

THEWORD

THE LATEST ON THE LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER ONE 2009



WELCOME...

TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE WORD, THE LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM NEWSLETTER, DESIGNED TO KEEP BIRMINGHAM CITIZENS UPDATED ON EACH STEP OF THIS SIGNIFICANT PROJECT AS IT UNFOLDS.



Cllr Mike Whitby, with Birmingham's Young Poet Laureate, Megan Bradbury and the architect of The Library of Birmingham, Francine Houben of Mecanoo Architecten.

In April, Mike Whitby, Leader of Birmingham City Council, unveiled the concept design for the new £193 million Library of Birmingham by internationally acclaimed Dutch architects Mecanoo. Cllr Whitby has championed the new library from the outset, bringing forward the project to the delivery stage and enabling the vision to be turned into reality.

A flagship project of The Big City Plan, which focuses on the regeneration of the city, the Library of Birmingham will be an important step in driving development and improving the quality of life for all communities over the next 20 years. The new library will be built on Centenary Square between Birmingham Repertory Theatre (The REP) and Baskerville House and will be a stunning addition to the urban landscape, a 'people's palace'.

Connecting to The REP with a shared foyer and entrance and new 300-seat studio theatre, the Library of Birmingham will create an inspiring, welcoming and accessible new cultural and community hub for the city. It will embrace technological advances, new ways of learning and

provide a state-of-the-art showcase for the city's internationally acclaimed photographic, archive and heritage collections. The Library of Birmingham will be the hub for Community Libraries, improving Library & Archive Services city-wide.

Work will continue on the design following public consultation in April and May and a detailed planning application will be submitted later this year. We aim to start construction of the Library of Birmingham in early 2010 for completion in 2013. We hope you will share in the excitement of the creation of this exceptional new resource for learning, information and culture that will give Birmingham a world-class new library delivering a world-class service city-wide.



I Brian Gambles Assistant Director, Culture, Birmingham City Council

WORDS FROM CARILLION

AS THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR ON THE BUILD FOR THE NEW LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM, WE WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES AND EXPLAIN HOW WE WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED ON THE SHORT AND LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENT.

Sustainability, Regeneration and Employment

As a Midlands-based contractor, we want to create local jobs for local people. We are working alongside Birmingham City Council's Employment Access Team to actively create 250 new job opportunities including at least 25 apprenticeships. Local people marginalised in the current labour market and living in the most deprived areas of the city will have maximum opportunity to benefit from pre-employment training and job opportunities on the construction and fit-out project of the Library or on other Carillion projects in Birmingham.

The first fast-track intake of apprenticeships will take place in August, with more training and employment opportunities later in the year. The City Council is committed to ensuring that

the new library is a highly sustainable building and is working with Carillion to develop The Library of Birmingham Sustainability Programme. This will ensure practical, achievable commitments to contribute to the social, environmental and economic development of the city.

Future issues of The Word will keep you updated on our progress on these activities as they develop and provide personal stories of some of the local people who benefit from them.

Keeping neighbours informed

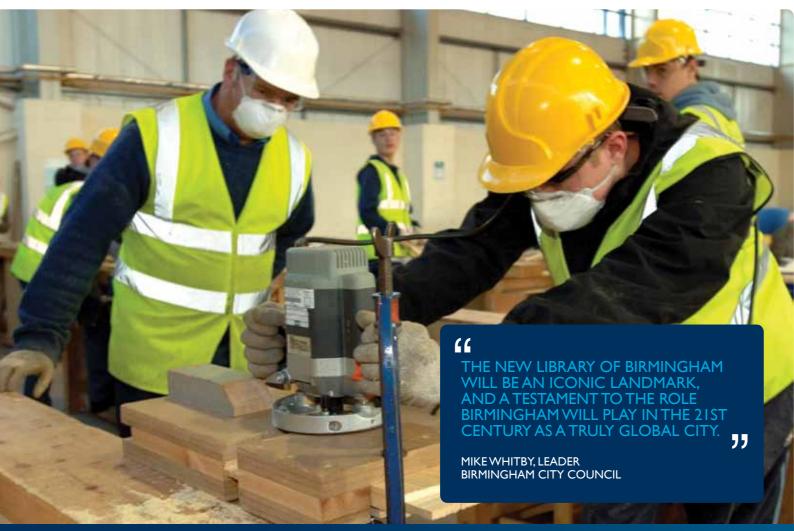
Carillion are very mindful of the potential impact on people living and working close to the construction site. We will be working within the Considerate Constructors Scheme, aimed at reducing any negative impact or inconvenience to neighbours and the environment caused by the

build process. Over the coming years of the development Carillion will keep all neighbours updated of any upcoming activities on site and the implications for you. Your feedback is important to us as we begin the project and so that we may remain respectful of your needs, please write with your thoughts, comments and ideas to us at s.dingle@carillionplc.com



