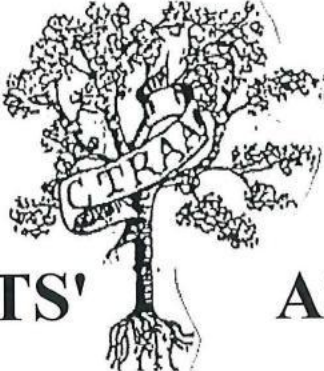


CHERRY TREES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2019 at 8 P.M.

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

Committee Members Present: Charles Penney, Chairman (CP), Ashley McNeile, Treasurer (AM), Frances Manthos (FM), Rae Than (RT), Bruce Fair (BF), Caroline Cuffe (CC), Ryan Mullins (RM), Myrto Rochat (MR), Mimi Carney (MC)

1. Apologies and Opening Remarks

The Chairman (CP) welcomed all members and opened the meeting at 8.06pm. CP offered a special welcome to PCs Gurj Rehill from Campden Ward and Dan Cogan from Holland Ward, Councillors Robert Freeman and Ian Wason from Campden Ward, the new Vicar of St Mary Abbots, Mother Emma Dinwiddy Smith, and Matthew Harrop and Ben Ross (of our sponsors for the evening, John D Wood). We were also joined later in the meeting by Felicity Buchan, Conservative Party candidate for the Kensington constituency.

Apologies were received from MP Emma Dent Coad, Councillor Catherine Faulks, Bill Green, (RBKC enforcement officer) and the following Committee members: Brett Burkhart (BB), Monique Bahadur (MB), Romanos Brihi (RB), Peter Hoffmann-Fischer (PHF) and Thomas Blomberg (TB).

57 CTRAA members attended the meeting.

2. Minutes of Last AGM on 27/11/18

CP presented draft Minutes of the 2018 AGM held on Tuesday 27th November, 2018. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Police Report – including Police presentation

Bruce Fair (BF) made the following report: There are 4 officers covering our immediate area. They are focused on burglary, robbery and motor vehicle crime. Theft from motor vehicles has gone up from 101 last year to 167. Robbery has also gone up from 18 to 54. Burglary from properties appears to be flat but there was a big upsurge during the year; one individual conducted many of the crimes and PC Cogan analysed the data and was able to catch the perpetrator in the act. Most burglaries are carried out to fund drug addiction. 27 cars were stolen this year versus 24 the year before, but the bigger problem is things being stolen from cars. 80% of the crimes are probably happening to visitors' cars, perhaps when they are out shopping. Many of the robberies were conducted by a former pupil of Cardinal Vaughan School running an operation to steal mobile phones from other pupils. There are also conmen operating in the area, one dressed as a Buddhist monk. Other conmen are dressed as policemen. BF said there were also reports of individuals watching houses or cars. He urged members to call 999 in this case and in any emergency. At night the police have a dedicated team waiting to be called, so please do report any suspicious behaviour. Finally BF noted that there are a number of young homeless people who die at this time of year.

PC Gurj Rehill introduced himself. He works by himself on Campden Ward. He works closely with Dan Cogan of Holland Ward and other nearby wards. A number of operations are being set up to catch car thieves. Two arrests of young robbers coming from outside of our area have caused the crime figures to stabilise. There is a special team for homeless people in the area. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues should be reported so that the RBKC team can act on them. Campden Ward is relatively safe compared to other wards. If someone is creating a disturbance, members

should call 101. The Met Police website will automatically bring up a member's ward when their postcode is entered; it will show the local police officers' contact details. Our officers are based on Kenway Road off the Earls Court Road.

One member noted that he increasingly noticed that cars are not stopping at zebra crossings, particularly the motor scooters. It is a police remit if they can be caught in the act. If there is a specific ongoing issue, the police can get traffic enforcement at RBKC to get involved. Rae Than (RT) asked if the police had an issue with a man who appeared to be profoundly deaf with a sad story. PC Rehill said this was a known device used by commen. Ryan Mullins (RM) noted that there had been robberies at Christmas time as many people go away. PC Rehill said that they are aware of this - there is an operation for each season. They are expecting burglars to be out during the festive season. CP thanked both PCs for their hard work. The police asked members not to give money to beggars, but to charities instead.

4. Sponsorships During Year

CP thanked John D Wood for sponsoring the wine and food at the AGM. Matthew Harrop and Ben Ross from John D Wood were in attendance. Throughout the year Huntsworth Wines has kindly subsidised the wine by supplying it at cost. Catering companies who are members of our residents' discount scheme have provided the delicious food served at CTAA parties at a subsidised rate. They include Ole & Steen, The Shed and Chakra. CP thanked both Strutt & Parker and Knight Frank for sponsoring parties earlier this year. We are very grateful for their support. CP also thanked St Mary Abbots for allowing us use of their hall and gardens.

