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

**AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 27 November 2024 at 7pm**

**at the Camera Club, Bowden Street**

**1. Introduction and apologies for absence**

There were 20 residents present. Apologies for absence were received from: Mark Wallace, Polly Hutchison, Rodney and Ursula Ovenden, Owen Meredith, Ben Summerskill, Caroline Thompson, Roger Liddle, K Newman.

The Chair, Penny Ritchie Calder, welcomed those present and thanked the Camera Club for providing the venue. She noted the sad passing in 2024 of two much-loved residents: Susan Watt and Adrian Bartlett.

**2. Minutes and matters arising from the AGM on 27 November 2023**

The minutes of the last AGM were approved. Matters arising dealt with under relevant agenda item.

**3. Neighbourhood Watch report**

No police representative was able to be present. Sue Codrington and the chair had attended 3 Safer Neighbourhood Team meetings during the year. Two current issues were the theft of parcels from doorsteps, and mobile phone thefts. Police had issued prevention advice.

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

The committee had met twice this year.

1. **Report on street cleaning**: Still a problem. Thanks due to Elizabeth Filkin for continuing to liaise with Lambeth Streetcare to get bins emptied.
2. **Noise in square**: The committee continued to liaise with the Prince of Wales pub to mitigate noise from groups using the square.
3. **Kennington Cross road safety:** The improvements carried out the previous year had not resolved the problem of pedestrian safety. Liaison with the council and TFL would continue.
4. **Barrier ban on scooters/motorcyclists:** TFL/Lambeth were still to put signs up at a lower level. It was felt that the problem had reduced over the last months.
5. **Bowden Street parking changes:** A useful on-site meeting with Lambeth’s parking team had resulted in a change to their proposals. This may take a year to implement.
6. **Kerbs into square for wheelchairs:** A request had been submitted to Lambeth improve the smoothness of the kerbs into the square. Action awaited.
7. **Planning** : There was still no update on the application for the development of Lambeth County Court. Lambeth appeared to be aware of the sensitivities, now that the building was listed. Other planning matters coming up included the proposed development at 409 Kennington Road, where the association was likely to support HOK residents’ association in its objections.
8. **Report on events**:
* Carols in the Square in December 2023 was very well attended and raised £2,200 for the Kennington Association’s Secret Santa. Over £17,000 had been raised for charity since the carols started in 2009. Thanks were due to all the helpers.
* The annual spring rake up took place on 13 April 2024, along with a plant swap.
* A book swap was held on 8 June 2024. Around £250 was raised for the local foodbank.
* The summer party was held on 12 September. It was agreed that next year it should be held in July.
* The Supper Club had continued to meet. Renewed thanks were due to Polly Hutchinson for coordinating this.
1. **Finances**: Treasurer Owen Meredith could not be present but the Chair presented his accounts. Included in the total CSRA holdings were two ring-fenced sums: £18,000 from the Ian Pettman legacy, and £3,900 from Lambeth council for the Charlie’s Patch project. £524 was also held as ‘funding for trees’. As background, £1,524 was raised by residents to fund two new trees in the square planted by Lambeth Council. However the council has not requested reimbursement, instead funding them from their resources. The committee therefore agreed that £1,000 would go towards Charlie’s Patch, and the remainder held for a commemorative plaque and/or other works. Our bank account is a fee-free community account with Lloyds which doesn’t bear interest. The treasurer had explored options but they had proved too complex. Lloyds had recently offered a linked savings account (though only 1% AER) which does not require a new mandate, so he had now opened a link account with the same signatories and authorization process for transactions. It was noted that our available balance was now only £189, so we would need to find ways of raising money eg. by charging for drinks at forthcoming CSRA events.

**4. Ian Pettman Legacy**

Edward Hutchison briefed the meeting on latest developments on the proposed history of the square, and new signboard. An historian, Aileen Reid, had been appointed to research and write the book. Investigations were also taking place into a linked ‘memory mapping’ proposal which could potentially go on the CSRA website. Plans for the design of the signboard were ongoing.

**5. Charlie’s Patch update**

The chair reported that all funding was now in place for the project to relandscape the community garden, including a £3,900 grant from Lambeth council through its Social Value Fund. A design and planting plan had been drawn up and consultations had taken place with residents. Their ideas had been incorporated into the scheme. Work was due to start in December, and planting would begin in January. Thanks were due to all those who had given their time to the project.

**6. Forthcoming events and proposed events for 2025**

* Carols in the Square to take place 19 December 2024. It was agreed that donations would go to KA Secret Santa, and that as in the past years an online appeal would also go alongside.
* Spring clean/Community Freshview: April date t.b.c.
* Summer Party: date in July t.b.c.
* Carols in the Square: date in December t.b.c.

**6. Membership of the Committee**

PRC thanked members for their work over the last year. She summarized their responsibilities. All current members were endorsed by the meeting. The committee therefore comprised: Ursula Ovenden, Paul Graville, Mark Wallace, Polly Hutchison, Edward Hutchison, Hilary Gal, Owen Meredith, Sue Codrington, Mike Tyler, Simona Springer, K Newman, Penny Ritchie Calder (chair).

**7. Any Other Business**

* MH suggested that designated parking spots should be found for electric hire bikes which cluttered up the streets and square. It was noted that Lambeth were currently looking at spaces in the area, most of which were unsuitable. A site next to the Santander docking station was thought to be more appropriate.

**8. Date of next AGM –** November 2025: date to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 8.00pm.