I Simon Dingle
Operations Director
Carillion





THE REP/LIBRARY UPDATE

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COMING MONTHS?



ONGOING PROGRAMME AT THE REP

THE SEASONAL PROGRAMME AT THE REP WILL CONTINUE UNAFFECTED IN THE IMMEDIATE TERM AND IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE SERVICES, THE REP WILL BE HOLDING A SERIES OF FREE PUBLIC EVENTS OVER THE COMING MONTHS. UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Free storytelling sessions by The Library before the Saturday morning performances of The Boy Who Cried Wolf, I Iam on 6th June, and Goldilocks & How Many Bears at 10.30am on 4th July. Sessions are free of charge and will take place in the foyer of The REP. Families wishing to take part should arrive 50 minutes before the performance time to join in.
- The Library will also hold free storytelling sessions throughout The REP's Open Day being held on 20th June. On the day, visitors will have a fantastic opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes.

≝REP

Birmingham Repertory Theatre



WHERE PEOPLE CAN
COME AND LEARN, CAN
COME AND BE PART OF
SOMETHING. IT'S ABOUT
BIRMINGHAM COMING
TOGETHER AND
WORKING AS A UNIT.

JOSHUA HOLNESS AKA RT, WRITER AND PERFORMER, THE REPTHEATRE

CAR PARK CLOSURE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

The Civic Centre car park next to The REP (the site for the Library of Birmingham) will close permanently on 6 July and fencing will be erected to enable an archaeological excavation to take place. This will not affect enjoyment of ongoing performances and productions at The REP. Alternative car parking is available in other car parks nearby, including Brindley Drive multi-storey, Brunel Street multi-storey and the National Indoor Arena. Additional disabled parking bays will be created on the road in Brindley Drive (outside the multi-storey car park) to replace those lost by the Civic Centre car park closure and the City Council aims to have these in place by July - please visit www.birmingham. gov.uk/libraryofbirmingham or www.birmingham-rep.co.uk for more information. You can also download an information leaflet containing a map of the Council's car parks at www.birmingham.gov.uk/parking.

REMEMBRANCE DAY IN CENTENARY SQUARE

The Council has been working with the British Legion and ex-service associations to plan November's Remembrance Day parade in Centenary Square to take account of the Library of Birmingham building site. Arrangements are now in place to ensure the event runs smoothly and will be unaffected by the disruption to the square.



GETTING INVOLVED

THE LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM IS NOT JUST ABOUT AN EXCEPTIONAL BUILDING – IT IS ABOUT DEVELOPING WORLD-CLASS SERVICES AND AN EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE TOO. DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE OF ALL INTERESTS AND AGES, EVERYONE CAN GET INVOLVED.



Community engagement in the plans for the Library of Birmingham has been extremely positive with schools, community and health centres, and businesses playing an active and vital role in helping to shape the library experience of the future.

There are still many ways to get involved and everyone's opinion matters. Throughout the year the Council's Library & Archive Services will continue to run focus groups, Family Fun Days with The REP and targeted events to ensure all

members of the community are offered a voice. If you are interested in getting involved, look out for future events on www.birminghamgov. uk/libraries or call 0121 303 2454.

Responses from the initial stages of community engagement already completed will be used to inform further work on the design of the new development. There will be information on what we find out from community engagement available online at

www.birmingham.gov.uk/libraryof birmingham, on the council's Be Heard website (due to be running from June) and in Central and Community Libraries.We aim to update this information as the process continues.

GET IN TOUCH

To receive future issues of The Word by email, or to receive it in a different format, please contact us on **0121 303 2454** or e-mail us at **library.of.birmingham@birmingham.gov.uk**For more details on the Library of Birmingham project, including artist's impressions, videos and facts and figures visit **www.birmingham.gov.uk/libraryofbirmingham**







