crowded already to be shrunk to the point of being intolerably congested.

Some or all of the above could be mentioned in response to 18a.

Q19 Before completing this you might wish to look ahead to the Volunteering parts of section 9. The committee suggests that you do not volunteer in section 9 but instead state what you would be willing to help with (if anything) when answering Q19. Otherwise you are likely to be recorded as a volunteer replacement for professional library or parks management staff.

Other matters you might wish to mention when answering this question are

- Libraries are trusted safe spaces offering a predominantly calm environment in which almost anyone can function and socialise irrespective of their physical or mental abilities, financial situation or physical or emotional condition.
- Libraries offer a second chance in life to many people who have had the misfortune to lose out on basic human entitlements. The people at the Carnegie's adult literacy clubs, who did not learn to read at school but who are determine to do so now, are a good example.