

# Friends of



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**Care of Friends' Post Tray,  
Carnegie Library,  
Herne Hill Road,  
London,  
SE24 0AG**

10th August 2015

Dear Councillor

Carnegie Library is thriving. Please continue its modest funding.

The library is a much-loved hub of the local community which effectively promotes social inclusion and wellbeing. Visits to it have more than doubled to the past year as increasing numbers of local people use its services for individuals and engage in group activities. There are more than twenty groups meeting regularly.

A proposal to withdraw council funding is due to go to Cabinet in September. It is suggested that the building could nonetheless continue in community use with outside funding. However, none of the funders would provide money for a library or the associated literacy and learning activities. They rightly regard it as the duty of local government to provide these services.

Another suggestion is that Lambeth might set aside money for an indefinite period and make the income available for learning activities. However, this proposal is for a fund that could be spent on a wide range of activities. It is not specific to libraries and the published details do not include anything for library running costs.

We would be left with a "church hall." There are several of these in Herne Hill already and little demand for more; the nearest large one can be hired for a whole evening, including use of a kitchen, for a mere £25. Friends of Carnegie Library urge you to insist that funding be continued for the Carnegie and Lambeth's other libraries. The services and opportunities provided are excellent value for money and highly valued by the community.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Doorn, Chair

Encl. Photographs and Information