



Campaigners protest outside the newly-reopened Carnegie Library



## Cancer information day to be held next month

Free, specialist cancer information and support is coming to Peckham on Thursday, March 1.

Macmillan Cancer Support's mobile service will be visiting Peckham Square between 9am and 4pm, with cancer information specialists on hand to answer questions and provide information.

The team encourages anyone with worries or concerns relating to cancer to stop by, whether you're living with or beyond cancer, or are a carer or loved one of someone who is.

Martina McGill, Cancer Information Specialist at Macmillan, said: "Whether you want to know what symptoms to look out for, need information about managing the side effects of your treatment, or want to find local support for carers, come along and see us.

"It's also really important that people living with cancer are able to access the financial advice and support they are entitled to, so they can focus on what's most important – their health.

"We can help signpost people to Macmillan benefits advisers who can provide free, confidential advice."

For further information about Macmillan's mobile information service, and planned visits, go to [www.macmillan.org.uk/mobile-info](http://www.macmillan.org.uk/mobile-info).

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# Campaigners show their anger at opening of Carnegie Library

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More than 100 protesters gathered outside a reopened library, dubbing its renovation "an insane plan to waste millions".

The council responded by saying it was proud that it had managed to keep all 10 libraries open in Lambeth.

Campaigners who battled for months to save the original Carnegie Library in Herne Hill say installing a gym in its basement would cut its capacity and staffing levels – in an area already awash with fitness centres.

The angry residents occupied the building from April 2016 in protest at the creation of a "fake library in time for council elections in May".

Campaigner Laura Swaffield said: "The new library is a shrunken, mostly unstaffed 'neighbourhood library' that nobody wants, in the middle of a noisy building site where £3 million of taxpayers' money is being wasted to install a gym that people want even less."

Lambeth council says the library continues to serve readers, and that income from the



building would enable it to cope with reduced funding in the coming years.

Town hall chiefs revealed they will be forced to reduce cultural spending by 40 per cent by 2020 and cut many family activities.

A Lambeth council spokesman said: "We are proud that we have managed to keep all 10 libraries open in the borough. Nobody wants to close libraries and we were determined to find ways to keep libraries open and we have managed to do that.

"So that is the reason why Carnegie has changed and the building expanded, to provide long-term stability, but it has now reopened and the library looks great and it is still providing a valuable service for residents."

The basement gym will still belong to the council, but gym

operator GLL will run it rent-free for four years in return for their £1 million investment in the renovation of the basement space. A "Welcome to Carnegie Neighbourhood Library" sign with details of the library's re-launch and opening times was altered overnight by campaigners, they admitted. It was later taken down by the council. Protesters claim to have seen a number of potentially hazardous sights at the reopening and that are likely to remain whilst building works continue in the basement.

But the council says it could not and would not open a site if it were deemed unsafe and that health and safety checks had confirmed the building is safe for staff and the public.

Other alterations as part of Lambeth's bid to "reimagine" its libraries have included a cinema in West Norwood.

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