

Camden Residents' Association

Newsletter November 2014

Camden Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

7.30pm Thursday 20th November 2014

In the Methodist Church, Claremont (east end of Camden Rd opposite the health centre)

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of the Committee
6. Wild Camden & Crescent road structure/railings
7. An Elected Mayor for Bath?
8. AOB

Update on Residents' Parking (CPZ15) Changes: We have finally heard the results of the Council's consultation on possible changes to CPZ 15. The proposal to merge our zone 15 with the neighbouring zone 16 has been dropped. There will be no changes to the times of operation of our zone. Frankley Buildings residents will in future be entitled to residents' and visitors' parking permits for zone 15. Three houses in Arundel Road with pedestrian access to Camden Road will also be included in Zone 15. The CRA committee feels that this increased parking demand will have minimal effect on the eastern end of the zone where it is very rare not to be able to find a parking place.



One of the chicanes in Belgrave Crescent

Proposed Removal of Chicanes in Belgrave Crescent: As part of the review of parking in zone 15 the Council is consulting on the removal of both chicanes and the extension of this space for residents' parking. This will probably provide four extra car parking spaces. The chicanes were originally installed to slow vehicles. According to residents here there is still a problem with speeding cars using this road when Camden Road traffic is held up. The CRA committee is working with council officers to provide speed cushions or other appropriate traffic calming measures here. The CRA has some funds towards the cost, donated from a Walcot Councillor's Community Initiative fund.

Camden Road pavements are narrow: We have received a number of complaints about trees, bushes and shrubs that overhang footpaths on the north east side of Camden Road. Whist trees and shrubs in front gardens add to the attractiveness of Camden, when they project wide or low over the footpath it does make it difficult for pedestrians to pass. It also has the effect of making the path feel even narrower than it is on this road that at times carries high traffic volumes. In some places pedestrians have to duck their heads to get by. Please ensure that you do keep plants from obstructing the footpath. The Council has been known to serve notice on owners to cut back vegetation and has powers to do this in the event of noncompliance, charging the owners with the cost.

Camden Snow Warden Scheme

During previous winters our Snow Warden Scheme has not only spread salt along our roadside pavements to keep them de-iced for pedestrians, but has also kept open St. Stephens Road (and Perfect View road) for traffic. Whilst the Council-supplied pushable salt spreader was adequate for the pavements, salt for the 2 roads was applied by a 4-wheel drive pick-up truck supplied and operated by deputy snow warden Ed Cole, with a helper shovelling salt out from the back of the truck. As Ed has moved his business



Vegetation overhanging the narrow pavement in Camden Road

elsewhere and away from The Towers, we no longer have his assistance. Does anyone have a pick-up truck we can use for this purpose when snow or ice threatens these roads? The Council does not grit St Stephens Road and, as it is a major car-parking street for our residents, we need to keep it open. Chris Smith

Gays Hill: The Council has now erected a warning sign at the top to warn HGVs that the road is unsuitable for them; hopefully this will mean fewer lorries in difficulty here. Julie Platt.

Wild Camden Update: We had the best display yet of wildflowers over the summer, and things should get even better in the future! After the pigs did their job of preparing the ground in front of Camden Crescent for planting (that was way back in 2011!), we planted a carefully selected variety of annual and perennial seeds with the intention of creating our own wildflower meadow. A group of dedicated and committed volunteers have been periodically managing the Wild Camden meadow ever since. It will take still more time for this area to reach its full potential as a wildlife haven, so please bear with us! If you would like to volunteer for future work in the area, then please email wildcamden@gmail.com and we'll add you to the list.

Of course it's not only the meadow area that we have been involved in. We have also been working with the Council and Local Councillors to plan for more coppicing work to be undertaken of many of the overgrown trees and shrubs in the area. Whilst the continuing purpose of the area is to exist as an urban refuge for flora and fauna, we have agreed that the focus of this winter's work should be within the rising triangle of land leading up from Upper Hedgemoor Park to the meadow. This will be done during January with the help of the Youth Offending Team, and will open up views towards Upper Hedgemoor Road, thereby improving perceptions of safety for residents who walk along this road.

Once this work has been completed, we will look at the possibility of creating a zig-zag path leading from Upper Hedgemoor Rd up to the meadow (not for general public access), and the installation of a double gate to improve access for management and maintenance.

Stephen George & Nigel Pollard

Railings at Grade 1 Listed Building

Camden Crescent: As can be seen from this photo, the railings and stone bases are in a very poor condition. I am meeting with a Council engineer and historic buildings officer shortly regarding structural work and hopefully restoration work to the railings and will report back at the AGM. Nigel Sherwen



Camden Residents' Association: Our 20th anniversary!

For those of us who are newcomers to the area, I thought I would list some of the projects with which we have been involved, and our achievements since the CRA was founded in 1994.

First of all, in 1998, was the installation of traffic calming measures – by means of strategic car parking chicanes on Camden Road. Then in 2003 the introduction of the 20 mph zone with speed tables and cushions. A major achievement was the

introduction of the Residents' Parking Scheme after the CRA had carried out an extensive consultation exercise with local residents.

Thanks to our efforts we have two new bus shelters at the busiest Camden bus stops, and we have added our weight to the campaign to keep our no. 6 and 7 buses running at reasonably frequent intervals. And we have new refuse bins, and salt bins for icy weather. And of course we are very proud of our ongoing attempts to clear and manage the land below Camden Crescent and plant a wild flower meadow.

Above all we hope we have represented the residents of Camden in our dealings with the Council, and as part of the Federation of Bath Residents Association looking after the interests of all the residents of the city.

A PLEA FOR MORE HELP!

We very much want to carry on trying to improve the quality of life for the people of Camden, and would very much welcome the help of any Camden residents who feel they would like to be more involved and perhaps bring new ideas as to what we, as a group, should be trying to achieve.

You may have ideas as to how the area might be improved, how we might get together to discuss ideas for Bath as a whole, or even feel that the Association should be organising social events for the area. We would love to hear from you at the AGM or E mail me. Janet Anderson

janetandtonyanderson@talktalk.net

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Camden Residents' Association Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the CRA under our constitution conducts the business of the CRA. Members of the Committee hold office for one year and are available for re-election in following years. It is limited to one person per household and for practical reasons to a maximum of ten persons. If you wish to stand for election to the Committee please forward your name with a seconder to the Secretary. Please include your name address and contact details, also for your seconder, and send this in writing to the secretary or by E-mail via the website by 17th November 2014. It may be necessary to hold an election at the AGM if more than ten people wish to be on the committee.

Contact details: Chairman: Nigel Sherwen 3 Stanley Villas, Camden Road (331377)

Secretary: Janet Anderson: 31 Prospect Place, Camden Rd, BA1 5JD (429574)

Treasurer: Julie Platt – Lower Camden Place, Camden Rd

You can also contact us on our website at www.camdenresidents.org.uk

Our thanks to Andrews Estate Agents for printing this Newsletter

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