

LANSDOWN CRESCENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES
Committee Meeting Wednesday 13th January 2016 at Robin's (3LPE) 7.30pm

1. Apologies please to the secretary

None

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting 4th November 2015

Minutes approved

3. Matters arising from the minutes (where not covered by agenda items)

- (i) *Finals quotations, cost calculations, funding proposals and numbers. (RK, CS and RD-E)*

Beccy gave a report on the current situation regarding the finals project, a briefing note having been issued beforehand by the Chairman.

Currently over 95% of LC and LPE & W have signalled their buy-in to the scheme.

A proposal was given on the financial set-up of the scheme, whereby the owner or owners of each house to receive finals would pay LCA the agreed fee per house, in advance (to reduce the Association's risk). The money received for all houses would then be combined with the funding received from donors, and this would be used to pay Chapel Forge for the total amount of the contract.

A separate bank account could be used for this purpose.

CS to finalise the above arrangement - **Action CS**

Each owner will receive a specification of the work to be performed - Chapel Forge have produced this. – **Action RD-E**

It was agreed by the committee that, at the AGM, the membership will be asked to approve that up to £4000 of LCA funds will be given to the finals project.

This amount will be match-funded by xxx.

Robin will ask xxx to confirm this £4000 - **Action RK** (post meeting note: confirmed)

It was agreed that a small number of finals surplus to requirement will be ordered from Chapel Forge to cover unforeseen demand and breakages.

The LCA approved calling an AGM on the evening of Monday 15th February.

Corinne questioned if the school holidays would deter attendance, but the availability of St Stephen's church centre restricts us to the school holidays.

Mandy suggested delivering a paper newsletter in advance of the AGM (by end of January) - **Action MS**

Thanks were given to Beccy for her work.

- (ii) *Wooden Stairs 3LPW - Enforcement Case 15/01813/LBA. (RK, AP)*
AP reported that the retrospective planning application has been withdrawn. The house's new management company will propose to the Planning Authority to keep the wooden steps, but replace the wooden handrail with a "wrought iron" version.
This solution was thought an acceptable compromise by the committee.
- (iii) *Parking outside Lansdown Grove Hotel (Shaws)*
CS and MS reported that Lorries now turn round by reversing into Upper Lansdown Mews by 1 Lansdown Crescent.
Early (before 9am) deliveries are much reduced.
Christopher to draft email in response to hotel manager's email - **Action CS**
- (iv) *Beckford Gate – planning application – target date 21st Jan - and consequential actions (RK, AP)*
Nothing to say until after the target date of 21/01.
RK reported that xxx, <address>, had donated Bath stone, stored by xxx, for use by the community. This should be used initially to help in restoring the gateway, if needed and if directed by the Planners.
Mandy Shaw to ask him if a mention could be made of this in the newsletter - **Action MS**
- (v) *Urgent issues email (RK, CT, MS)*
Urgent emails are now being sent. Data protection laws are being followed.

4. Treasurer's Report (CS)

- (i) *Accounts for year end 2015*
CS highlighted super profit from increasing membership.
Could this be used by LCA for projects, e.g. Pennant stones on field pavement or donations to Millennium Green?
We currently have over £9000 in the accounts but £4000 of it earmarked for finials.
- (ii) *Apology*
An apology for an inappropriate email was given and accepted.

5. Traffic Investigation (NB)

See figures sent by NB – and reproduced in appendix A below.
Since the last survey (date?), there has been no significant increase in speed, but there has been a substantial increase in the number of vehicles.
The survey was taken over one week: Tuesday to Tuesday.
The proposal is for another study in September 2016 (in school term time).
Could there be a third camera?
We will talk again after September.
Report will go on website - **Action MS**

This must be mentioned in the AGM - **Action SB**

6. Social Events. (MmcN and SueB)

(I) *Christmas festivities*

1. xxx (<address>) Christmas party on Saturday 19th December. (MMcN)
A success! Thanks are minuted for the team.
Corinne noted that some members were unhappy with having an LCA party on a Saturday, though MMcN pointed out that this was the day requested by the host.

(ii) *Events 2016*

1. <address> as a potential venue for LCA garden party? - (MMcN)
There is a large garden which is divided into sections (for each tenant). All tenants have agreed to hold the party in the evening of 18th June. This has subsequently been questioned by owners. The LCA Social team with have to return and confirm 18th June with them – **Action MMcN**

If inclement weather, then Beccy (<address>) will host, but needs to be 6-8pm.

Proposed cost would be £12.

Robin offered to purchase the drink – **Action RK**

2. AGM food and drink
Estimate 30-40 people and cater accordingly.
The LCA Social team with buy canapés. Robin will buy wine – **Action RK**.

Entertainment - Beckford's Ride proposed by Marian, but it was thought too long at an hour. We could have a separate event for this - to be discussed.
Robin proposed Dr Tony Clarke (Ward councillor), which was agreed - **Action RK** (post meeting note: invited but not yet confirmed)

3. Other events and social plan
Proposal for four events each year rather than two. Christmas and summer parties and a number of possible events were proposed by SB and discussed - artistic evenings: ceramics, paintings, pottery at local artists' homes.
Possible outings? Celebration of Capability Brown (the 300th anniversary of his birth takes place this year), visiting gardens at Dodington Hall (home of the Dysons), which has Capability Brown gardens?
Marian to use her contacts - **Action MMcN**
4. Publish schedule of parties on the website? (MS)
This idea was discussed and rejected.

7. LCA Website (MS)

Beat surgery dates are on the website.

New items on the website are now highlighted with a white box.

Mandy to draft a newsletter - **Action MS**

Thanks from Mandy for new photos and to Mandy for the quality of the website.

8. Neighbourhood Watch

(i) *LCA website for update – (RCH and MS)*

There was a discussion of various garage break-ins and creepy men.

9. The Field and its Sheep (JW)

(i) *Sheep*

(ii) *Nettle treatment*

No further treatment warranted at present.

(iii) *Rubbish*

This should diminish once the trade vans are fewer.

10. Membership (CT)

We reached a peak of 148 at the end of last year.

Already 56 have rejoined since the start of the current year.

11. Planning

1. *Hope House site and ownership by Acorn Property (RK & AP)*

Nothing to add.

Logistics management plan sent to us and satisfactory.

12. Litter picking Rota

(i) Continuous: Field (JW) and SL (DJ).

(ii) Rota volunteers.

1. Rachael January – (RCH)

2. Nick February

3. Sue Branfoot March

4. Mandy April

5. Robin May

6. Corinne June

7. Christopher July

Council plastic bags were issued.

13. FoBRA

(i) Feedback & minutes from meetings. (RCH & RK)

See website.

(ii) Batheaston Park and ride

Council Cabinet have agreed to re-examine the possible sites after extensive opposition from Batheaston and Bathampton residents to use of the water meadows.

(iii) Low Emission Zone (RK & RCH)

RK and RH had attended a meeting with Camden on this with the Cabinet member for Transport. First Bus are upgrading their fleet to LPG, which should preclude for the moment the need for a LEZ on Dorchester Street (containing the bus station). There seemed little risk of 'overspill' onto Camden Road and LC.

(iv) Placemaking Plan

An adjunct to the Local developmental plan (= Core Strategy). The following are not yet included, but FoBRA is working on these:

▲ student housing strategy

▲ Upstream Flood risk

- ⤴ Brownfield before greenfield
- ⤴ Space standards for market housing
- ⤴ Greater integration with the (approved) Bath Transport Strategy and the Public Realm and Movement Policy
- ⤴ Centre of Bath as a 'Place' in its own right.

14. Future LCA Committee Meetings & Venues

(i) AGM, including

(a) newsletter - **MS**

(b) nominations for office

7 days' notice must be given. Constitutionally, 2 people must stand down but this would come into force only if at least two volunteers were nominated.

Mandy said she could stand down, but would still like to do website.

James noted that he was the longest-serving committee member, and was therefore willing to stand down but that he enjoyed looking after the field.

(c) constitutional changes (if any)

Increase in size of LCA? The committee did not approve of increasing the catchment area of LCA.

Robin will work with Christopher on defining an auditor of the accounts (as specified in the Constitution) and rationalising the constitution's wording - **Action RK and CS**

(d) proposal to spend funds on finials

Approved – see section 3 (i)

(e) outside speaker

Robin proposed Dr Tony Clarke (Ward councillor), which was agreed - **Action RK** (post meeting note: invited but not yet confirmed)

f) date & venue

The LCA approved calling an AGM on the evening of Monday 15th February at St Stephen's church centre (already booked)

(g) food & drink

The budget is £80 on food and drink.

Estimate 30-40 people and cater accordingly – **Action Social Team**

The LCA Social team will buy or make canapés. Robin will buy wine – **Action RK**.

15. AOB

Book on Bath - James agreed to write a piece on the sheep - **Action JW**.

Seagulls - Can FoBRA pressure the council to solve the issue? RK explained some of the arcane problems with this, but agreed to seek FoBRA's help - **Action RK to ask FoBRA Chairman**

Appendix A – Traffic Investigation

Robin Kerr and Nick Bishop had a useful meeting on 15 December with Peter Bailey, the traffic officer from BANES. He was able to present the figures resulting from the survey that took place at the end of September 2015. Two detectors were used, one in Lansdown Place West and the other about mid way around the Crescent. These measured both volume and speed of the traffic in both directions. The data were presented raw with no

formal analysis but it was possible to make a judgment on changes since the last study which was done in June 2013.

Speeds:

There was no significant change from the last study in relation to traffic speeds. Average speeds throughout the day were between 19 and 23mph. This average includes speeds up to around 25mph but in Peter Bailey's opinion there were insufficient numbers at this speed to interest the police in enforcing the 20mph limit. These speeds were consistent in both directions.

Volumes:

There was a significant increase in the volume of traffic since 2013. Taking Tuesday as an example, on 25 June 2013, 684 vehicles passed westbound during the 24 hours. On Tuesday 22 September 2015 there were 792, an increase of 15%. For eastbound traffic the numbers were greater going from 750 in 2013 to 905 in 2015, an increase of 20%.

Conclusions:

Clearly a large amount of data exists and full analysis would take a lot of time with little likelihood of tangible benefit. In summary the perceived increases in speed of traffic using the Crescent have not been supported by this evidence. It was Peter Bailey's view that the police would not consider this evidence as justification for an enforcement action. The volume of traffic using the Crescent has increased significantly.

Proposal:

Peter Bailey agreed with our request to repeat this survey in September 2016. This would give us 3 points by which we can look at trends in a more reliable way. Meanwhile the Association may wish to consider further, what action if any it would like to see to discourage traffic from using Lansdown Crescent as a 'bypass'. Peter Bailey asked this question as further data confirming an upward trend in volume will beg the question from the Council "what do you want us to do about it?" Choices include discouragement by means of traffic calming measures (may not be popular in a Grade 1 listed crescent) or legal restrictions based on weight, width or simply 'access only'. The latter are difficult to enforce which would lead to widespread abuse. The Council would also need to consider the effect on other roads of any such action.