



CHERRY TREES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2018 at 8P.M.

at St. Mary Abbots Church Hall, Vicarage Gate, London W8

Committee Members Present: Charles Penney, Chairman (CP), Ashley McNeile, Treasurer (AM), Thomas Blomberg (TB), Frances Manthos (FM), Rae Than (RT), Bruce Fair (BF), Caroline Cuffe (CC), Brett Burkhart (BB), Ryan Mullins (RM)

1. Apologies and Opening Remarks

The Chairman (CP) welcomed all members and opened the meeting at 8.05pm. CP offered a special welcome to MP Emma Dent Coad, Councillors Catherine Faulks, Robert Freeman and Ian Wason from Campden Ward and Councillor Sina Lari from Golborne Ward, who was accompanying our MP.

PC Gurjit Rehill was unable to attend. Apologies were received from the following Committee members: Myrto Roachat (MR), Mimi Carney (MC), Monique Bahadur (MB) and Romanos Brihi (RB) and from prospective Committee member Peter Hoffmann-Fischer (PHF).

46 CTRAA members attended the meeting.

2. Minutes of Last AGM on 14/11/17

CP presented draft Minutes of the 2017 AGM held on Tuesday 14 November, 2017. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Sponsorships During Year

CP thanked John D Wood for sponsoring the wine at the AGM. Matthew Harrop and Ben Ross from John D Wood were in attendance. Through the year Huntsworth Wines has kindly subsidised the wine by supplying it at cost. At the Autumn drinks party, Ole & Steen provided the delicious food at a subsidised rate. CP thanked both Strutt & Parker and Knight Frank for sponsoring parties earlier this year.

4. Accounts for Year Ended 31/10/18

AM presented the accounts which were distributed at the meeting. This year showed a loss of £746. This was mostly made up by one-off costs. The Summer party cost was higher than usual at £2,464 due partly to the amount of wine consumed; the Committee felt that the quality of food was higher than in previous years. The party was generously sponsored. It was necessary to pay for hiring the church hall for the Autumn party due to inclement weather. Ongoing costs include: running a discount scheme which requires printing membership cards annually. A number of cards and notices about our activities were printed. AM will look at

reducing costs on stationery and printing; instead, we might be able to communicate more by email. Sponsorship was about the same as last year, approx. £2,300 (plus directly-paid costs). CP noted that CTAA has £4,500 in the bank, as we try to keep such a balance in case of any urgent projects. CP commented that he was grateful to the Committee for volunteering their time. The meeting unanimously approved the accounts.

5. Composition and Election of CTAA Committee 2019

A draft list of portfolios for 2019 was circulated at the meeting. AM has undertaken both accounts and membership for over 8 years. Frances Manthos (FM) will now take over membership with help from Romanos Brihi, Ryan Mullins, Peter Hoffmann-Fischer and Ashley McNeile (subscriptions). Monique Bahadur (MB) will continue as social secretary with assistance from Myrto Rochat, Romanos Brihi, Mimi Carney and Rae Than. Bruce Fair (BF) will take over police liaison with help from Myrto Rochat and Peter Hoffmann-Fischer. We have now merged traffic and parking with environmental matters (trees, pavements, streetlights, rubbish etc.) under four Committee members: Mimi Carney, Rae Than, Bruce Fair, and Brett Burkhardt. Thomas Blomberg will continue to handle planning and the website. Romanos Brihi will continue to run the membership discount scheme with assistance from Peter Hoffman-Fischer, Ryan Mullins and Frances Manthos. The meeting approved the Committee portfolios for 2019.

6. Status of Membership

Membership is slightly reduced reflecting the demographics of the area - we have more business residents who are less likely to engage in a residents' association. The annual subscription rate was raised at the start of 2018 from £6 to £10, or £8 per annum if one pays for 3 years. Members are also encouraged to use standing orders (also at £8 p.a). AM made forms for standing order available at the meeting; these can be downloaded from the website. Payments can also be made online; if members choose to pay online, please would they put their name as the reference so that we know who has paid? We did receive a payment of £48 online on 3 November 2018 with no reference name. Members are encouraged to invite their neighbours to join. A question was raised about "non locals" attending our events. CP said that these individuals do pay and there is a decreasing number of non-locals.

CP invited MP Emma Dent Coad to address the meeting. She thanked everyone for inviting her to attend. She said that she would vote "No" on the Brexit deal vote in Parliament on December 11. She has received over 2,000 emails and letters about Brexit. She said that it is very complicated to have a referendum and would take over a year to come to fruition. She had spent many years on the planning committee. RBKC turned down the Newcombe House planning application three times; it was called by to the Mayor of London who approved the scheme. Ms Dent Coad has called upon the Secretary of State to object. Heythrop College development in Kensington Square is being decided this very evening; she is not in favour of the proposal as she is concerned about adult social care at an affordable price. There is also an issue about the Kensington Forum Hotel redevelopment proposal. She will represent local residents regardless of party politics. Since she became an MP, she has received over 5,000 letters concerning position statements.

CP invited the Councillors to address the meeting.

Councillor Faulks raised some local issues and encouraged questions afterwards. The three Councillors will be walking around this ward to look at any concerns; one of the concerns is Fox School where the turning circle is not safe for children. She is concerned about McDonalds applying for a 24-hour licence in Notting Hill; the Councillors will object to ensuing noise and nuisance. Lancer Square has completed the excavation; at one point there were 150 trucks per day. There are a number of local spots with poor broadband and the Councillors are working on that issue. There is a fund called City Living Local Life to spend on local initiatives; the Councillors find it quite hard to find initiatives to fund. CP raised the issue of sharp/rough speed bumps at the corner of Campden Hill Road and Phillimore Walk.

Councillor Freeman said that electrical charging points are going in for vehicles. He thanked MP Emma Dent Coad for brilliantly fighting the Newcombe House proposal; he was disappointed that the Kensington Society supported the scheme. Councillor Freeman felt that the Mayor was not supportive of K&C and would get involved in more planning schemes. He felt that Kensington High Street was beginning to turn with new coffee bars and shops. He felt

that Kensington Church Street was not doing so well. RBKC held a listening event for residents to raise any concerns; residents were worried about cars driving too fast.

Councillor Ian Wason talked about rubbish. He had recently visited the Wandsworth recycling facility. They charge the Council £140 a lot for normal rubbish and £25 for recycled waste. He proposed a quick pop quiz challenging residents about items that can be recycled.

7. Local Retailer Discount Scheme

Frances Manthos felt the scheme was popular. All businesses who are part of the scheme have been approached to find out how successful the scheme is for them. Key fob cards may be made this year. There is an annual renewal in January. Quarterly email updates will be sent although any new companies are notified on the CTRAA website. New retailers include Ole & Steen, Calder Pharmacy, Malabar restaurant, John and Jessie Florist and Christmas shops. The point of the scheme is to give a benefit to members and to promote local retailers. Members are encouraged to support local shops. FM asked for any suggestions about the discount scheme or membership.

8. Environment

CP said that the collapsing wall on Inverness Gardens is being repaired. RT now handles PGT, Strathmore Gardens and the Mall; other Committee members look after other areas. RT asked members to contact her at 15 PGT if they have any comments on cherry trees, dog mess, traffic, pavements and lampposts. Repeat offenders with regard to rubbish left on pavements will receive notices in the first instance and then warning letters from the Council followed by a fine. CP mentioned that keeping our streets clean is an ongoing effort. The Council is generally very good at taking action.

9. Police Report

Bruce Fair has taken up the portfolio. There has been a spate of burglaries although we are still one of the safest wards in the Borough. Burglars have used crowbars to try to get into houses. There is a SmartWater scheme which members can google and buy privately; it is currently on trial in Holland and Pembridge Wards. Members can register as individuals on the OWLS scheme and they will be contacted by email by the police with local problems, missing persons, e.g.; card courier issues continue: never give credit or debit cards to any courier. Do not give any bank card information to anyone purporting to be the police. People purporting to ask for sponsorship are knocking on doors and becoming aggressive. Call 101 if you are concerned, 999 in an emergency. Members were asked please to advise any members of the Committee if they see or hear of any security threat. If you are suffering from anti-social behaviour, e.g. noise, please telephone the RBKC team on 020 7361 3002; they respond very quickly and confront the offender. Cllr Freeman mentioned a scam, a child wearing Holland Park School uniform says they are collecting for Great Ormond Street Hospital; on being denied, they sprayed the house with graffiti. Cllr Freeman asked if members, without putting themselves in danger, could try to get a photograph of any offenders.

Kris Vaskelis from Granimpex said that motorcycle crime was in decline, but burglaries are on the rise.

10. Traffic and Parking

Double-parked lorries and crane operations continue to be annoying. Brett Burkhart asked members to contact her with any concerns. There are new traffic arrangements on Hornton Street and Phillimore Walk; traffic-calming amendments are being planned. CP said the Kensington Mall/Kensington Church Street cross walk/junction is extremely dangerous.

11. Planning Issues

Thomas Blomberg gave an update on local planning issues: Newcombe House, as previously discussed, has been approved. The complex will probably start being demolished in Summer 2019 and should take three years according to the developer's previous estimates. The Frogmore refurbishments, David Game House and the building around Campden Hill Towers, should be finished by Summer 2019. Frogmore will then start with Astley House (Barclays

Bank) which will (they have estimated) take 8 months. The Book Warehouse is under construction, but is taking longer than said by the developer.

Lancer Square demolition started in Spring 2016 and the development looks to take several more years before being completed.

Kensington Forum (Holiday Inn Cromwell Road): the high tower is proposed to be replaced with two new towers, one of which will be the highest building in the Borough. After having been turned down by the Council's planning committee, the London Mayor has now called in the plan, which may mean that he intends to approve it. However, the benefits for society seem small, as the number of new hotel rooms is only around 180 and the affordable housing within it very limited. TB felt it unlikely that it would be approved.

The other big development is Heythorp College (Kensington Square by High Street Kensington Tube station) where a big housing development is being planned in the guise of a luxury nursing home. The application was to be determined by the Council's planning committee the same evening as the CTRAA AGM.

There is a flurry of new "telephone boxes" being installed all over London by four different companies, and a law from the 1980s means that local Councils have very little ability to say "no" to them. Three of these companies will mainly replace existing phone boxes with their new ones, while one of them, BT, will actually remove on average two old boxes for every new one InLink tower. The main point of the BT InLink towers is not to provide telephony or sell advertisement space, but to provide a network of free wifi which will provide tracking information that can be sold to retailers. The fourth company however, Maximus, is a new entrant on the market, adding more advertisement boards disguised as telephone boxes along our streets. That company has recently announced plans to instal three of their new boards along Kensington Church Street.

12. Website

TB gave an update, saying that he hopes to add various improvements to the website next year, such as membership enrolment and payment online, which eventually can lead to a members' forum as well.

13. 2019 Garden Parties

CP said that CTRAA plans to hold the same amount of parties as this year on similar dates. He hoped that the new vicar (once appointed) will allow CTRAA to use the Vicarage garden.

14. Any Other Business

There is a meeting at 6.30pm tomorrow night at the Town Hall, where the Council is asking the residents to attend and give their ideas.

15. Concluding Remarks

CP thanked members for attending and invited them to join the Committee for a glass of wine. The meeting ended at 9.27p.m.