



BUT the NEGLECT IS NOT TEMPORARY

Lambeth have had perfectly clear and definite advice from architects and building surveyors that the roof gutters must be cleared twice a year but since they closed the library in March 2016 they have not done this and the gutters choked with leaves

have repeatedly overflowed causing damage partly shown in this photograph. In their pre-election panic Lambeth have attempted to re-plaster and repaint walls which are still wet!

**Please display the enclosed
window poster**

Staff and Volunteers

Until Lambeth closed it at the end of March 2016 our library was thriving largely thanks to the team of library professionals dedicated to serving the public. The numbers of people using the library and books being borrowed continually increased. It was a genuine hub of the local community where anyone could drop in and feel welcome and valued. In addition, there were so many group activities that the library manager had difficulty in accommodating them all. The excellent service from the professionals was augmented by local volunteers, who provided many group activities and between them put in as many hours as the professional team.

At present there are no library staff. There was an arrangement for a team of four to rotate round Carnegie and other libraries so that one would be present in each library for two hours a day but three of the four have left because they found this unproductive way of working unbearable.

There are gym assistants and security guards in the library but they are hopeless for serving the public and this is only a temporary arrangement until a few weeks after the election. **We desperately need the return of full-time professional staffing to bring our library back to life.**

The Community Groups

In 1999 Councillor Jim Dickson announced that the library would be closed and sold for redevelopment. Everything that has happened since is consistent with that plan to sell never having been abandoned.

Lambeth are installing a gym in the basement which will never make money and we can expect to be closed within a few years. They insist that the rest of the building be transferred to a community body and either become self-financing or be returned to the Council, when it would no doubt be sold.

The Friends and 8 other voluntary groups set up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, **Carnegie Library Association**, to take the building and produced a feasible plan for financing it for uses including a library.

A body set up by the Council transformed itself into a competing CIO, **Carnegie Community Trust**. They have failed to produce a financially viable plan but Lambeth insist on proceeding with the Trust and not the Association. Brief details of the CIOs are:

	The GENUINE COMMUNITY ORGANISATION	The BOGUS COMMUNITY ORGANISATION
	Carnegie Library Association	Carnegie Community Trust
Set up by	Nine voluntary groups connected with the library	Lambeth Council
Type of CIO	Democratic association	Undemocratic Foundation
Trustees elected by	Members	Themselves!
Number of trustees	9	3 or possibly 5
Number of members	320	Constitution prohibits the Trust from having voting members other than the trustees
Main purpose	Library	Community Hub
Financial basis	Flexible use of space to provide a library and other uses, including income generation	Exclusion of library and other services which grant-making bodies would expect to be funded by the local authority
Business Plan	Fully costed and published	Selected details published. Needs large Council subsidies, which the Council refuses to provide

NOTE: "Community" in the name of Carnegie Community Trust indicates that it is supposedly for the benefit of the community NOT that the community would have any part in running it.