

CHERRY TREES RESIDENTS' AMENITIES ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Cherry Trees Residents' Association held on 20th November, 2006 at St. Mary Abbots Hall, Vicarage Gate

Present:

Willoughby Wynne (Chairman)	Myrto Rochat (MR)
Ashley McNeile (AM)	Edward Buxton (EB)
Mimi Carney (MC)	Mary Marshall (MM)
Stewart Robertson (TR)	Jennifer Crompton (JC)
Brett Burkhart (BB)	Charles Penney (CP)
Huw Thomas (HT)	Thomas Blomberg (TB)
Fiona Simmons (FS)	Charles Shaw (CS)

1. Apologies and Minutes

WW welcomed all those in attendance. Apologies were received from Peggy Richards, John Horsley, Jan-Otto Van Boetzelaer and Nigel Massey.

John Langley proposed the minutes of the 2005 AGM; John Baskett seconded them. WW declared the minutes passed.

2. Accounts

EB noted that the CTRAA enjoyed an increase in income as a result of increased subscriptions. General Expenditure was reduced as a result of there being only one newsletter produced in 2006 and because the CTRAA no longer pays for planning application information (it is now available on the internet). Donations to the street cleaner increased as a gift was given to Robert Maxwell (our street sweeper for many years) to mark his retirement. WW reported that balances are healthy.

Stewart Robertson proposed the accounts for the year ended 31st October 2006; John French seconded them. WW declared the accounts passed.

3. Nomination of Huw Thomas, Esq. as CTRAA Honorary President

WW introduced HT and noted his many achievements, first among them being one of the three founders of the CTRAA (along side George Prentice and Charles Shaw) in 1967. WW stated that HT had done more than anyone to further the interests of the CTRAA over the past 40 years.

HT noted that he was exceptionally honoured to be the CTRAA's founder president. He went on to reminisce that 40 years ago the problems in the CTRAA area were: "ladies of the night," concrete street lamps; and residents' alterations to the façade of the houses. HT expressed his gratitude for the assistance of the RBK&C, our Council representatives, and Council employees, as well as the enthusiasm and accomplishments of past CTRAA chairmen – and none more so than our current Chairman, WW. He also noted the important contributions of the Committee members over the years, singling out Ida Fenton and Elsa Park for special mention.

HT then went on to recount the many achievements of the CTAA over the past 40 years:

- a) No buses on PGT.
- b) No entry at North end of PGT.
- c) No more "beauties for hire."
- d) No rat run down Brunswick Gardens into Kensington Church Street.
- e) Pretty street lamps.
- f) More zebra crossings.
- g) Curb on estate agent boards.
- h) Replacement of dangerous paving stones.
- i) Additional signage for dog dirt.
- j) Monitoring the pruning of the cherry trees.
- k) Creation of a cycle lane on Brunswick Gardens.
- l) Ensuring post boxes have updated disks for collection.
- m) An average of three Garden Parties per year, designed to foster the community spirit in our area.

HT then addressed the issues confronting the CTAA for the next five years:

- a) Security and crime
- b) Parking
- c) Congestion and congestion charging
- d) Rubbish disposal
- e) Water
- f) Foreigners
- g) Helicopter noise
- h) Pavements
- i) Vicarage Gate House

HT stated that these issues will require an energetic Committee and active, watchful residents.

4. Composition of the Committee

WW outlined the current Committee membership and their roles/portfolios. He also noted that Suzanne and Carl Bolinder had resigned from the Committee. WW then proposed six new members: Jennifer Crompton, Mary Marshall, Charles Shaw, Charles Penney, Nigel Massey and Jan van Boetzeler.

Terry Mowschenson proposed that the current members be re-elected; Maureen Tracey seconded. WW declared the current members duly re-elected.

Terry Mowschenson proposed that the six new members be elected; Maureen Tracey seconded. WW declared the new members duly elected.

5. Neighbourhood Watch

Sgt. Annalise Andrews discussed the Local Safer Neighbourhood Scheme, which has a dedicated group of individuals meeting every two months to discuss safety in our area and set priorities for coverage. Ashley McNeil is a member of this team. Currently, the

largest problems in the CTRAA are: theft from motor vehicles, burglary, ASBOs (near Holland Park School) and dog fouling. AM noted the benefits of the Ringmaster scheme (updates on local criminal activity sent to your home by phone or by email) and encouraged those present to register using the leaflets he provided.

