



REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD
MEETING DATE: SUMMER BUSINESS (AUGUST 26, 2011)

Session:	Summer Business
Subject:	Glanworth Branch Library: Status Report on Community Response to the Library Board's Decision to Close Glanworth
Prepared By:	Nancy Collister, Arlene Thompson, Christina Nurse, Margaret Mitchell, Susanna Hubbard Krimmer
Presented By:	Susanna Hubbard Krimmer
Purpose of Report:	For Receipt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that this report be:

- Received by the Library Board Executive under summer business; and
- Referred to the September 2011 Library Board meeting for receipt.

ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY

At the August 11, 2011 meeting of the Library Board, the Board approved the following motion:

It was MOVED by Councillor Branscombe and seconded by Ms. Lubell that:

Renovations for the Glanworth Branch Library not proceed;

The branch be closed by December 31, 2011;

Library Administration undertake community consultation commencing in September regarding continued library services for residents in the area; and that

Library Administration prepare a transition plan for the building and property that provides for disposal of the building in a way that takes into account its heritage status and suggested uses for the land.

In order to begin the process of consultation and to ensure that the community received information about the Board's decision, Nancy Collister and Arlene Thompson (Managers, Customer Services & Branch Operations), Christina Nurse (Manager, Marketing & Communications) and Susan Price (Supervisor, Byron, Glanworth & Lambeth Branches) are available at the branch during opening hours since the August Board Meeting of August 11, 2011. Information packages that included the June and August Board Reports regarding the Glanworth Branch and the Architect's report on the condition of the branch building and Susanna Hubbard Krimmer's business card are being distributed to patrons. Patrons were encouraged to contact Ms. Hubbard Krimmer with comments.

This report provides an update on:

- Community response to date;
- Communications in the media, including the *London Free Press*, and social media such as *Facebook* and
- Next steps to be undertaken by the Library.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO DATE

Staff are conversing on site at the Glanworth Branch Library with interested patrons and patrons are being invited to leave their contact information in order that the Library can keep them updated with information about the status of the branch. The community response includes the following:

- Community residents have expressed concern regarding the lack of public consultation prior to the Library Board decision to close the branch.
- A key component of feedback from the community has been that the people of Glanworth and the area love their library and place great value on the building and its presence (historic and cultural) in the community.
- There seems to be a strong commitment to looking for a creative solution to keep the building going and the hope that ideas and suggestions can be brought forward to the Library Board.
- Community residents are also speaking of the Library Board decision to close the branch in the context of the impact of annexation on this area in terms of City of London services, in general.

In response to the recommendation to close the Glanworth Branch, a group has organized themselves with the goal to save the Glanworth Library. Community advocacy actions are also being taken, including the following:

- Posters have appeared in the community.
- A Facebook page (see: Communications section below) has been established, called the "*Save the Glanworth Community Library*".
- Signs have been posted throughout the community on lawns and along Wellington Road at Glanworth Drive. The signs say "Don't Close the Book on Glanworth".
- There is a ribbon campaign for residents to show their support of the cause.
- The community has expressed its desire to contribute by seeking funds and in-kind donations for physical improvements to the branch.

LPL has received written communication directly from members of the Glanworth community. These are found in Appendix 1 of this report.

Interest in the Building

As indicated above, a key component of feedback from the community has been that the people of Glanworth and the area place great value on the building and its presence (historic and cultural) in the community.

A delegation was made by Ms. Victoria White, a resident of the Glanworth community, to London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH) at its August 15, 2011 meeting. LACH reports to the Municipal Council, through the Built and Natural Environment Committee. The purpose of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage is to lead London in the conservation of its heritage through planning, education and stewardship, and to advise the City of London on the conservation of heritage resources in the community. The building has a Priority 2 designation which means it could be considered for designation. The matter was referred to the upcoming meeting of the Stewardship Committee of LACH. LACH advised that even with designation, the Library Board is not required to use the building for Library business and that the process for designation can be lengthy. Don Menard, Heritage Planner, Planning & Development Department, was on site on August 23rd, as part of the follow up by the City of London.

Communications through the Media

There has been media coverage on television, radio, newspapers and in social media.

Television and Radio Coverage

Below is a list of television and radio media coverage that occurred after the Library Board decision, August 11, 2011.

Aug 11, 2011

/A\ News-Glanworth Library

Uploaded by ANewsLondon on Aug 11, 2011

After being spared from the budget chopping block in the past a new report detailing almost a quarter of a million dollars in required upgrades may soon spell the end of the historic library branch in Glanworth. The library board will discuss the future of the Glanworth branch tomorrow, but our Daryl Newcombe joins us tonight with details from the assessment report. This report suggests it would cost 230-thousand dollars to bring the Glanworth branch up to modern building standards. At the same time, the library board has been told that closing the branch would cost almost nothing. It's that cost-benefit analysis underway that has residents of Glanworth and even a city councilor worried about the 126 year old library branch's future.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hivZKjYumHE>

8/12/2011

News/Talk 1290 CJBK

Board Votes to Close Glanworth Library

Miranda Chant

<http://www.cjbk.com/LocalNews/Story.aspx?ID=1516969>

8/12/2011

AM980 News

London Public Library Board Votes to Close Glanworth Branch

The final chapter has been written in the 126-year history of Glanworth's single-room library branch. Members of the London Public Library Board voted unanimously Thursday night to close the branch before the end of this year. The Glanworth branch currently has just 45 members, operates only 4 hours a week and has an annual budget of \$12,000.

It would cost \$230,000 just to bring the building up to code this year as it is in need of a new septic system, has a cracked foundation, and is not wheel-chair accessible.

The Board will meet again in September to determine how best to dispose of the building's contents and what to do with the building itself.

<http://www.am980.ca/channels/news/local/Story.aspx?id=1516970>

Print Media

All print media from the *London Free Press* and other sources is included in the Appendix 2 of this report, along with "Letters to the Editor". Public comments posted on LFP online, range from specific comments about Glanworth Branch to general comments about closing a library and are also included in Appendix 2.

Social Media

There is discussion and coverage on Facebook and via "Twitter".

Save the Glanworth Community Library Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Save-The-Glanworth-Community-Library/154349237980414>

See Appendix 3 for a print out of postings on this Facebook page up to and including August 24, 2011.

NEXT STEPS

Glanworth will be an agenda item at the August 29th, 2011 meeting of London City Council. Residents have also been encouraged by community members undertaking advocacy for the branch to attend the meeting and to contact City Councillors directly. London Public Library submitted a letter and information package to Council to formally advise Council of the Library Board decision to close the branch and to provide background information including the business case and architectural assessment. See Appendix 4 for the letter sent to Council (Nota bene: the reports were already provided to the Library Board in June and August respectively and are not attached to this report).

The current report will be received by the full Library Board at its meeting of September

22nd, 2011 per “Summer Authority” practice. As well, a further update will be provided at that time. Community members have expressed an interest in speaking with the Library Board and so it is likely that other community residents will also seek delegation status at the September 22nd meeting of the Board.