CLEAVER SQUARE )

CLEAVER STREET ) RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION & NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AGM

BOWDEN STREET )

Monday 27th November 2023, 7pm at the Dog House pub

Those present included: Penny Ritchie Calder (acting chair), Ursula and Rodney Ovenden, Owen Meredith, David Willis, Paul Graville, Mike Tyler, K Newman, Claire and Stephen Pardy, Sarah Waters, Janet Unwin, Victoria and Adrian Bartlett, Ginny Tate, Hannah Boothman, Miles Ridley, Simona Springer, Edward and Polly Hutchison.

1. Acting chair Penny Ritchie Calder welcomed everyone and

thanked The Dog House pub for hosting the event and Owen Meredith

for his help in organising the venue.

2. Apologies for absence were received from: Hilary Gal, Sue Codrington,

Maggie Willis, Elizabeth Filkin, Mark Wallac, Ade and Claire Cordell, Patrick Tatham, Emma and Richard Moody, Fan Eustace, Luke Morrissey, Freya and Grant Thomas, Caroline Thompson and Roger Liddle, Miranda Townsend.

3. Neighbourhood Watch report

Unfortunately there has been no response from our local police officers

although they have been informed of the date and place of our AGM.

The police have stressed that the public should be made particularly aware of the following three crime hazards:

Bag thefts from local bars and restaurants

Don’t leave Christmas presents in your car, or in the house in full view to passers by.

Try not to use your mobile phone in the street, where grab-thefts have increased.

4. Chair’s review of the past year

Litter and leaf sweeping and rubbish collection

Thanks to Elizabeth Filkin, particularly for reporting fly-tipping

Many thanks to all residents for raking up leaves

A request was made for a volunteer to help to keep the drains clear

Noise in the square / anti-social behaviour

Luke from the Prince of Wales pub was unable to come to the AGM but is aware of our concerns.

He has suggested that he could meet with residents early next year to discuss

ways of improving behaviour in the square.

Kennington Cross road safety

No discernible improvement on confidence in crossing the road after works on the

traffic lights.

Barrier ban on scooters/motorcycles in the square

There are signs forbidding them in the square. Edward Hutchison has talked to local

food suppliers, informing them their delivery bikes’ numbers will be noted if they ignore this warning and they may lose their driving licence.

Planning

The Old Town Hall has applied for a change of use to become a Private Members’ Club.

The owner of the vacant lot at the end of the square had his submission turned down by the planning department and is appealing against this decision.

The County Court, owned by the Duchy of Cornwall, had its application for 9 luxury

flats rejected. They have re-submitted a planning application. A letter has been

sent to the Princess of Wales on behalf of the residents by Sue Codrington, suggesting that some of the space should be given over to an early learning centre

for local children.

Carols in the Square last Christmas raised a total of £1,500 for local charities.

Many thanks to all those who helped at the event.

5. Association’s finances

Owen Meredith (treasurer) reported that the finances were on an even keel, with modest expenditure this year on events and website hosting. There is £1,500 ring-fenced for tree-planting, but Lambeth have not yet requested reimbursement.

Proceeds have been raised from sales of the Cleaver Square plan (thanks to Edward Hutchison), and money from these sales has been spent making and fixing crow-lids to the litter bins, which everyone deemed a success.

6. Former resident Ian Pettman’s legacy of £18,000

Before his death in 2017, Ian had suggested a long-term memorial, perhaps a sundial, in the square but after much discussion it has been decided that a project reflecting his interests as an historian and bibliophile might be more appropriate. The present noticeboard which is showing signs of age will be replaced by a metal board, mentioning Ian’s name as donor, and a book of 180-200 pages recounting the history of the square is to be commissioned.

7. Forthcoming events

A meeting of the supper club will take place on 30th November.

Carols in the Square, Tuesday 19th December

Please could members volunteer to help at this event, collecting money, offering

mince pies, etc. Money raised will be donated to local charities as usual, eg Secret Santa.Please could everyone bring cash/change with them!

Events for 2024 include Rake Up Day, our Summer Party and Carols in the Square again.

8. Membership of the Committee

Michael Honey is retiring after several years on the committee as secretary. Polly

Hutchison has offered to take his place, and she and Paul Graville were formally elected on to the committee.

9. Any Other Business

Claire Pardy suggested we could hold the occasional spontaneous sale in the Square for bric a brac, books etc, and money raised could be donated to local charities.

K Newman made and presented a magnificent chocolate Birthday Cake to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Cleaver Square Residents’ Association –

slices of the cake were much enjoyed by all.

10. Aileen Reid, an architectural historian, has agreed to undertake the research and writing of the Pettman legacy history of Cleaver Square. She gave a presentation illustrating previous projects in which she has been involved and showed much

enthusiasm for starting work on our book.

PH/30.11.2023