



Camden Residents Association

Newsletter October 2018

MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR THOSE LIVING ON OR NEAR CAMDEN ROAD

IN THIS ISSUE

The Clean Air Plan will affect Camden.

by Jeremy Labram, Chair.

In Cape Town, Robert Kennedy said that we live in interesting times. Two years later this was proved tragically prophetic.

Not to draw too much of a parallel but back in Bath, due to a High Court Direction, B&NES Council, along with many other urban local authorities, is compelled to act to reduce NO₂ pollution in the city by two years' time – there is no choice in the matter. Their Clean Air Plan centres on the creation of a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) around the inner city whereby high emitting vehicles will be charged to enter the zone and hopefully deterred. It has to deliver the required reduction or else the Council will be subject to fines as well as leaving citizens of Bath with illegally polluted air.

For us in Camden this could be a major improvement to traffic congestion and rat running as well as cleaner and safer air – but it could also make life more inconvenient and the cost of living here higher.

We have to accept that to be effective it will have to involve changing our travel habits into and through Bath from 2020. We are very keen to ensure that this is done fairly and, if so, the consensus on the committee is

that we will guardedly support it because it should improve life in Camden and NE Bath and will be funded by central government. Many of us view this as a 'game changer' for Bath and a start to tackling traffic congestion more generally.

Despite our offers we have found it very difficult to engage, face to face, with the Council until now, 17th October, the day after their plans were revealed, when I got an hour with the Cabinet member responsible and a 30 minute surgery with the Project Manager.

We have four days from the AGM to make submissions to influence the final design of the scheme. We will propose a motion at the AGM requesting sensible changes to the plan as it is published, and the more voters for the motion on the night, the more weight it will carry. Do come!!

AGM Nov 22nd

This will take place at 7.30pm in Claremont Methodist Church. Guest speakers include Mark Shelford, Cabinet Member for Transport.

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Call to serve

We need new committee members and supporters. It needn't be overly burdensome.

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Hedgemoor Park

The Friends have really got going this year and read the heartwarming story of the Golden Eagle.

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Camden Crescent

Fascinating insight into the history of this iconic crescent.

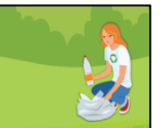
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Wild Camden

Exciting opportunities to help make this area less wild?!

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Camden Shopfronts

Surprising and useful local amenities and services

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<https://camdenresidentsbath.org>

AGM

Gloria, Committee Member. I live on Belgrave Crescent – the only Victorian crescent in Bath. It looks convex from the Warminster Rd side and took over 10 years to build on the hillside and yet is unlisted. Residents love living here, and care a lot about how we might be affected by the Clean Air Zone.

Nancy, Website Manager. I live on Berkeley Place. Camden has been my home for 20 years and I love how friendly and helpful we all are. Camden is a beautiful part of Bath and I feel very privileged to live here. Happily I do not have any experience working with governing bodies, but I do have energy and am technically savvy. I get a kick out of helping keep our beautiful community clean.

Chris, Committee Member. I moved to Bath from Australia more than 20 years ago. I joined the CRA when I found that it existed and was active in improving local issues, such as street parking, vehicle speeding and traffic emissions. It is good to be able to help and put something back into our beautiful neighbourhood which we so much enjoy.

Jeremy, Chair. We moved from London in 2016. We are glad we chose this area because it is an easy climb from the city and into the countryside and we enjoy great views and sunshine from our steep garden. Traffic was an issue and I found myself in discussions with local neighbours and heard about the CRA and their efforts to get changes made so I offered to help.

Nigel, Treasurer. I live in Leopold Buildings which has been my home since 1992. My frequent walks into the centre of Bath take me past the untidy 'wilderness' below our Grade 1 listed Camden Crescent and it is this unkept and seemingly unloved local space that first got me involved with the CRA. While we are most fortunate to live in such a beautiful city, much more still remains to be done to make it even better.

Deepali, Committee Member. I joined the Camden Residents' Association committee following my call to the Council seeking advice on the parking situation in Camden. Since then I've been fortunate to see residents' parking introduced in to Camden. I have been dropping my ideas in at the meetings - not all of which meet with unanimous approval! I enjoy helping to keep Camden beautiful and a good place to live.'

Elections

Our committee has 10 people on it. All four officers are seeking to be re-elected.

Of the other six committee members we know two are standing down after many years of service and there may be more candidates than places.

Most of those already on the committee have put a little statement together saying why they serve. Hopefully this will encourage others to have a go!

The closing date for putting yourself forward is 15/11/18 for the AGM on 22/11/18. Just apply to the Committee Secretary, Janet Anderson by email at janetandtonyanderson@talktalk.net or ring Jeremy, Chair, for a chat on 07966 717013.

Frequently asked questions:

1. Is it a 'life sentence'?

No, you just commit to serving for one year. We have potentially over 1000 residents out there so there should be no shortage of talent if you were to step down.

2. I don't like committees!

If they achieve very little then we can understand that. We do achieve tangible results and in so doing learn a lot about how to get things done in a local democracy.

