LCA Reserves Questionnaire, December 2016

Report, Draft 2, 17 January 2017

Questionnaire Coverage Statistics

Number of Invitations: 155 (all members except Ann Taylor, who had not then rejoined the LCA)

Number of Responses: 22

Number of Members Covered: 34 [see next section for a note on this]

Percentage of Membership: 22%

Issues encountered with the Questionnaire

- No clear closing date was specified.
- The timing (over Christmas) was not well chosen.
- The prompt for 'members/dependants' meant that we could not tell how many actual members were involved; the assumption has been made below that 1 respondent = 1 member, while 2 or more respondents = exactly 2 members.
- Some members were unable to open PDFs on their PCs. Suggestions:
 - Send invitation as email body text with direct link to questionnaire, rather than as PDF
 - Advertise hard copies of any other relevant PDFs as available on request
- Some members encountered problems with scrolling, either when entering answers or after submission when the 'Thank you' message was not visible without scrolling up.
 Suggestion:
 - Break questionnaire into sections in such a way as to avoid any need for scrolling

Questionnaire Output Summary

Notes

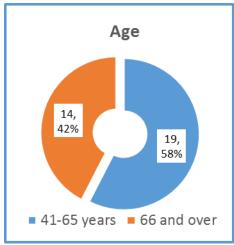
- Only completed (submitted) questionnaires have been counted.
- Where a completed questionnaire covered two members (as discussed above), the relevant data has been duplicated.
- All free text entered has been listed; in the view of the Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and Webmaster, it cannot identify any individual when the results are posted on the LCA website.

LCA Reserves Questionnaire Report

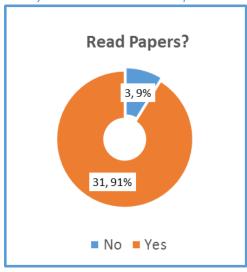
Length of Membership



Age

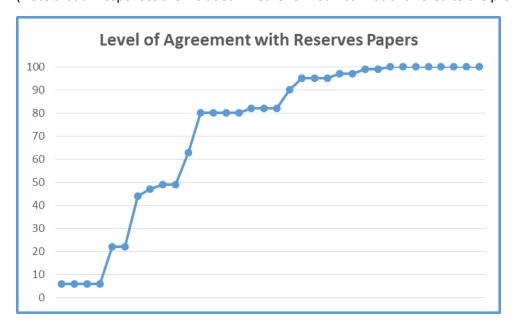


Have you read the Reserves Papers?



To what extent do you agree with the Reserves Papers?

(Note that all responses are included whether or not 'Yes' was answered to the previous question.)



Please elaborate as you wish

The following 'Wordle' gives a high level picture of the matters included in free text answers to this question. See below for all non-blank answers received, split for categorisation.



Comments in favour of the Reserves proposals as stated:

- Contingency and capital funds of £10,000 should be kept as proposed. (It is to be hoped that litigation or legal advice would not ever be needed, but would prove costly if it was.)
- We feel strongly that the present Constitution is perfectly satisfactory. Monies should be retained in case of any potential legal issues which might occur.
- The subscription should remain as now.
- The amount of £6 is not much and funds should be retained in case of major projects.
- The 'sensible' ideas seem to be good and achievable.
- Prefer not to stop membership fees as so low and the funds can always be spent to the benefit of the area.
- There should be no reduction on fee for belonging.
- Sensible and pragmatic.
- Egregiously cogent.

Finials-related comments and suggestions:

- No spending at all on contentious projects such as the finials where individuals benefit.
- Excess on finials return to largest donor.
- Pay back the community grant received for the finial restoration, given there is sufficient funding to pay for the project due to generous funding from LCA member.
- I believe that the way the money was raised for the finial project was wrong: the residents who wanted the work done should have either paid for their finials themselves or, if they couldn't afford to pay for finials, held neighbourhood fund-raising events instead.

