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

**AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7pm on 20 November 2019**

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

**1. Introduction and apologies for absence**

There were 28 residents present. Apologies for absence were received from: Hilary Gal, Ursula and Rodney Ovenden, Ben Summerskill, Ben Barfield-Marks and Beatrice Perry, Emma and Richard Moody, Sue Codrington, Councillors Jo Simpson, Jon Davies and David Amos.

The Chair, Penny Ritchie Calder, welcomed those present. She thanked the City and Guilds of London Art School for providing the venue.

**2. Minutes and matters arising from the AGM on 28 November 2018**

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**

PC Callum Jones from the Princes Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team gave an update on local policing. They would continue to follow up reports of drug exchanges witnessed in the square and in Cleaver Street/Bowden Street. Action was still awaited from TfL on the installation of signage to prohibit motorcycles and scooters from by-passing the no entry gate by the Art School.

**4. Prince of Wales pub**

Luke Morrissey, landlord, and owner Paul talked through plans for the pub having taken on the tenancy in the summer. As they wished to expand the food offer, they planned to open up the first floor to create a 30-seat restaurant, with soundproofing for neighbours on either side. Conversion work would take place in January. Residents reminded them of the density of residential housing around the pub, and the need to be aware of late-night noise and Ubers/taxis collecting customers. Luke and Paul said their aim was to mitigate all disturbance. The kitchen would close at 9.30pm every evening. Frequent problems drinkers had been barred. Regular patrols were undertaken to clear up plastic glasses and litter left by customers. Rubbish collections would be made three times a week by smaller lorries during normal working hours. The suggestion was made that the first floor could potentially be used as a meeting room for local organisations, including the residents’ association, on certain occasions.

**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**: Problems still remained with litter and dumping resulting from reduced street cleaning 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 were still being provided by the council for residents to use for leaf collection in between visits by streetsweepers. 60 bags had been filled to date. The wish list given to the department, including replacement of gravel, replacement of cherry tree, and repairs to railings, had not yet been actioned.
3. **Art School redevelopment plans**: Planning permission had been granted in October 2019 (lasting for 3 years). There were still some issues to address including site access/traffic and site hoardings, but residents were grateful that their views on the design had been taken into consideration and had resulted in improvements to the visual impact of the scheme.
4. **Other planning matters**: The Graphite Square development had been agreed on appeal, despite many objections. A consultation was out for the petrol station site on Kennington Lane. Residents were reminded about the need to comment on the tall blocks planned adjacent to the cinema museum site.
5. **Kennington Cross road safety:** Committee members and local councillors had continued to liaise with TfL about improvements to safety measures for pedestrians and cyclists. Experiments on traffic signalling were ongoing. Residents also raised concerns about the very poor air quality caused by heavily backed-up traffic on Kennington Lane, particularly for young children getting to and from local nurseries and schools.
6. **Building work:** Residents agreed that it was essential that those having building work done liaised with neighbours to try to reduce any disturbance which might arise. The association had issued guidelines to be followed. KN recommended that no work should be permitted on Saturdays.
7. **Report on events**:
* Carols in the Square in December 2018 raised £931, shared between the Kennington Association’s Secret Santa and Vauxhall Foodbank. It was agreed that we should continue to support local charities helping people in need.
* A Rake Up Day was held in April in conjunction with Lambeth’s Community Freshview initiative, when some 30 residents helped to rake the square, clear litter and tidy up Charlie’s Patch.
* The Association’s summer party on 4 July was well attended. Thanks were due to K Newman and those who helped with the organization.
* A farewell party was hosted by Edward and Polly Hutchison for Eva, Andrei and Anya, on their department from the Prince of Wales in the summer.
* An autumn rakeup/clean up was also productive and over 200 bulbs were planted on Charlie’s Patch. The chair had met with Lambeth council to discuss the possibility of works to the patch to create flowerbeds instead of tubs to aid watering and drainage. The outcome was awaited.
* The popular Supper Club met at local restaurants several times during the year, and thanks were given to organizer Polly Hutchison. She hoped that a volunteer would come forward to take over her role now that she had done it for over two years. The next visit would be to the Prince of Wales pub.
1. **Finances**: The Chair reported that full accounts were available for inspection, and that the current balance stood at £1342. The summer party takings were £48 after costs had been deducted. The Association was grateful to Edward Hutchison for his further generous donation of £150 - proceeds from another sale of his plan of the square. Expenses included a new planter for outside Broadgates Court, bulbs and plants, the website hosting fee, and an Izettle cashless payment device for use at the carols and other forthcoming events.

**5. Forthcoming events and proposed dates for 2019/20**

The annual Carols in the Square would be on 19 December, featuring the Fever Pitch choir. This year’s charities would again be the Kennington Association’s Secret Santa appeal and the Vauxhall Foodbank. It was hoped the new Izettle device would encourage more donations. Over £7,000 had so far been raised from these events. Events for 2020 would include:

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

**6. Membership of the Committee**

PRC thanked the committee for their work over the last year. Elizabeth Filkin had left the committee because of other commitments. Residents were grateful for all her work. All other members were voted in to serve a further year. Michael Honey was elected to replace Elizabeth Filkin. The committee therefore comprised: Mark Wallace, Edward Hutchison, Michael Honey, Hilary Gal, Carola Breuning, Emma Moody, Mike Tyler, Simona Springer, Rod Spence, James Taylor, K Newman, Penny Ritchie Calder (chair).

PRC reminded the meeting that she had now been Chair for 11 years and suggested it was time for a change and fresh ideas. She asked anyone who might be interested in taking over to get in touch. In the meantime the meeting agreed that she should remain as Chair.

**7. Any Other Business**

* K Newman spoke of her work for the charity Floral Angels, based at Nine Elms Flower Market, which created displays for hospices and care homes from flowers left over from corporate events. Clean empty tins to be used as vases could be left down her basement steps.
* U Ovenden had raised a suggestion of window advent displays which she had seen done very well in a street in Bristol.
* R Ovenden suggested that we should revisit energy saving initiatives. Former surveys had shown that it was difficult to do more in listed buildings like some of ours than basic things like insulation but other ideas could be shared.
* Following a request from a resident that local estate agents should stop leafletting to reduce paper waste, Daniel Cobb had already taken action. However, it was thought other agencies were required to send round leaflets as part of targets set by head office.
* The proposal for ‘Happy to Chat’ signs on certain benches in the square was agreed.

**8. Date of next AGM –** November 2020: date to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 8.05pm.