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

**AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7pm on 28 November 2018**

**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: Patrick Tatham, Victoria and Adrian Bartlett, Elizabeth Filkin, Mark Wallace, Simona Springer, Rodney Ovenden, Damian de Conno, Councillors Jon Davies and David Amos.

The Chair, Penny Ritchie Calder (PRC)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 29 November 2017**

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**

As members of the local Safer Neighbourhoods Team had been called away elsewhere, PRC gave an update on local policing issues and priorities, as discussed at the quarterly police panel meetings. Anti-social behaviour in the square, particularly by one group, had resulted in a Community Protection Notice being served. The police had also been advised about drug exchanges witnessed in the square and in Cleaver Street/Bowden Street. Action was 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. 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. A wish list had been given to the department including: replacement of gravel; replacement of cherry tree; repairs to railings.
3. **Planning**: The committee and residents had joined other local lobbying groups to protest about the Oval development by Berkeley Homes but Lambeth had approved the planning application. Councillor Jo Simpson explained some of the background to this and other current planning matters.
4. **Noise in square - notices**: Thanks were due to Alan Kitching, Edward Hutchison and K Newman for coordinating and producing new signs to encourage quieter behaviour in the square.
5. **Report on events**: Carols in the Square in December 2017 raised nearly £1000 which was divided between the Kennington Association’s Secret Santa Appeal, Vauxhall Foodbank and Water Aid. A Rake Up Day was held on 14 April 2018 in conjunction with Lambeth’s Community Freshview initiative, when some 30 residents helped to rake the square, sand benches, clear litter and tidy up Charlie’s Patch. An autumn clean up was also productive and over 200 bulbs were planted on Charlie’s Patch. K Newman organized a visit to the Beefeater Gin Distillery for residents on 28 April. The Association joined forces with the Heart of Kennington Residents’ Association to hold a Royal Wedding Street Picnic to celebrate Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s wedding on 19 May. The Association’s summer party on 5 July 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.
6. **Finances**: The Chair reported that full accounts were available for inspection, and that the current balance stood at £1296.81. Expenditure over the year included a replacement folding table and bulbs for Charlie’s Patch. The summer party takings were £68 after costs had been deducted. The Association was grateful to Edward Hutchison for his generous donation of £150 - proceeds from a further sale of his plan of the square. £200 had also been received from a TV company filming in the County Court in November 2018 as a donation to compensate for inconvenience.

**5. Forthcoming events and proposed dates for 2018/19**

The annual Carols in the Square would be on 19 December, featuring the Fever Pitch choir. This year’s charity would be the Kennington Association’s Secret Santa appeal and the Vauxhall Foodbank. Over £6,000 had so far been raised from these events. Events for 2019 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. Damian de Conno had given notice of his intention to stand down as work travel commitments prevented him from playing a full role. All other members were voted in to serve a further year. The committee therefore now comprised: 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).

PRC noted that she had current held the position of Chair for ten years, and wondered if 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**

A resident raised the problem of broken glass in the square which posed a risk for children. The pub provided plastic glasses and usually cleared up any of their broken glasses or bottles, but other square users were not so careful. It was agreed that the committee should look at whether any equipment or containers were needed to allow broken glass to be picked up safely.

**8. Date of next AGM -** November 2018: date to be confirmed.

**9. Change Up charity**

An inspiring talk about the work of this local charity was given by its director, Sasha Gay Smith. Residents were told how they could support the charity which offered help, work experience and mentoring for those from disadvantaged backgrounds andex-offenders. Leaflets with further information and ‘100 Club’ donation forms would be distributed over the following week. http://www.change-up-kc.co.uk/

**10. City and Guilds of London Art School redevelopment**

PRC updated the meeting on the art school’s plans and showed slides of the new proposals. There had been a useful dialogue over the year and the opinions and concerns put forward by residents had been fully taken on board by the art school and its architects. At a recent meeting a smaller group of interested residents had been shown a model (on view at the AGM) and new drawings which allayed most concerns. The revised proposals were of a scale and design more in keeping with the square, and more visually attractive. Additional CGIs were awaited. The committee felt that it was now possible for the association to give its support to the proposals. When statutory planning notices went out in January/February 2019, the association would submit an agreed response but residents were free to submit their own individual views and suggestions. Work was not expected to begin before 2020 as around £5million needed to be raised. As previously agreed, the public realm outside the school entrance would also form part of the scheme.

**11. Councillor Jo Simpson**

Councillor Simpson gave a brief account of current local authority planning issues and policies. There was a discussion about how much influence residents could have on the planning process, and ways in which their views could be taken into account. Although recent experiences had been disappointing (Oval development and Kennington Green), the success of campaigners against the Graphite Square development showed that the council did respond to residents’ opinions. Links to more information about the planning process would be circulated after the meeting. PRC thanked Councillor Simpson and her two fellow councillors for the work they did on behalf of Princes Ward residents.

The meeting ended at 8.05pm.