

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

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7pm on 21 November 2012
at the City and Guilds of London Art School**

1. Introduction and apologies for absence

There were 30 residents present. Apologies for absence were received from Lorna Campbell, Alexandra Dixon, K Newman, Grant and Freya Thomas, Michael and Alison Jack, Nick Bundy and Sue Codrington.

The Chair, Penny Ritchie Calder, thanked the City and Guilds of London Art School for once again providing the venue for the meeting. Deputy Director Magnus von Wistinghausen summarised progress on current and future refurbishment work at the school. Additional studio space in the BT building has enabled the school to accommodate a record 231 students this year. Once work on the Georgian houses has been completed, the next phase of work will involve the creation of a new entrance and other improvements within the site.

2. Minutes and matters arising from the AGM on 23 November 2011

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

Unfortunately because of other commitments elsewhere in the borough no officer from Prince's Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team could come to the meeting. The Chair reported that she had regularly attended community policing meetings over the year at which policing priorities were discussed and agreed. There is a concern that to save money the current successful local SNTs might be replaced by a centralized Met Police system which would dispatch officers to wherever they are needed. Residents will want to raise objections if there is a risk of losing the SNT system which ensures that officers are familiar with the area and build up invaluable knowledge of local issues.

It was noted that there had been little or no trouble on Halloween this year, helped by the display of posters giving trick or treaters a cut-off time of 8pm.

4. Chairman's report and Association finances

The Chair welcomed new neighbours to the square. She noted the sad passing of Sir Saxon Tate who had been an enthusiastic and supportive resident of the square for many years.

- a) **Report on events:** There had been several very successful events in the square in the past 12 months. Carols in the Square in December 2011 raised £829 for the Teenage Cancer Trust in memory of Camilla Codrington. An ambitious Rake Up Day was held on 14 April 2012 in conjunction with Lambeth's Community Freshview initiative, when over 30 residents helped to rake the square, paint bollards and walls, plant flowers and shrubs and recycle junk in two skips provided by Lambeth. Another very successful street party took place on 4 June to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, organized in association with Heart of Kennington Residents' Association and attended by some 550 residents and friends. Proceeds were donated to seven local charities. The start of the 2012 Olympics was heralded by bell-ringing by residents at Kennington Cross on 27 July. The Summer Party in September went well, despite the fact that a number of residents were away. Thanks as always were due to K Newman and those who helped with the organisation. The popular Supper Club met at local restaurants every month during the year, and thanks were given to this year's organisers Paul, Jenny and Simon of 53 Cleaver Square. Vivienne Kay has kindly agreed to take over for 2013. Improvements have continued on Charlie's Patch in Bowden Street, where our guerrilla gardeners planted wooden tubs and added more flowers and shrubs. This work was made possible by using an unexpected windfall of £1,000 received from Mace building contractors in lieu of a fine for contravening working hours regulations.
- b) **Licensing:** The committee continues to keep an eye on local licence applications. The Chair had attended a hearing to help argue successfully against an application for a 4am weekday and weekend licence for a pub/restaurant in Kennington Park Road.
- c) **Broadgates Court:** Efforts continue to be made to persuade Lambeth to install security doors to prevent problems and risks arising from street sleepers, drug dealers and others using the stairwells illegally.
- d) **Boules:** Following concerns about the entire square being taken over at a tournament arranged by the London Boules Association in May 2012, a meeting was held with the organisers to explain Lambeth's policy on events in their public open spaces, and to request informally that any future events be on a smaller scale.
- e) **Snow wardens:** A number of residents have volunteered to be snow wardens under Lambeth's latest community initiative. Training and equipment are being provided.
- f) **Website:** it is hoped that the Association's new website will be launched early in the New Year. Thanks are due to Michael Brown for his help with setting it up.
- g) **Cleaver Street/Bowden Street cleaning:** Despite the best efforts of Elizabeth Filkin, Julie Wheelwright and others, problems still remain with street cleaning and rubbish dumping. The relevant head of department at Lambeth has attended two site inspections and is being chased to try to help resolve the problems.

- h) **Cleaver Square maintenance:** Following CCTV inspections of the drains by Lambeth parks department, tree roots and gravel were removed and the drains lined to try to prevent further flooding. Gulley suckers had been used to try to clear the drains after each major flooding, but with only short term success. Thanks are due to Edward Hutchison, John Rump and Stephen Pardy for their help in trying to identify possible solutions. *Post-meeting note: the blockage now appears to be in a drain just outside the perimeter of the square and is therefore the responsibility of Thames Water, who have undertaken to do a CCTV survey by 22 February.*
- i) **Northern Line extension:** The committee has continued to monitor proposals for this project and members had attended various consultation meetings. Rodney Ovenden (resident and member of the Kennington Association's Planning Forum) gave a brief update on the current consultation process for the NLE and the associated Vauxhall development, and recommended that residents respond to the Vauxhall SPD consultation by the forthcoming deadline. Several residents expressed their concern, should the NLE go ahead, about the likely increase in noise and vibration under homes in the area and potential overcrowding at Kennington station.
- j) **Amendments to the constitution:** The Chair reminded those present of the proposed minor amendments to the Association's constitution (circulated in advance of the meeting) in order to bring the document up to date. All amendments were unanimously agreed.
- k) **Finances:** The Chair reported that the current balance stood at £2114, with around £200 of expenses outstanding. This larger balance was the result of proceeds from the Jubilee street party remaining after charitable donations had been made. It was agreed that in view of local authority budget cuts it would be sensible to build this up as a reserve fund which could be used for works or activities for which no other funding was available.

7. Forthcoming events and proposed dates for 2012/2013

The annual Carols in the Square is on 18 December, featuring the Fever Pitch choir, with a collection in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Other events for 2013 will include (all dates to be confirmed):

- Rake up in square: *now confirmed for Sat 2 March 9.00am*
- Spring clean/Community Freshview: *now confirmed for Sat 20 April 9.00am*
- Summer Party: revert to date in June as many people are away in early September
- Carols in the Square: December

The Chair asked residents to think of ways in which the Association's 50th anniversary could be marked in 2013.

9. Membership of the Committee

The Chair thanked the committee for their work over the last year, including Sarah Marsden who is now standing down ahead of an impending move to the country. She and her family, including former Chairman Jonathan Marsden, will be much missed. Edward Hutchison was voted onto the committee unanimously. It is hoped that Carola Breuning will be able to join in a year's time when she returns to the square after major works to her house.

10. Any Other Business

Archbishop Summer School: Ursula Ovenden encouraged residents to support a campaign to make the local school a two-form entry, using the former Shelley School site on a permanent basis, in order to meet current and future demand for places. Trees: Ian Pettman suggested that information should be gathered on the type and age of the trees in the square. The Chair will find out whether this information is available from Lambeth.

11. Date of next AGM

November 2013: date to be confirmed.

There followed an excellent presentation from **The Reverend Angus Aagard, Jonathan Black** and **Kate Quigley** about the ambitious Pathways project at St Anselm's church. This will see the church premises develop through partnerships as a community hub, featuring a café staffed by ex-offenders re-integrating into society, a community centre for ballet, Cubs, Scouts etc, alongside the existing small business centre (Change Up), Into University scheme and Pelican nursery. The overall aim is to help people who have fewer chances in life, but in a way that benefits the whole community. Planning permission has been obtained for the next phase of work and fundraising is under way. Those at the meeting wished the team every success with the project.

The meeting finished at 8.15pm.