

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

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7pm on 23 November 2011
at the City and Guilds of London Art School**

1. Introduction and apologies for absence

There were 41 residents present. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mark Harrison, Stephen Morgan & Lorna Campbell, Michael Jack, Sue Codrington, Nick Bundy, Jessica Pointon, Saxon and Ginny Tate and Tim & Stephanie Sutton.

The Chairman, Penny Ritchie Calder, welcomed new neighbours to the square and thanked the City and Guilds of London Art School for providing the venue.

2. Minutes and matters arising from the AGM on 17 November 2010

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 welcomed PCs Sean Hannon and Gareth Turner from Princes Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team. PC Hannon reported that there had been a rise in burglaries in the area, with laptops and smart phones being particular targets. He recommended that all laptops should be security marked to enable them to be identified in the case of theft. Marker pens were issued at the meeting. He also noted that vehicle crime had increased, and advised that satnavs and satnav holders should always be removed from cars when not in use.

Various residents raised the problem of gangs of older children 'trick or treating' late on Halloween night, including one incident where youths broke a window and made threats. It was agreed that next year signs should be put up welcoming younger trick or treaters into the square, but stating that residents would not open their doors after 8pm. PC Hannon explained that manpower was always stretched on Halloween, but the SNT would make every effort to ensure that a patrol visited the square.

PC Hannon and his colleagues in the SNT were thanked for their continuing hard work.

4. Chairman's report and Association finances

The Chairman welcomed new neighbours to the square and reported with deep regret the deaths over the past year of Dr Antony Peyman, Celia Stothard and Camilla Codrington. They would be much missed.

Report on events: There had been several very successful events in the square in the past 12 months. Carols in the Square in December 2010 raised £605 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Over 20 residents helped at the annual Rake-up day in March. April saw the biggest event of the year: the Royal Wedding Street Party, organized in association with Heart of Kennington (HOK) Residents Association and attended by some 550 residents and friends. Thanks to good weather and the efforts of many volunteers, a wonderful time was had by all and £1500 was raised for local good causes. The party was featured live on ITN News. The Summer Party in September went well, with some 50 residents attending. Particular thanks were due to K Newman and those who kindly helped with the organisation. The monthly Supper club at local restaurants continued to be popular and thanks were given to this year's organisers, Martin Trott and Rod Spence. They would shortly be handing over to Paul, Jenny and Simon of 53 Cleaver Square.

Finances: The Chairman reported that the current balance stood at £418.86, plus an additional £300 profit from the street party which was ring-fenced as seed funding for future events. Full details of the accounts were available on request.

5. Cleaver Action Plan update

The Chairman reported that over the last year more items on our action plan wishlist had been achieved by various means:

- A TFL bicycle docking station had been installed outside Broadgates Court. In response to our request, Lambeth stipulated that TFL should pay for the complete repaving and the installation of new bollards, which had significantly improved the look of the whole area.
- After some experimentation with (all too) removable bollards, a new gate was installed to replace the shabby one at the Art School entrance to the square. Sebastian Mawson was thanked for his work in painting it.

- In September a 'guerrilla gardening' team made up of volunteers from our association and HOK cleared the area of waste ground in Bowden Street at the back of Broadgates Court and planted numerous shrubs and bulbs. More work was planned for the spring.

Particular thanks were due to Lambeth's Highways Manager Steven Wong for his proactive help with these improvements.

In the meantime poor street cleaning continued to be an issue and the Chairman thanked Elizabeth Filkin and Julie Wheelwright for their efforts in chasing this up with Lambeth. More lobbying was also needed to get Lambeth to improve the drainage in the square.

6. Northern Line Extension

The Chairman reported that as part of the proposed extension of the Northern Line from Kennington to Battersea, four potential sites for a temporary shaft in our immediate area were being considered by the developers. One was at the rear of the White Bear pub, which would involve contractor access via the east end of the square and along the lane beside No. 25 Cleaver Square. There had been two public meetings between residents and developers at which objections to this site had been made. The Chair had now submitted a formal paper summarizing objections to the White Bear site and a decision was expected by Christmas. *[Post-meeting note: The White Bear site was deemed to be unsuitable by the developers, and Radcot Street was now the likely location.]*

7. Report on current activities by the Kennington Association Planning Forum

Rodney Ovenden gave a brief overview of KAPF's role in appraising planning proposals for the Kennington area. They were currently involved in considering the major plans for the redevelopment of the area between Nine Elms and Battersea Park, which included a number of high-rise structures proposed for Vauxhall/Nine Elms. There were a number of concerns about the nature of the development and the degree to which it would benefit local people. Changes to the Vauxhall gyratory system were also under consideration.

7. Forthcoming events and proposed dates for 2011/2012

The annual Carols in the Square would take place on 20 December, featuring the Fever Pitch choir. There would be a collection in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust. K Newman announced that in response to popular demand another street party would be held to coincide with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June. To ensure fair distribution of tickets, numbers would be limited to 6 per household with a possible second allocation made once initial orders had been received. Further details would be given out in due course. Other events for 2012 will include (all dates to be confirmed):

Rake up Day: March

Summer Party: September

Carols in the Square: December

9. Membership of the Committee

The Chairman welcomed Karina Buckle to the committee. One or two additional members were being sought; anyone interested should put themselves forward.

10. Any Other Business

Michael Jack has undertaken to update the Recommended Tradesmen list and would be seeking recommendations and new additions in due course.

11. Date of next AGM

November 2012: date to be confirmed.

The Chairman then introduced **Councillor Sally Prentice**, who gave a detailed and very informative talk about the services for which Lambeth are currently responsible and the impact that £94 million worth of cuts are likely to have on the provision of these services. Residents raised various questions, including concerns about reductions in streetcare budgets (the ongoing deterioration of street cleaning in our area, plus an increasing problem of dog mess in the square) and the impending closure of the Cringle Dock waste and recycling facility. It was suggested that the many traffic wardens patrolling the local streets should be given additional responsibilities such as issuing fines to litter offenders.

The meeting finished at 8.25pm.