**Friends of Burgess Park**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**3 February 2014**

**Friends of Burgess Park invite Southwark Council to explore new uses for the Passmore Edwards library and the public baths and wash-house.**

The Grade II listed buildings on Wells Way SE5 are within Burgess Park. Over the last sixty years the park has been developed around the library and bathhouse. Today much of the building is unused and in a poor state of repair.

The Friends of Burgess Park are putting forward a community asset application to formally invite Southwark Council to make a commitment that firstly the building is not sold and secondly not rented on a long lease. This period of grace will enable the local community to develop some alterative ideas, feasibility studies and if necessary legal and financial structures to provide a long-term viable future for the buildings as part of Burgess Park.

An integrated approach across the built and the natural environment would make the most of the location, within a park. These buildings in Burgess Park have that potential, and are thus a key distinctive asset which can make a unique contribution to Burgess Park and to this area of Southwark.

Susan Crisp, Chair of the Friends of Burges Park said “ We want to work with Southwark Council and others to develop a long-term plan for the future of the Passmore Edward library and bath-house buildings to make a vibrant contribution to Burgess Park.”

The building comprise Grade II Listed Building, built as a Public Library, together with a

Public Baths and Washhouse, with extensive basements.

**Current occupants of the building**

Sporting Boxing Club: Lynn AC Boxing club is the oldest amateur club in continuous existence inBritain, which was founded in 1891 and moved into the baths and washhouse building in 1981. LynnAC is open every evening to seniors and juniors, and provides an excellent community service.

Church: The church is run by Pastor Elizabeth Oluwasemo, and caters for a wide age-range of local people. They open every day of the week, and also provide a computer suite with IT training sessions.

Vacant: the library and the extensive basement

For further information, images and interviews, please contact
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