

**REPORT FOR WEST AREA COMMITTEE**

**2 OCTOBER 2008**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES**

**CARNEGIE LIBRARIES CELEBRATIONS**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the proposed Carnegie Libraries Celebrations at Kayll Road Library.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Andrew Carnegie was born in Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland and emigrated to America in 1848 when he was 11 years old. By 1888 Mr Carnegie owned 7 iron and steel works, coalfields, iron mines, railways and a fleet of steamers. He returned to Scotland in 1901 where he established or assisted in establishing no fewer than 1,300 libraries in Britain. Books and libraries were always an important part of Carnegie's life.
- 2.2 Andrew Carnegie donated £10,000 to the County Borough of Sunderland for the building of two branch libraries. The sites were donated by local notaries of the time and this allowed for three libraries to be built with the funding available. These are Hendon library, Monkwearmouth library and Kayll Road library. Andrew Carnegie opened Monkwearmouth library in 1909 whilst visiting Sunderland to receive the Freedom of the County Borough of Sunderland on 13 October 1909.

**3.0 KAYLL ROAD LIBRARY**

- 3.1 Chairman of the Museum and Library Committee, Alderman William Burn J.P. laid the foundation stone on 5 November 1908.
- 3.2 The Very Reverend G.W Kitchen D.D.F.S.A, Dean of Durham and Warden of the University of Durham, opened Kayll Road library on 2 July 1909.
- 3.3 It is proposed to host a programme of events from 1 July – 4 July 2009 with a VIP reception on Friday 3 July from 5.30pm – 7.00pm. Local dignitaries, past and current library members and former members of staff will be invited to attend the event. Some of the highlights of the proposed programme include:

- Local Historian Ron Lawson will give an illustrated talk on the history of the Kayll Road area in Edwardian times.
- Family history taster session.
- Tyne and Wear Archives Service will deliver an educational session to an invited school group.
- Police historian and partner will dress in Edwardian costume and interact with the public and school children.
- The Friends of Barnes Park will deliver an exhibition and talk on the park during organised sessions.
- Promotion of the Carnegie Awards and the development of a teenage reading group. The Carnegie Medal is awarded annually to the writer of an outstanding book for children. The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) established it in 1936.

#### **4.0 PROMOTION**

- 4.1 A press release will be issued at the beginning of October and contact will be made with the heritage reporter from the Sunderland Echo, where it is anticipated a feature article will appear on the Carnegie libraries.
- 4.2 Costs for a promotional bookmark to commemorate the three Carnegie libraries are currently being investigated.
- 4.3 A comments book for guests and borrowers to sign or add memories will be purchased and will circulate the three libraries.
- 4.4 An authentic certificate or scroll will be costed to present to all attendees over the celebration period.
- 4.5 Costs are being sourced for a promotional flyer to be produced, listing the full programme of events.
- 4.6 All programme and events will be added to the library website and Sunderland events website.

#### **5.0 FUNDING AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Local history talks and exhibitions are being provided free of charge.
- 5.2 Hospitality costs will be met by existing library budgets
- 5.3 The proposed marketing material will have cost implications and funding is currently being investigated.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report and to receive further updates in the future.