



- The campaign blog

Sunday, 19 March 2017

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Library Protest 5pm this Wednesday



Join our last-ditch protest this coming Wednesday, 22nd March, when the council will announce which enterprise will take over Manor House Library.

The council is willing to allow a host partner the privilege of leasing the building (for twenty-five years!) and pay no rent, have a special discount on the business rates, to rent out the rooms with the rents going to the host partner, while the council taxpayer s. Il funds the mortgage and some maintenance, loses the business rate and makes no money from the publicly funded investment. What genius came up with this? The preferred community organisation of the council is V22, but the public's choice by consultation was Arts Network. Why is the council ignoring public wishes, if the consultation was genuine?

2 out of 3 of V22's subsidiary companies are profit-making. If and when their position on the stock market collapses, this will bring a wrecking ball to our library service. The foundation may have charitable aims but is not a charity as yet, but has been 'in the process of registering' for more than a year. Handing over public services to a private company is scandalous!

Come along to the protest at 5pm outside the Town Hall on Wednesday 22nd March when Mayor and Council rubber stamp this calamity.

http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=199&Mld=4442

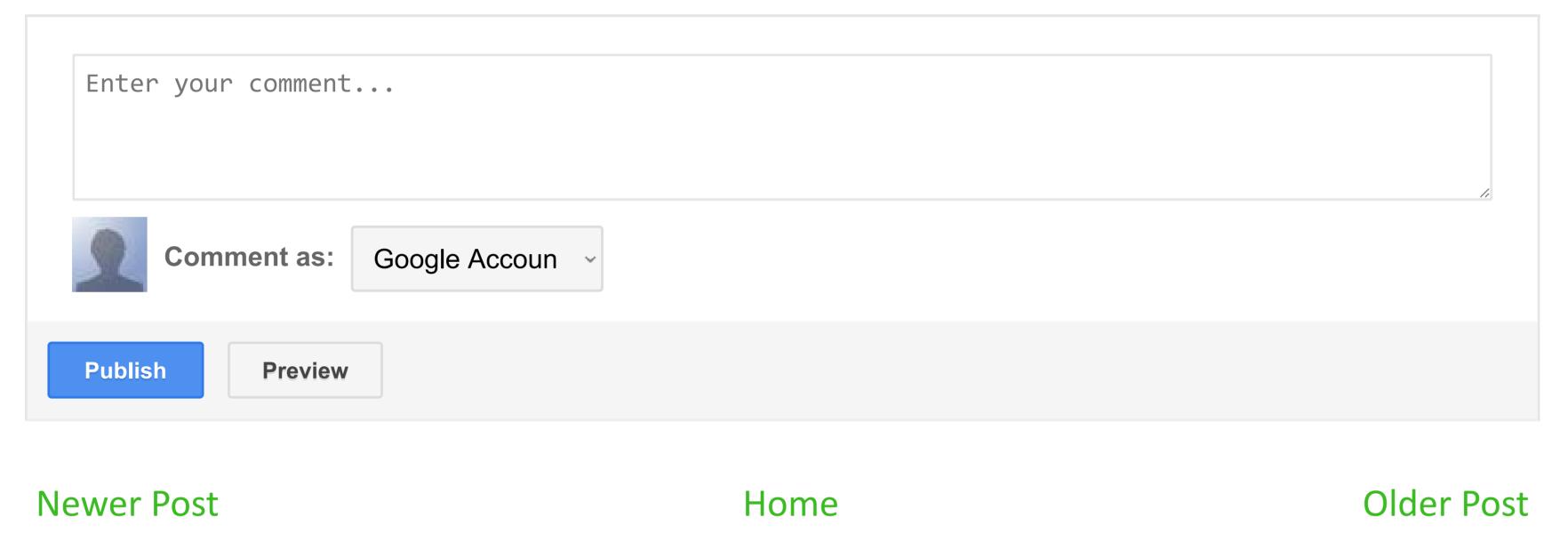
Alongside our protest will be parents and pupils and teachers from Forest Hill School, where they have been forced to take strike action. The Mayor and Head say the cuts imposed as conditions of the council's loan, 20% cut to staff budget, sacking 15 teachers in the next term, will produce a 'lean', mean, teaching machine. The reality is it would put the school in a tailspin. The library campaign stands in solidarity with this campaign.

