

REPORT FOR NORTH AREA COMMITTEE 30 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 of North Area Committee on the proposed Carnegie Libraries Celebrations.

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. In 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 three were 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 MONKWEARMOUTH LIBRARY

- 3.1 Mr J.G. Addison J.P. who donated the site for Monkwearmouth library laid the foundation stone on 20 January 1909 and the library was opened on 21 October 1909 by Andrew Carnegie.
- 3.2 It is proposed to host a programme of events from 19 – 23 October 2009 with a VIP reception on Wednesday 21 October. Some of the highlights of the proposed programme include:
- Beamish 'School Class in 1909' to an invited school group.
 - Guided walk by Neil Sinclair on the 'History of Monkwearmouth Railways'.
 - Local history exhibition by Monkwearmouth local history group and a talk on 'Old Monkwearmouth – its people and memories'.
 - Guided tour of St Peter's church to be followed by an Edwardian tea at Monkwearmouth library to view an exhibition of St Peter's church. This will also support the awareness of the Wearmouth–Jarrow bid for World Heritage Status, which goes forward in 2010, and if

successful will see Wearmouth–Jarrow inscribed on the World Heritage List alongside sites such as the Taj Mahal and Hadrian's Wall

- Exhibitions and talks from various local historians throughout the week.
- Volunteers dressed in Edwardian costume with a display of transport from that era.

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, who will write an editorial article on the three libraries, for inclusion in future editions.
- 4.2 Costs for a promotional bookmark to commemorate the three Carnegie libraries are currently being sourced.
- 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 programme of events at each of the venues.
- 4.6 All programme and events will be added to the library website (www.sunderland.gov.uk/libraries) and Sunderland events website (www.sunderlandevents.com).

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 costs will be met from within existing Culture and Tourism budgets.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

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