**CLEAVER SQUARE, CLEAVER STREET AND BOWDEN STREET RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION**

**AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**Report on 2014 in lieu of AGM**

Chair: Penny Ritchie Calder

Committee members: Karina Buckle, Elizabeth Filkin, Hilary Gal, Edward Hutchison, Michael Jack, K Newman, Simona Springer, Mike Tyler, and new members Carola Breuning and Rod Spence.

**1. Introduction**

An AGM was not held as usual in November because of the unavailability of the Chair and the difficulty in securing a venue. This report has been produced for circulation in lieu of a meeting.

**2. Minutes of the 2013 AGM**

No comments were received on the minutes when they were circulated to residents after the November 2013 meeting. They will be formally approved at the 2015 AGM.

**3. Neighbourhood Watch report**

There were no major incidents or crime trends affecting our area in 2014. The Chairman attended regular panel meetings held by the Princes Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team and reported back any local issues at CSRA committee meetings or in regular email updates.

**4. Chairman’s report and Association finances**

1. **Street cleaning**: Renewed thanks are due to Elizabeth Filkin and Julie Wheelwright for their regular, very determined, liaison with Lambeth Streetcare to get standards of cleaning improved and to deal with local businesses dumping refuse in the street.
2. **Events**: Among the events held at the end of 2013 and during 2014 were: Carols in the Square in December 2013 which raised £700 to support the work of Medecins Sans Frontieres in Syria; a Rake Up Day on 24 April 2014 in conjunction with Lambeth’s Community Freshview initiative, when over 40 residents helped to rake the square, sand benches, clear litter and plant flowers and shrubs; and the Association’s Summer Party on 3 July 2014 (kindly organized by K Newman). The popular Supper Club met at local restaurants regularly during the year, and thanks are due to Vivienne Kay and Karina Buckle for their work in organizing these evenings.
3. **Broadgates Court security:** The Chair continued to put pressure on Lambeth to install security doors to resolve very long-standing problems arising from trespass on the stairwells. Lambeth had obtained estimates and it was hoped that there would be action by spring 2015.
4. **Charlie’s Patch**: Guerrilla gardening continued on this patch in Bowden Street with the help of volunteers. During warm weather watering facilities were kindly supplied by the Camera Club.
5. **Website**: Information on the Association’s website (cleaversquare.org) was regularly updated by the Chair and the site was maintained by Michael Brown.
6. **Local traffic issues**: Along with the Chair of the Heart of Kennington Residents’ Association, the Chair attended a meeting at the Greater London Assembly with TfL and other officials to discuss issues relating to changes to road junctions around the Oval, particularly the proposal to ban left turns from Kennington Road into Kennington Park Road. The subsequent TfL consultation with local residents resulted in a decision (February 2015) to block the Ravendson Street exit to Kennington Park Rd to prevent a rat run. This would be reviewed after 6 months.
7. **Art School**: Several residents attended a meeting at the City & Guilds of London Art School on 9 December to discuss the latest phase of redevelopment which will include a new entrance. This phase will also offer the possibility of working with Lambeth to improve the public realm area outside the school, which forms the main entrance to the square.
8. **Finances**: As at 31.12.14 the Association’s bank account stood at £277.67, with a further £121.67 being held as petty cash making a current balance of £399.34.

Accounts summary 1.1.14-31.12.14:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Balance at 31.12.13  (£869 in bank; £25.47 petty cash) | 894.47 |  |  |
| **Income** | **£** | **Expenses** | **£** |
| Summer party donations | 220.10 | Summer party expenses | 111 |
|  |  | Drains survey by John Baker | 180 |
|  |  | Survey and quote for square drainage (Weatherheads) | 180 |
|  |  | AGM expenses, including refreshments, IT assistance and gift for speaker (surplus wine used at carols event) | 144.50 |
|  |  | Website annual hosting fee  (Yola) | 70.95 |
|  |  | Domain renewal for cleaversquare.org (2 years) | 28.78 |
|  | **1114.57** | Total | **715.23** |
| Current balance at 31.12.14 | 399.34 |  |  |

**5. Drainage in the square**

As a result of professional work and persistence by resident Edward Hutchison, improvements to the drains in the square were finally carried out by Lambeth’s contractors, Conway, in summer 2014. The new pipework appears to have successfully resolved the long-term problem of flooding after rain. Some minor snagging work is still to be completed. The square surface will continue to require regular sweeping and maintenance in order to keep it looking good. In time it may require a new layer of gravel.

**6. Guidelines for builders**

It was agreed at the 2013 AGM that it would be helpful to have a set of guidelines for residents who were planning building work. A draft was circulated and agreed and this is now available on the Association’s website: http://cleaversquare.org/resources/Considerate\_builders\_guidelines/Considerate%20Builder%20Guidelines%201.pdf.

We are grateful to those who provided comments and suggestions.

**7. Update on the ‘Plan of the Square’ project**

Edward Hutchison continued to work on his plan with a view to completion in the first half of 2015. Consideration was being given to how its reproduction could help to raise funds for the Association and for the upkeep of the local area.

**8. Forthcoming events and proposed dates for 2015**

Events for 2015 will include:

* Spring clean/Rake Up/Community Freshview: Sat 18 April 2015
* Summer Party: Thursday 9 July 2015
* AGM: November 2015 (date t.b.c.)
* Carols in the Square: date in December 2015 t.b.c.

**9. Membership of the Committee**

Thanks are due to all members of the committee, including Michael Jack who moved away during this period.

Two new members were appointed: Carola Breuning and Rod Spence. Their appointment will be formally agreed at the 2015 AGM.

**10. Date of next AGM**

November 2015: date to be confirmed.

PRC/31.1.14