6. Crown Protection Service

Tuggy Meyer thanked all those who had contributed to the voluntary CPS scheme, noting that CPS was now supported by 25 flats, 75 houses and 3 local businesses (Winkworths, Lane Fox and Knight Frank). He noted that the guard will help anyone in genuine need – and is on call for assistance by CPS members. The aim is to provide longer hours of coverage by increasing the number of contributors, especially among flat-dwellers.

Ann Joseph reported three initiatives aimed at improving the service: (1) Fund raising; (2) the installation of a new checkpoint system; and (3) an additional guard. As a result of these, the CPS now operates from 6:30am – 6:30pm, 7 days a week; and 2 days per week on a random basis. Charles Shaw asked what would be needed to get to 24 hours per day coverage. TM responded they would have to nearly double the level of contributions/participation.

7. Environment

WW reported that the replanting of cherry trees was being done on a regular basis; that dog mess was as bad as ever; and that pavements on PGT had recently been redone. IH noted that she could be called by residents should they spot a pavement in disrepair. Regarding estate agent boards, BB reported that the application to ban them had been made to the Council which then forwarded the request to the Communities and Local Government Committee – which was currently reviewing it.

8. Traffic, Parking and Congestion Charge

BB noted that the Committee had considered the issue of imposing a 20 mph speed zone (and its associated signage) in the CTRAA area – and had decided to put the issue to a membership vote. She welcomed any comments from those present. Julian Spencer-Stewart noted that a 20 mph limit was unenforceable. Christopher Buckmaster (CB) noted that another method of traffic slowing, speed bumps, had been determined by the RBK&C to be unsightly and an obstacle for the emergency services. He also noted that a strict limit was unenforceable. BB then called for a vote to be taken: should a 20mph zone be created? WW noted the members voted overwhelming against the proposal. Sgt. Andrews noted that a speed gun had been delivered to her team just last week and WW suggested she put it use in the CTRAA area in the very near term.

A resident then spoke about the difficulty of residents' parking and his concern that parking would get worse in the southern portion of the CTRAA (near Ken. High Street) when the congestion charge zone is extended. He proposed that a guest pass scheme be implemented on weekends. BB reported that the Council will be canvassing residents in February about extended parking restrictions on weekends, but that a guest pass scheme had been declared unworkable. CB cited the difficulty of enforcement and the likelihood of fraud as the rationale behind RBK&C's pronouncement on the guest pass scheme.

9. Planning Issues

- **Vicarage Gate**

HT reported that the home has been closed for five years and lamented Northacre's insistence at continuing to appeal the decisions handed down by the Council and the courts. CB noted that matter was now in the hands of the High Court and that the Council was still optimistic of winning. The next hearing is expected in January or February.

- **Holland Park Comprehensive School**

CB reported that the application had been submitted to the Council's Planning Committee and was now subject to a period of objection. If the Planning Committee approves the application, the plans would go out to a formal tender to see how much the project would cost. At that point, if the cost is deemed "too high," the project will be rejected. *David White* as Chairman of the Camper Hill Residents' Association, noted that their group was against the decision to sell off the southern portion of the school's land for additional housing – which would only add to the present congestion problem. In addition the height of the building was undesirable ("a school above the trees, instead of among the trees") in a conservation area. The CHRA had hired an architect to provide plans to address the school's present needs at a lower cost, as well as writing Council members letters of protest.

- **Planning Applications**

MR reported that the CTRAA had a limited mandate to review only alterations that are visible from the street. The CTRAA has taken a consistent approach Not to review plans to back gardens.

- **Nottinghill Housing Improvement Group**

John Scott reported on the NHIG's efforts to preserve local independent shops and limit the "cloning" of the neighbourhood with chain stores. He mentioned that Kensington Church Street had far too many estate agents; the Farmer's Market might be moved; that the tenants of the Coronet Cinema were not restoring the building as mandated by their lease; and the work being done by Delancey and Land Securities in the area. He noted that RBK&C had dedicated £100,000 to preserving the area's local character (working with Terrence Conran) and that efforts must be made to curb the ability to so easily change a building's "use class" and that change of use applications must be judged on the basis of providing diversity, character and amenities.

10. Newsletter

TB reported that the latest issue was delayed. WW said the newsletter was always very good and very well received (many members present nodded in agreement).

11. Dates of 2007 Garden Parties

- Spring Party in Inverness Gardens; Wednesday, 16 May at 6:30pm.
- Midsummer Party in St Mary Abbots Vicarage, 26 June at 6:30pm.
- Autumn Party in Inverness Gardens; Sunday, 16 September at midday.

12. AOB

There being no other business, WW declared the AGM concluded and thanked all members in attendance. The meeting finished at 9:30 pm.