

Report to Rochdale South Township Committee



Date of Meeting	5 th September 2019
Portfolio	Councillor Janet Emsley, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture
Report Author	Fiona Brown
Public/Private Document	Public

Blue Plaque Proposal for the Maskews

Executive Summary

1. This report proposes the installation of a blue plaque to commemorate Annie and Frank Maskew on the doorway of Touchstones, Rochdale. This has been given interim approval by the Chief Executive of Link4Life (Touchstones) and the Council's Conservation Officer.

The plaque will be installed ready to be unveiled on 14th October as part of the launch event of Rochdale Literature & Ideas Festival 2019. It will be funded by the Maskew Bequest.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Township Committee approve the installation of a blue plaque to honour Annie and Frank Maskew.

Reason for Recommendation

3. Interim permission has already been granted from Link4Life and the Council's Conservation Officer. Approval from the Rochdale South Township Committee is now required.

Key Points for Consideration

4. Annie and Frank Maskew met in Rochdale Central Library in 1953 and connected over their shared love of literature and philosophy. Upon her death, Annie left a bequest to Rochdale Library Service to ensure that the books, arts and culture that brought them together would be available for future generations. As a result of this bequest, the Library Service was able to curate a special collection of books called The Maskew Collection, and also establish the popular Rochdale Literature & Ideas Festival.

The plaque will be situated in the doorway of Touchstones, on the opposite side and mirroring the blue plaque already installed there commemorating the Town Hall fire.

It is fit and proper to acknowledge Annie and Frank's contribution to arts, culture and education for the people of Rochdale, and also to acknowledge the difference their kindness and generosity made during their lives and as a

4.1 result of the Maskew Bequest.

Alternatives Considered

There are no alternatives for consideration.

Costs and Budget Summary

5. All costs associated with the installation of the plaque will be covered by the Maskew Bequest.

Risk and Policy Implications

6. There are no further Risk or Policy implications.

Consultation

7. The Council's Conservation Officer, has examined the proposed location for the plaque and given approval and recommendations for its installation.

The Chief Executive of Link4Life has given approval for the installation of the plaque on Touchstones.

Background Papers	Place of Inspection
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8. n/a	n/a
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