5. Accounts for Year Ended 31/10/19

AM presented the Accounts which were distributed at the meeting. This year showed a surplus. Subscription income was very healthy this year. FM and her membership team did a lot of work chasing up members to renew. Quite a few members have moved to standing order and this makes renewals automatic. Sponsorship amounted to £2,300, although on top of that some of our sponsors pay suppliers directly. AM was grateful to all sponsors. The meeting unanimously approved the Accounts, which will be displayed on the CTAA Noticeboard shortly.

6. Composition and Election of CTAA Committee 2020

A draft List of Portfolios for 2020 was circulated at the meeting. BB has moved to "Without Portfolio" as she is moving away from the area. She has offered to help for one more year. CP thanked her for her contribution over the years. AM has undertaken both Accounts and Membership for many years. He is now stepping down as Treasurer and will be moving to "Without Portfolio". BF has offered to be Treasurer from next year. Otherwise there are no material changes. The meeting approved the proposed Committee portfolios for 2020. CP thanked the Committee for their work throughout the past year.

7. Status of Membership – Recruitment of New Members, Standing Orders

FM took on the Membership portfolio last year. She undertook a renewals campaign. She also did a mailshot to seek new members. She encouraged members to invite their neighbours to join and to avail themselves of the residents' discount scheme. Membership is £10 per year, or £8 per year on standing order. CTAA has 268 members (paid up and honorary), an increase on last year.

8. Local Retailer Discount Scheme

RM talked about the discount card available to all members. Many local restaurants and shops will give a discount to members carrying their card. A list of vendors subscribing to the scheme can be found on the CTAA website. As new retailers join the scheme, the website is updated. If any members know of any business which might wish to join the scheme, please advise RM. Matthew Harrop offered members 10% off the John D Wood fee.

9. Councillors' Update

Councillors Robert Freeman (RF) and Ian Wason (IW) made a brief presentation. Lancer Square is moving ahead on schedule; it looks to be a nice/quality development. The disruption has been minimal. The latest Newcombe House hearing has now taken place; the Planning Inspector's recommendation is awaited. The Secretary of State will then decide whether or not to accept the recommendation. They are frequently rejected. RBKC's licensing committee approved a new licence to 11pm nightly for a restaurant to replace Kensington Place; street style food will be sold. The Councillors successfully lobbied for the licence not to extend to 1am. The TfL Notting Hill Gate/Holland Park Avenue bike route/road re-design consultation has taken place. Traffic management on Holland Park Avenue does need a solution and the Council is coming up with alternative schemes. The current period before the General Election

precludes any political discussion by elected councillors. RF is concerned that the Pembridge Hospice is likely to be closed permanently. He also made a plea for help: there are three residents' associations in our Ward. The newest one is the Hillgate Village Association. In addition there is the Campden Hill Residents' Association which is in need of help. RF felt it would be a tragedy if that association were to die. He asked members to lend a hand to their chairman, David White, if they feel able.

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

RT updated the membership. RT thanked Bill Green, the enforcement officer from RBKC, in absentia, for his help. CP said that the Council does a lot of work clearing up mess in Brunswick Gardens promptly upon being notified. RT asked members to let her know of any environmental issues. BF said there was an app on the RBKC site that enables members to report any issues promptly. The Committee will continue to be vigilant.

11. Traffic and Parking

CP passed on a message from Brett Burkhart that members contact her with any concerns.

12. Planning Issues – including Newcombe House

Thomas Blomberg (TB), who unfortunately could not be present, will update any planning issues on the website within a week. He undertakes a lot of work in following all planning issues in our area.

13. Website

CB thanked TB for his work both on planning and the website.

14. 2020 Garden Parties

MR thanked MB who does a wonderful job organising the three events each year. Knight Frank sponsored the summer party with 100 attendees. The Shed, Ole & Steen and Chakra catered the event. 70 people attended the autumn party which was sponsored by Strutt & Parker. MR thanked all sponsors, including John D Wood who sponsored the AGM drinks. On the first Thursday of each month from 6-8pm we meet at the Mall Tavern. Members are encouraged to attend to meet fellow members and the Committee. Members pay for their own drinks and snacks. On Tuesday 3 December 2019 (note not the first Thursday on this occasion), the Mall Tavern will start us off with some mulled wine to celebrate the festive season. MR thanked Adam Norton from St Mary Abbots for kindly helping us in hosting CTAA events, John and Jessie florists for lending us flowers for the summer party and all Committee members who help at the events.

15. Any Other Business

A question was raised about fireworks and what was being done about the nuisance which they create locally throughout the year; in discussion, it appears that no permit is needed to set fireworks off in homeowners' gardens and so there is little that can be done to control them.

16. Concluding Remarks

CP thanked members for attending and invited them to join the Committee for a glass of wine. The formal meeting ended at 9.14 p.m. and was then followed by drinks and nibbles in the foyer.