Other comments and suggestions:

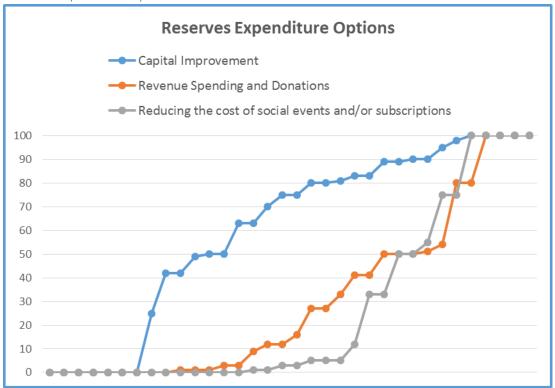
- Definitely against proxy voting and 'free parties'.
- Do not like the idea of using LCA funds for any social event, unless loss covered by subsequent surplus(es).
- I would prefer to have one restricted fund of £10k rather than two smaller ones.
- No seats in field.
- No donations to other organisations unless of direct benefit to the Crescent.
- Surplus monies could be put to other 'improvements' around the Crescent, i.e. cobbles at beginning and end of Crescent or improving the pavement surrounding the field and also Lansdown Place East pavement.

General comments:

- Have not read documents because I cannot download pdfs into readable forms.
- I respect the views of the committee.
- Actually found the papers difficult to fully understand perhaps the use of plain English would have been better. It may have put some members off.

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Reserves Expenditure Options



General areas of interest and/or specific ideas for improvement of the common weal:

The following 'Wordle' gives a high level picture of the matters included in free text answers to this question. See below for all non-blank answers received, split for categorisation.



Comments relating specifically to Expenditure:

- My view is hold them until a special need arises, as I haven't read the document I can neither
 agree or disagree with the broad proposals.
- 'Other' Expenditure opinion, value 57:
 - At some future point we may need to fund legal and/or other expertise and advice in cases of unwanted development proposals e.g. the Dixon Gardens ongoing battle. Good advice does not come cheaply.
- 'Other' Expenditure opinion, value 29:
 - Plant more trees far side of field so always a screen when existing trees die.
 - Yes salt bins, grass cutting if needed.
 - Fencing field repairs if needed.
- Overthrows to indicate beginning and end of special area; map showing the area covered by LCA - both to be outside fittings visible for visitors. More benches - lower field and LPW e&w.
- Ensuring that the LCA retains the lawn with sheep going forward into the future.

Comments relating to Charitable Donations:

- I would like a formal discussion of charitable donation possibilities where there is a clear surplus and where proposed donations meet the objectives given in the constitution (I would not be against amendment of the constitution to widen the objectives in this area).
 I also think we should take advantage of our councillors' local knowledge when identifying targets for charitable donations.
- Support local charities with money not needed for reserve fund.
- Perhaps a proposal could be put forward that say 10% of any revenue or profit we make from subscriptions or events be donated to a local charity. Nominations could be submitted by the membership and voted for at each AGM or on-line.

Comments relating to Social Events:

- We believe, in principle and where possible, that social events should be self-financing.
- Suggest more social events (especially with lager).

Comments relating to the finials:

- I don't think [the councillors] giving us money towards the finials (i.e. subsidising private individuals) was at all a good idea.
 - In general I do not wish to see private individuals subsidised again as happened with the finials. In my opinion LCA project management of the finials would have been adequate to delivering the objective, and would have avoided a lot of bad blood. (I do accept that a solution would have needed to be found for people who /needed/ subsidies.)
- I strongly recommend that we should return the money donated by the Councillors' Initiative Fund.

Comments relating to the Crescent area:

- Roads, rear garages.
- None that spring to mind. We are conscious of the beauty of the crescent and support anything to enhance this.
- I don't want the Crescent treated as a museum piece.

General/miscellaneous comments:

- Dye the seagulls pink.
- The Association as now organised works well as far as we are concerned.
- Not able to specify the split between capital and revenue spend without understanding the different projects.