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

**AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7pm on 29 November 2017**

**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: Patrick Tatham, Lynn Hargreaves, Rupert Williams, Mark Wallace, Ade and Clare Cordell, Eva Korzeniowska, Pauline Walsh, Rodney Ovenden, Damian de Conno, Councillors Jo Simpson and David Amos.

The Chair, Penny Ritchie Calder (PRC) welcomed those present, particularly new residents. She thanked the City and Guilds of London Art School for again providing the venue.

**2. Minutes and matters arising from the AGM on 23 November 2016**

The minutes of the last AGM were approved. Matters arising would be dealt with under the relevant items on the agenda.

**3. Neighbourhood Watch report**

Members of the local Safer Neighbourhoods Team gave an update on local policing issues and priorities, including moped crime. They stressed the value of reporting all crime either by phone (999 or 101) or online, to ensure an accurate picture was recorded and appropriate resources allocated. The counter at Kennington Police Station was to be closed; the nearest would now be in Brixton or the Walworth Road.

As well as anti-social behaviour (see 4(d) below), concerns were also expressed about speeding motorcycles and mopeds, particularly along Bowden Street and at the art school end of the square. If possible, registration details should be taken and a report made to the police.

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

The committee had met 3 times and various members had taken responsibility for specific areas of action.

1. **Report on street cleaning**: Renewed thanks were due to Elizabeth Filkin for continuing to liaise with Lambeth Streetcare to get standards of cleaning improved and to deal with local businesses dumping refuse in the street.
2. **Parks department**: Liaison continued, particularly in relation to maintenance and leaf sweeping. Bags had now been provided by the council for residents to use for leaf collection in between visits by streetsweepers.
3. **Planning**: The committee and residents had joined other local lobbying groups to protest about the design of the Kennington Green Northern Line extension headhouse and re-landscaping. Unfortunately the proposals were approved by the council. Our association had been thanked by Marcus Lyons, chair of the Oval and Kennington Residents’ Association for the support given, despite the disappointing outcome. Our committee also provided advice and support to the Walcot Square residents’ association which was objecting to a modern development affecting their conservation area.
4. **Noise in square**: Following concerns from residents about rowdy behaviour late at night the committee has looked at ways of dealing with this:
* Noise problem is seasonal. Many months are quiet, with the main disturbance coming from loud groups passing through the square in the early hours.
* There are predictable nights, mainly after Oval cricket matches, when pub is much busier than usual and noise levels high.
* Some noisy groups are pub customers, but a proportion of ASB caused by groups bringing their own alcohol.

Steps we can take:

* We have had very helpful discussions with the pub to ensure that they do all they can to control the behaviour of their customers.
* Lot of noise caused by groups hiring boules – the pub will now require these to be returned by 9pm.
* Pub will help us to produce signs for the square.
* Residents have had success in confronting noisy groups, who are often unaware of the nuisance they are causing. However it can be intimidating to do this. whole of Lambeth is designated a Controlled Drinking Zone, so police have power to confiscate drink from anyone causing a nuisance in a public open space.  Therefore up to residents to call police to report such behaviour.
* Remind local Safer Neighbourhood police team that we depend on swift reaction to calls made to the police about ASB. We will also continue to request regular police car patrols so that groups find it less amenable to congregate in the square late at night.
1. **Report on events**: There had been several successful events in the past 12 months. Carols in the Square in December 2016 raised £785 for Maggie’s Cancer Care Centres. A Rake Up Day was held on 22 April 2017 in conjunction with Lambeth’s Community Freshview initiative, when some 35 residents helped to rake the square, sand benches, clear litter and tidy up Charlie’s Patch. An autumn clean was also productive and over 200 bulbs were planted on Charlie’s Patch. The Association’s summer party on 22 June 2017 was well attended. Thanks were due to K Newman and those who helped with the organization. The popular Supper Club met at local restaurants several times during the year, and thanks were given to organizer Polly Hutchison.
2. **Website**: It was hoped that the Association’s website (cleaversquare.org), launched in January 2013, could be redesigned in due course. It receives a considerable number of visits each month.
3. **Finances**: The Chair reported that full accounts were available for inspection, and that the current balance stood at £1017.58. Expenditure over the year included the website hosting fee, printing, and the cost of the AGM. The summer party takings were £64 after costs had been deducted. The Association was grateful to Edward Hutchison for his very generous donation of £650 - proceeds from sales of his plan of the square.

**5. Forthcoming events and proposed dates for 2017/18**

The annual Carols in the Square would be on 20 December, featuring the Fever Pitch choir. This year’s charity would be the Kennington Association’s Secret Santa appeal, with contributions potentially also going to other charities. Over £5,000 had so far been raised from these events. Events for 2018 would include:

* Spring clean/Community Freshview: Sat 14 April 2018
* Summer Party: date in June/July t.b.c.
* Carols in the Square: date in December t.b.c.

There was also a discussion about the possibility of a street party to mark the impending wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. The date of the wedding was not yet known.

**6. Membership of the Committee**

The Chair thanked the committee for their work over the last year. All were voted in to serve a further year. The committee therefore now comprised: Damian de Conno, Mark Wallace, Edward Hutchison, Elizabeth Filkin, Hilary Gal, Carola Breuning, Emma Moody, Mike Tyler, Simona Springer, Rod Spence, James Taylor, K Newman, Penny Ritchie Calder (chair).

**7. Any Other Business**

Change Up: Ginny Tate encouraged residents to support this very worthwhile local charity, based at St Anselm’s, which helped young people in new jobs and businesses.

Kennington/Bethlehem links: Miranda Townsend reported on the work being done by St Anselm’s to encourage links with and support for voluntary organisations in Bethlehem.

**8. Date of next AGM**

November 2017: date to be confirmed.

**Magnus von Wistinghausen, Vice Principal of the City and Guilds of London Art School,** then updated the meeting on the school’s current redevelopment proposals – the third and final stage of their long term improvement plans. These involved replacing the existing studios at the back of the school, facing onto the square, increasing the height of the building by one storey. It was hoped the work would be undertaken once funding had been raised, possibly in 2020/21. A formal consultation with residents would follow early in the new year. Following the summary given by MvW, residents emphasized their support for the school as an important and much-appreciated local asset, but raised several concerns about the scheme. These included the height and massing of the proposed design, and the disruption and disturbance to trees and foundations from the possible basement excavation. It was agreed that these concerns would be discussed in more detail at the consultation meeting. *[Post AGM note: consultation meeting subsequently held on 24 January 2018].*

The meeting ended at 8pm.