There will be a social in the Catford Constitutional Club after the protest.

Posted by SaveLewishamLibraries at 22:52 MB L f @ G+

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Restore Our Library Service Lewisham's libraries are a well loved and much used service, especially depended on by

children.

It is upseng then, tha tour libraries have been put through the wringer, and to show for it,

issue numbers have fallen more than almost anywhere else in the country in the last five years. Lewisham Council has executed on its misbeggoten decision to cut £1 million from the budget, making most staff redundant whilst outsourcing operaons to social enterprises and charies on dec ades long leases and contracts. And disgusngly , council advances this as an innovav e 'opportunity'. It has also been pushing the money under the rug, as outsourced groups who run into cash flow problems are given large council grants, and this is now par for the course.

The Council removed staff from 4 of our libraries in 2016:

Catford, Forest Hill, Manor House and Torridon Road.

Despite the massive public opposion and the fir st council staff strikes here in decades, they pushed the changes through. This is not forgo en or over. This must be recfied.

Unison was right to believe that the implementaon of the scheme would mean:

- Professional staff will not be available in these libraries Opening mes will be r educed
- If there are not enough volunteers, then libraries will close
- Library usage and services to the community will be reduced
- Vulnerable users won't be able to access library services
- They can no longer rightly be called libraries but pale imitaons, community centres, thinly

veiled property development operaons tha t make a show of meeng a f ew basic library service funcons and relying on volunteers. They stretch the remaining council staff dangerously thin, perhaps popping in to Pepys library once a week to mourn the chaos. Having made these idioc r edundancies so drasc ally management have had to take on agency staff. They've even trained up at cost new staff, who have handed in their resignaon finding the condions in tolerable. It has le us le three "hub" libraries sll very basically council staffed, Lewisham, Deptford

Lounge and Downham. Catford o en has nobody but the security guards that work in the building, you can't print and can never expect to be able to print, and it is unsafe and unreliable.

library service.

In a borough this size it no longer meets our statutory right to a local, accessible, convenient

These hub libraries are under threat of more unsubtle restructures by Bullock and head of the service Anthonio 'they changed my tle so I'd ha ve no chance of being sued' Rizzo. We campaign by all our legima te means, from our right to public assembly, to arguing in surgeries and consultaons, to looking into the published books of tender candidates to see what the council turns a blind eye to.

We have perhaps decreased the damange and slowed it down, but council generally has its head in the sand, and the tory government that goes without saying.

In this misinformaon, prive as a on age elibraries are for their users desperately important. Save Lewisham Libraries urges you to FIGHT FOR LIBRARIES!

Please sign our peon , come to our meengs and de veloping protests and get involved.

Lobbying The Council

Past Events

20 July - The lobby of the council meeting. Assembled 6.30pm Civic Suite, Town Hall, Catford

13 July 2016 - The lobby of mayor & cabinet meeting. Assembled 4.30pm Civic Suite, Town Hall, Catford Save Lewisham Libraries March

21st May 2016 - March and rally. Assembled 12noon at Lewisham Library

4th London Radical Bookfair

7th May 2016 - Campaign stall 12-6pm Goldsmith's College. Speak up for Libraries lobby

9th February 2016 - National lobby of parliament over library cuts. Public Meeting 9th February 2016 - Chance to get involved in the fight for libraries.

Lobby of Lewisham Council 24th February 2016 - Protested at the council meeting.

About Us



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Upcoming:

Organising meeting Regularly 1st Monday of each month

Catford Constuonal pub, Catford Broadway, London, SE6 4SP 7pm

Find our table!

Blog Archive

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BLOG - COLOURING IN CULTURE

- Revenge of the Middle-Classes - conclusion to the first chapter of my unpublished book "New Bohemias: Ars ts, Hipsters & Damp;
- Gentrificaon part 5 of the first chapter of my unpublished book "New Bohemias: Ars ts, Hipsters & Damp;
- New Bohemias part 4 of the first chapter of my unpublished book "New Bohemias: Ars ts, Hipsters & Damp; Gentrificaon"
- Gentrificaon's Leeches & amp; Parasites - part 3 of the first chapter of my unpublished book "New Bohemias: Ars ts, Hipsters & Damp; Gentrificaon"

April (2)

this Wednesday

- Gentrificaon"
- Gentrificaon"
- Hipsters: