

CHERRY



TREES

RESIDENTS'

ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 30th November 2022 at 8 P.M.

St Mary Abbots Church Hall

Committee Members Present: Charles Penney - Chairman (CP), Frances Manthos - Membership (FM), Bruce Fair - Treasurer (BF), Caroline Cuffe - Secretary (CC), Myrto Rochat (MR), Mimi Carney - Environment (MC), Thomas Blomberg - Planning/Website (TB)

Apologies from Committee Members: Romanos Brihi - Retailer Discount Scheme (RB), Elisabeth Meunier - Police (EM), Peter Hoffmann-Fischer (PHF), Monique Bahadur - Social (MB), Alessandro Tonchia (AT)

Sponsors: John D Wood & Co. (Matthew Harrop and Tom Wilton present)

1. Apologies and Opening Remarks

The Chairman (CP) welcomed all members and opened the meeting at 8.05pm. 42 CTRAA members (including the 7 Committee members listed above) attended the meeting. John D Wood (JDW) have sponsored the CTRAA AGM for over ten years. CP thanked them very much. CP thanked St Mary Abbots for making the hall available to us. CP thanked members (including the Committee) for attending the meeting. Apologies had been received from our Councillors. Our local MP, Felicity Buchan, joined later during the meeting. Three police officers joined the meeting, Sergeant Niall Gannon-Holmes, PC Rae and PC Rachid. Kris Vaskelis, who runs the private security firm, We Patrol and Protect Limited, was also in attendance.

2. Minutes of Last AGM on 01/12/2021

Draft Minutes of the 2021 AGM held on 1st December 2021 were circulated to members by e-mail with a hard copy provided to members attending the AGM. The Minutes were approved by the meeting. Jana Gough raised the same issue concerning waste disposal as last year which will be addressed under Environment.

3. Sponsorships During Year

JDW kindly sponsored the AGM, Strutt and Parker having generously sponsored the autumn party in Vicarage Gardens. Huntsworth Wine kindly provided wine for all events at cost. The Platinum Jubilee party was kindly (and generously) supported by Knight Frank. CP thanked all of the generous sponsors.

4. Accounts for Year Ended 31/10/22

BF presented the Accounts for 2022. Thanks to our generous sponsors who pay in respect of each gathering, CTRAA finances are in good shape. The number of members jumped from 229 in 2020 to 245 in 2021 and 258 in 2022. The subscription fee is £24 for 3 years (or £10 per single year); funds have been received for several years ahead. £3,500

was received in sponsorship. CTRAA made a donation to our street sweeper on his retirement. Adam Norton of St. Mary Abbots was gifted some wine when he retired. CP thanked BF for his hard work as Treasurer. CP stated that dues would not increase in the near future. The Accounts were approved.

5. Composition and Election of CTRAA Committee 2023

A draft List of Portfolios for 2023 was circulated by e-mail prior to the meeting (and provided in hard copy at the meeting). MB has nobly run all the parties for several years; all the Committee members will continue to take on this task between them in future years. CP thanked MB for her stellar contribution. The proposed Committee portfolios for 2023 were approved.

6. Membership

FM and BF presented a review of Membership which stands at 258 fully paid up members, up from 245 last year. FM welcomed new members who joined in 2022. In the last two months eleven members have joined. Members are encouraged to mention CTRAA to their neighbours who might wish to join. A projected survey will seek to find out what our members want and how we can best serve them. Membership is £10 per person per year or £24 for three years. CP thanked FM and BF for their hard work.

7. Local Retailer Discount Scheme – discount@ctraa.org.uk We are not sure to what extent the discount scheme is used by our own members. The scheme will be reviewed in the New Year. As mentioned under "Membership", a questionnaire will be circulated to ensure that CTRAA is relevant to our members.

8. Environment - Cherry Trees, Dog Mess, Pavements and Lampposts, Rubbish

A member had questioned the time gap between bin men bringing rubbish up from the basements and it then gets collected several hours later. The Committee had raised this with the Council (RBKC) who explained that it is the most efficient method possible given the lack of extra manpower with only one crew on duty. MC said that the trees were pruned this year. In April 2023 they will be surveyed; any replacement tree work will be undertaken in 2024. Pruning will take place again in 2025. Lampposts were painted this year. Dog mess continues to be a problem. Cllr. Catherine Faulks has requested a borough-wide investigation of overflowing dog mess bins. One member noticed that dog walkers come to our area in particular to walk their dogs, questioning whether might this contribute to the mess.

9. Police Report including local private security scheme (We Patrol and Protect Limited)

BF welcomed the three police officers, Sergeant Niall Gannon-Holmes introduced PCs Rae and Rachid who will be taking over the ward. PC Rachid covers Holland Ward. There are two full time police covering our area with more to be added. An operation stopped 83 vehicles in connection with noise. A number of plain clothes units work in the area to reduce crime such as watch theft. PC Rae has been speaking to locals and provided some statistics: robbery cases have decreased due to overnight patrols. There have been thefts from cars. BF said to leave nothing in cars. Car boot trays should be removed to show there is nothing to steal. CP mentioned that he had one car stolen and one broken into this year. BF said that police resources are allocated by reported incidents. He distributed sheets showing how to report a crime by phone or web. He urged everyone to report crimes. Consistent crimes are cars driving through the no entry sign at the north end of Palace Gardens Terrace, bicycles on pavements and motorbikes driving across zebra crossings. If these cases are reported to the police, they will mount an operation. The issue of speeding on PGT was raised. Sergeant Gannon-Holmes urged residents to report this: a number plate or partial plate would be useful. Police operations are data-driven; nothing will be done unless all residents report crime or incidents. The telephone numbers 999 or 101 can be used, ideally with number plate information. BF and EM attend ward meetings and request resources. Enough specific data could result in police operations or cameras. Police were asked how often they patrol the area. PC Rachid said that patrols were increasing, at least four times a week, both day and night. A question was raised about cycling on the pavement. Sergeant Gannon-Holmes stressed that this is illegal. He asked that bicycles on pavements be reported even though there is no number plate. The Mayor's office is dealing with bicycles and scooters which are hired and being dumped on the pavement.

Kris Vaskelis (KV) also kindly provided some information. He runs the private security scheme, We Patrol and Protect Limited. This is not endorsed by CTRAA, but members may join if they wish. Criminals are wearing Deliveroo uniforms. Golf clubs have been stolen from cars. Scaffolding which is not alarmed is a nuisance, leading to burglaries in neighbouring property. KV's priority is to address this issue. KV is holding a "meet-and-greet" on 5th December 2pm to 7pm on the corner of Brunswick Gardens and Vicarage Gardens.

CP thanked our Police Officers and KV.

10. Traffic and Parking

Member Joanna Manby-Brooks sent an e-mail complaining about bikes on pavements. Cars are speeding and driving through zebra crossings particularly bikes. CP said that we need to report this and then the police will follow up.

11. Planning Issues (including Newcombe House)

TB said that in general planning is fairly quiet; basement developments have dropped enormously. There is an increase in planning applications for attics and for new windows. The big planning issue is Newcombe House. The plans were approved and then nothing happened. The developer sold the site. TB had meetings with the new developer and architect in May and October. The Newcombe House building will be kept, but with two floors added. New buildings will be added along Kensington Church Street which are substantially higher than the approved planning scheme. They are about two floors higher than the Post Office. The buildings will primarily be offices with retail below. While the approved scheme had a very large GP surgery, the new one has a small "possible" GP surgery. Possible social housing will be included on Kensington Church Street. There is no provision for step-free access to the Tube station. Discussions continue with Residents Associations and businesses. The developers plan to submit a new planning application in Jan/Feb looking for approval by the end of 2023. Projected building is likely to be 4-5 years. Further details are available on the CTRAA website. CP thanked TB for his work

12. Website

TB will lead an investigation into how we can link our website with membership services. The use of the CTRAA website will be included in the survey to members in early 2023.

13. 2023 Garden Parties and Other Events

MB emailed a report. The Platinum Jubilee party in the Vicarage Garden was a great success with young families attending. CP thanked Knight Frank for their sponsorship and Mother Emma for allowing CTRAA to use the beautiful gardens. The Autumn Party on 2nd October was very popular, Strutt and Parker generously sponsored the event. CP thanked John D Wood for sponsoring the AGM and all of the generous sponsors. He thanked Tuggy Meyer from Huntsworth Wine for providing wine at cost. CTRAA plans to hold similar parties next year. The Committee is also working on the possibility of some further Zoom talks, which were very popular in 2020 and 2021. CP asked that any members with other ideas please let the Committee know.

14. Proposed Member Survey/Questionnaire

CP said that the CTRAA should remain relevant to our members and the Committee would like to encourage families to join. To this end, a survey will be circulated in 2023 to find out what parts of the CTRAA remit are valued, which parts are not useful and what the membership would like to have.

15. Any Other Business

Cllr.Catherine Faulks sent a message concerning Opportunity Kensington, the new Business Improvement District. Members can follow on Instagram to find information about a discount scheme offering 10% off at stores, including Whole Foods.

CC asked members how they felt about their broadband services locally. Some members felt their service was inconsistent and/or poor. Fibre optic cable has been installed along CTRAA area streets. TB added that in 2025 all landlines will cease to work. The only way to have a phone in your house will be via fibre to the premises or a cable provider.

CP invited our MP Felicity Buchan (FB) to address the meeting. She said that CTRAA is a well-run residents' association and that it is very important for residents to get involved. She volunteered to help CTRAA to fulfil its objectives. FB was a PPS in the Business and Energy Department, but resigned in June. She was asked back as a Junior Minister in September and joined the Exchequer; she is now a Housing Minister. She is responsible for the private rental sector, homelessness (defined as those in temporary accommodation), rough sleeping and homes for Ukraine. CP is also a trustee of a charity that looks after Ukrainian refugees. FB is also responsible for Afghan resettlement; there are 9,000 refugees in hotels. The issue is that many have large families and no large houses are available. FB has worked with neighbouring boroughs to save our bus routes. She has been spending time on flooding issues - Pembridge Ward was badly affected. The London infrastructure is not adequate to support bi-annual flash flooding. Another issue is step-free access to Tube stations: FB is trying to get TFL to focus on that in Ladbrooke Grove. Westbourne Grove Medical Centre

is closing: FB is trying to keep it open. FB updated the meeting on constituency boundaries: the Boundary Commission review to equalise the size of each constituency proposed to remove South Kensington. In the second round this proposal was accepted. The existing Kensington seat has been increased with two Westminster wards, Bayswater and Lancaster Gate. Brompton would also come into the Kensington constituency. FB urged residents to write in to support that solution. CP said that FB's update was very useful and thanked her for joining the meeting.

16. Concluding Remarks

CP thanked CTCAA members and Committee Members for attending. He invited members to join the Committee for a glass of wine. The formal meeting ended at 9.26 p.m.