**Friends of Marcus Garvey Meeting – Saturday June 23rd, 2018 2 p.m.**

**Present**: Cllr Zena Brabazon, Jacinth Thomas, Nelcia Finlay, Beth Thomas, Cllr Ruth Gordon, Cllr Preston Tabois, Cllr Isidoros Diakides, Cllr Felicia Opoku, Judith Walker, (Officer), Tony Wilson, (Officer), Caroline Rault, Luci Davin, Martin Ball, Juney de Aguilar, Winsome Vassall, Sue Penny Jasmin Taylor

**Apologies**: Mary Yacoob, Cllr Mark Blake, Florian Persualt

**Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Agreed.

**Agenda Items**

**1. Feedback on the Bernie Grant Exhibition**

The mural has already been painted and the picture donated by his widow Sharon Grant has been hung. The only hold up for the moment was the work for the main wall which is being created by the students from the College of Haringey, Enfield and North London. Jasmin explained that this had been a difficult year for the students and teachers. There had been staff cuts and quite a few days of strike action, so it had proved difficult to get the students to complete their work on time. However, the students were going to hang their work on July 2nd. We now had to begin thinking about who to invite for the official opening of the exhibition.

**2. Response from Cllr Brabazon on the Council’s Priorities for the Marcus Garvey Library and Libraries Across the Borough**  
This item took up most of the meeting. Overall, Cllr Brabazon gave a positive response to the Friend’s list of policies and priorities. She said that the Friends were pushing at an open door with regard to the new Council’s view of the marriage between Customer Services and the library, as it was clear that the relationship was not working. However, she also said that moving Customer Services out of the building would take time, and might not even be possible to achieve under the current administration. The Friends made it clear. The Friends said we would continue our campaign to ensure that the new Council honours its promises and removes Customer Services from the building.

Cllr Brabazon also said that she was unhappy about the door at the back of the library being made the main entrance because of its close proximity to the Children’s Library. There were some serious child safeguarding concerns. She also reminded the Friends that she had been one of the residents who had spoken out against the door when the planning application had come before the Council’s Planning Committee. She therefore confirmed that for the time being, the Council would not be opening the door at the back of the library to make it the main entrance.

Cllr Brabazon also confirmed that the decision had been taken, (in response to our letter sent to the Chief executive) to make the reinstatement of the Young People’s Library a priority and work had already begun to make this a reality. The architects, Design Concept have been invited to come into the library to redesign the library floor plan to make it possible for the Youth Library to be set up again and also for the Children’s Desk to be reinstated, either inside or just outside the Children’s Library.

To read through Cllr Brabazon’s responses to all fourteen of the priorities, please click on the link below

LINK

**3. Black History Month**

The Friends felt that it was disappointing that despite the fact that this was the 70th anniversary of Windrush, that the library had made no attempt to have an exhibition honouring the event. In the past, the Marcus Garvey Library would have been at the forefront of this event and in the past, librarians had had very close links with the Windrush Association. The Chair provided information on an exhibition honouring Windrush which was taking place at the back of the Uptown Restaurant on West Green Road, which she said revealed that the local community had felt the need for this type of exhibition. Alex Pascal had been the guest of honour there.

Cllr Brabazon said that this year, the Council was committed to having a comprehensive range of events on during Black History Month. Judith Walker said that as officers, they were already working on this and a steering group had been set up.

**AOB**

**Meeting Dates**

September 8th

November 10th