

**CLEAVER SQUARE, CLEAVER STREET AND BOWDEN STREET RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7pm on 17 November 2010
at the City and Guilds of London Art School**

1. Introduction and apologies for absence

There were 40 residents present. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Harrison, K Newman, Mike Tyler, David Willis, Melanie Hiorns, David Wilson, Ursula and Rodney Ovenden, Ade and Claire Cordell, and Grant and Freya Monk.

The Chairman, Penny Ritchie Calder, thanked the City and Guilds of London Art School for providing the venue.

2. Minutes and matters arising from the AGM on 25 November 2009

The minutes of the last AGM were approved. It was agreed that matters arising would be dealt with under the relevant items on the agenda.

3. Neighbourhood Watch report

This item was moved up the agenda. The Chairman introduced PC Colin Buchan, the local beat officer, and his colleague PCSO Marcia Reynolds. PC Buchan reported that our area was statistically the safest ward in Lambeth. Nevertheless, there had been a series of robberies locally, particularly around Kennington Park Road. Arrests had recently been made which were likely to reduce the problem. The number of break-ins had remained at the same level, with burglars targeting laptops, cameras and mobile phones. PC Buchan recommended that all such possessions should be security-marked.

PC Buchan also explained that changes were being made to the way in which the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams were organized. Princes, Bishops and Oval Wards would join together in a new 'cluster', based at Kennington Police Station. At the same time changes would be made to the shift systems. The intention was to enable police resources to be used more flexibly. It was hoped that the same team would remain responsible for our area. The meeting thanked PCs Buchan and Reynolds for their continuing work and local liaison.

4. Chairman's report and Association finances

The Chairman welcomed new neighbours to the square.

Report on events: The annual rake-up day in March brought out many volunteers help to spring clean the square. The Summer Party in September had been very successful, with over 60 residents attending. Thanks were due to K Newman, Elizabeth Filkin, Michael Honey and others who kindly helped to organize it. A contribution of wine had been made by the Prince of Wales pub. The monthly supper parties at local restaurants continued to be very popular and Hilary Gal was thanked for her part in organising them. Martin Trott and Rod Spence were shortly to take over as organisers.

Planning and Licensing issues: The Association continued to be informed of local planning applications and licence extensions, and where these were likely to affect the residents as a whole, responses were submitted on their behalf. Recent examples had been the extension of licences for the Tommyfield and Samsun Kebabs.

Traffic/road issues: The Association had been in contact with Transport for London about three local problems: queueing traffic blocking the pedestrian crossings at Kennington Cross, confusion over right turns at the Windmill Row/Milverton Street junction, and misleading No Left Turn signs at Kennington Cross. A response from TfL was awaited.

Finances: The Chairman reported that the current balance stood at £335.36, with outstanding commitments of approximately £50. Expenditure during the year was £174.82 (food, drink and other expenses for summer party and AGM, printing and postage etc.) and income was £166.20 (summer party contributions).

Green issues/Energy Saving Trust: Michael Jack reported that the results of the energy saving audits on seven homes in the area were awaited. In response to a separate query about planning permission for solar panels, Lambeth Council had advised that there was no blanket policy for conservation areas and each request would be reviewed individually.

5. Cleaver Action Plan

The Chairman reported that as agreed at the last AGM, she had drafted the Cleaver Action Plan, detailing proposed improvements to the area (both built environment and maintenance), and had circulated it for comments in December 2009. It was then submitted to Lambeth Council in January 2010. The plan had received whole-hearted support from residents, local businesses, local councilors and the local MP, Kate Hoey. A meeting was held in April with representatives from Lambeth and Councillor Steve Morgan. The plan had come at a time of severe budget restrictions which meant that there was very little likelihood of getting funding at present, but council officers agreed to see if there might be ways of achieving some of our aims by other means. Since the meeting:

- Lambeth's Streetcare Manager has arranged to relocate wheelie bins and has chased up poor street cleaning;
- Lambeth have negotiated with TfL for improvements to the area in front of Broadgates Court where TfL wish to site a new bicycle docking station;
- Councillor Mark Harrison has helped us to negotiate with Lambeth for some Ward Purse money to pay for new removeable bollards to replace the tatty gate at the Art School entrance to the square.
- In response to our requests, Ladbroke's repainted its shop frontage, and the County Court completed its work on repainting the exterior of the building.

Achieving more improvements would take time and effort, but these were positive starts.

6. Membership of the Committee

The Chairman reported that two additional members of the committee were being sought and that anyone interested would be most welcome to put themselves forward.

7. Forthcoming events and proposed dates for 2010/2011

The annual Carols in the Square would take place on 21 December, featuring the Fever Pitch choir. There would be a collection in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Other events for 2011 would include:

Rake up Day: Saturday 26 March 2011

Village fete: date to be confirmed

Summer Party: date to be confirmed

Carols in the Square: date to be confirmed

K Newman suggested that the square would make a good setting for a one-off theatrical production in the summer. It was agreed that this idea would be pursued to see if something along these lines might be possible.

8. Any Other Business

Recommended tradesmen list: The list was currently being updated and suggestions for additional names were welcome (to be sent to pennyrc@btinternet.com).

Traffic wardens: Michael Jack raised the problem of excessive ticketing by traffic wardens, who appeared to have targets to meet. It was agreed that they were often over-zealous, particularly when drivers were making deliveries. The Chairman noted that this issue had also been raised by the Heart of Kennington Residents Association and had been discussed with the relevant council officers. It was hoped that the problem would improve as a result of these discussions.

9. Date of next AGM

To be confirmed.

The Chairman then introduced Doug Black, head of Lambeth Council's Conservation and Urban Design team, who gave a most interesting illustrated talk on conservation areas and Lambeth's approach to conserving listed buildings and the surrounding streetscapes.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm.