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

**AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7pm on 18 November 2015**

**at the City and Guilds of London Art School**

**1. Introduction and apologies for absence**

There were 33 residents present. Apologies for absence were received from Elizabeth Filkin, Ian Pettman, Joanne Simpson, David Amos, Pauline Walsh, Nick Bundy, Caroline Thomson, David Wilson, Eva Korzeniowska,

The Chair, Penny Ritchie Calder, thanked the City and Guilds of London Art School for once again providing the venue for the meeting. She welcomed local councillor Vaila McClure and thanked her and her colleagues Jo Simpson and David Amos for all their work on local issues.

**2. Minutes and matters arising from 2013 AGM and report on 2014 (no meeting held)**

The minutes of the 2013 AGM and report on 2014 were approved. It was agreed that matters arising would be dealt with under the relevant items on the agenda.

**3. Neighbourhood Watch report**

PC Gareth Turner kindly provided an update on local policing issues, including statistics on burglaries, thefts from cars and other crimes in the immediate area.

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

The committee had met three times over the year. Committee members had taken responsibility for various matters as they arose. The Association’s main aims continued to be to promote neighbourliness and a sense of community, to help maintain and improve the local surroundings, and to liaise with the appropriate authorities on matters including planning, roads, and licensing.

1. **Street cleaning**: Erratic litter bin collection and poor quality street cleaning remained a problem. Renewed thanks were due to Elizabeth Filkin for continuing to liaise with Lambeth Streetcare and to deal with local businesses dumping refuse in the street. The Kennington Association and local councillors had also been actively trying to address this.
2. **Traffic at Kennington Cross**: The committee had held meetings with Transport for London and other agencies to address concerns. As a result, a yellow box was painted at the junction of Windmill Row and Kennington Road, and pedestrian crossings were marked out at Kennington Cross to help prevent them being blocked by queueing traffic.
3. **Security doors for Broadgates Court**: After many years of lobbying, a secure entry system had finally been installed at Broadgates Court. Residents now felt much safer and there had been no further police or special cleaning callouts. Thanks were due to the local councillors and police for supporting our campaign.
4. **Charlie’s Patch**: regular work continued on our guerrilla garden in Bowden Street. Our neighbouring Heart of Kennington Residents’ Association had recently contributed £100 towards plants.
5. **Drainage in the square**: Thanks to the efforts of resident Edward Hutchison and the support of Michael Penney of Lambeth parks department, the drains in the square had been replaced in the summer by the council at a cost of approximately £30,000. This had resolved the persistent problem of flooding in wet weather. It was hoped that residents would continue to help sweep and maintain the square regularly.
6. **East entrance to the square**: Discussions had been held with the Art School to consider potential improvements to this area. Initial investigations indicated that grants might be available, particularly if the streetscape scheme addressed flood risk issues and contributed to the greening of the space. Residents would be notified of any further developments.
7. **Report on events**:
   * Carols in the Square in December 2014 saw another record turnout. £750 was raised for the Alzheimers Society. The Chair noted that to date over £4000 had been raised for charity by these events, together with over £2000 from street parties in 2011 and 2012.
   * A Rake Up Day/spring clean was held in April in conjunction with Lambeth’s Community Freshview initiative, when some 35 residents helped to rake the square, sand benches, clear litter and plant flowers and shrubs. There was also an autumn rake-up and over 300 bulbs were planted on Charlie’s Patch.
   * The Residents’ Supper Club continued to flourish. Thanks were due to Polly Hutchison for organizing the events, held every three months.
   * The Summer Party, featuring a BBQ and Pimms, was held in July, kindly organized by K Newman.
8. **Foodbank contributions**: The Chair thanked those present for bringing along a large quantity of tins and packets to the AGM. The foodbank had written to the Association to thank residents for their generosity in the previous year.
9. **Harvest for Hope contributions**: Residents had also given generously to an appeal for clothing and other supplies for refugees.
10. **Plan of the square**: Edward Hutchison had now completed his very detailed plan of the square which would be available for sale. It had involved a great deal of research and painstaking drawing, and provided a unique record. After costs were met, any profits would go towards local improvements or to charity.
11. **Website**: The Association’s website (cleaversquare.org) continued to receive a good amount of traffic. Thanks were due to Michael Brown for his expertise and patience. The Chair hoped to find time to update it over the coming year.
12. **Finances**: The Chair reported that full accounts were available for inspection, and that the current balance stood at £369. Takings from the summer party after expenses were deducted totalled £93. Other expenses were £71 for the website hosting fee and £40 for this AGM.

**5. Kennington Oval & Vauxhall Forum**

Rodney Ovenden gave a short talk about the work of the KOV forum, which had been active in reviewing current development plans in the area. The Nine Elms area and other local sites were seeing a substantial increase in the proposed numbers and density of high-rise buildings. It was important that residents’ voices were heard to ensure that developers respected the nature of the local area and the needs of the current and future demographic.

**6. Lambeth Age UK**

Diana Kahn described the work of this organization, which provided advice and assistance to the elderly in the borough. She explained how residents could help by volunteering or making donations.

**7. Forthcoming events**

* Carols in the Square 21 December, with proceeds going to The Dystonia Society
* Rake up day/spring clean 16 April 2016
* Summer party 2016 – date to be confirmed
* Carols in the square 2016 – date to be confirmed
* K Newman reported that she was investigating the possibility of staging a Shakespeare production in the square in June 2016. Residents would be kept informed of progress. It would be an exciting but complex undertaking, with funding the main concern.

**8. Membership of the Committee**

The Chair thanked the committee for their work over the last year. As no AGM was held in 2014, retrospective approval was needed for three new members, Mark Wallace, Carola Breuning and Rod Spence, who joined that year. Approval was also needed for two new members from 2015, Emma Moody and James Taylor. These appointments were agreed unanimously. All existing members (Elizabeth Filkin, Mike Tyler, K Newman, Simona Springer, Hilary Gal, Edward Hutchison and Penny Ritchie Calder (Chair)) were voted in to serve a further year.

**10. Any Other Business** - none

**11. Date of next AGM**

November 2013: date to be confirmed.

The meeting finished at 8.00pm.