3. I can't commit much time.

That's okay. We meet every two months or so and each of us takes responsibility for one activity or mini project – that's all.

4. I'm not sure what use I'll be?

We often have hidden transferable skills and experience or have relevant hobbies – you'd be surprised!

5. I'm not here much

That's okay – there are probably quite a few like you and we need to represent all types of residents and need to understand your perspective. With modern communications much can be achieved without meeting in person all that much.

6. Do we have fun?

Yes, we try to! Clearing snow and gritting as a team is pretty rewarding as is our regular litter picks and wild gardening sessions.

Pitting your wits against politicians is quite fun too.

Agenda

Arguably this year presents us with more serious issues than even the residents' parking zone 10 years ago. We have to weigh up anti-pollution measures and restrictions over the use of vehicles in Camden and on Bath generally.

At our AGM we will have:

- Councillor Mark Shelford, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
- Councillor Bob Goodman, Cabinet Member for Development and Neighbourhoods,

as well as our local councillors to present their perspectives and answer questions from us.

To give us time to allow full debate we will have to conduct the formal business as quickly as possible at the beginning of the meeting so do please turn up promptly, or even early – we will be ready for you and there is plenty to read up on beforehand!

We really look forward to seeing you at this really important time for Camden.

1	Welcome and Introductions	19:30
2	Adoption of New constitution	19:40
3	Chairman's Report	19:45
4	Treasurer's Report	19:50
5	Election of Officers and Committee Members	19:55
6	Charging Clean Air Zone (CAZ) for Bath Discussion	20:15
7	CRA Motion regarding the CAZ	21:15
8	Final Summary and election announcement	21:20
9	Finish	21:30
10	Drinks at the Fairfield Arms	21:30

Messages from the Committee

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CAMDEN

The city of Bath is growing and developing in exciting ways and tackling a wide range of challenges, many of which affect us in Camden. The residents' association engages actively with the council to find solutions to many issues that concern local people. Like me, you may be interested in helping Camden residents shape their community and effect change? Perhaps you are new to the area and would like to get to know more people? Or you may be an established resident with views about the local environment and how it can be improved for the benefit of everyone in Camden. Do come to the AGM.

Julie

CAMDEN CRESCENT



In the history of Bath, Camden has played a key part as it developed over the Georgian period and into

the Regency era and the Victorian phase. This is evidenced in the architectural styles as one travels East along Camden Road from Camden Crescent (originally called Camden Place).

Camden Crescent, built in 1788-1792 by John Eveleigh, ends abruptly after no 21, as the construction had to be halted when a seam of soft earth was found just beyond this point (east of what is now St Stephens Rd), which had caused the ground to dip down sharply and made it impossible to continue with the crescent shape.

It is interesting to note that Camden Crescent, in Jane Austen's time (in the early 1800's) carried considerable status, reflecting the social structure of English society at the time. Quoting from Jane Austen's *Persuasion* (her last novel), Sir Walter, father of the heroine Anne, chooses "a very good house in Camden Place, a lofty, dignified situation, such as becomes a man of consequence"

On the Jane Austen Centre's website, it is mentioned how: "Camden-place (now Camden Crescent) in the early part of the nineteenth century was nearly the northernmost point of the city.. From this height Sir Walter could literally look down on almost everyone else in Bath, an important consideration for a man to whom rank, 'the place he held in society', mattered so much."

The Crescent is built over a viaduct through which deliveries could be made to the kitchen and service areas. The main entrance to the house is on the road above the viaduct, leading to the ground floor with the Reception and Dining areas. The First floor was the Drawing Room and recreation space with its high ceiling and decorative cornices, with the bedrooms and attic for the servants being on the upper floors.

Deepali

CRESCENT STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE WORKS

Maintenance works to the viaduct structure that supports the road in front of Camden Crescent have been due for sometime, and we understand that this is scheduled to take place next financial year. This will also include the conservation of the historic railings, which is something that the CRA have been actively campaigning for over many years.

Steve

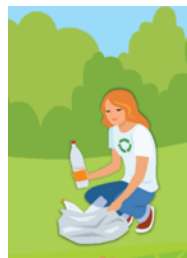
WILD CAMDEN

The area in front of Camden Crescent, known locally as Wild Camden, is a safe haven for wildlife, a place for all sorts of creatures to roam and forage, and a conscious contrast to the more formal, yet wonderful Hedgemoor Park. It was planted a few years ago with a wildflower meadow and a number of new trees.

The CRA has arranged with B&NES Council (who own the land) to cut back the Wild Camden meadow twice a year, and this is followed up by a group of local volunteers who clear the arisings and tidy up. Whilst it is intended as a wild space, it does need a bit more regular management and maintenance, and this will be undertaken as part of the monthly 'Clean-Ups' taking place on the third Sunday of the month.

Nancy

LITTER PICKING



'Clean in Teams' will be recommended starting Sunday October 28th. We will meet at Camden Crescent 11 - 12am and will do a general litter pick. If you want to be notified about future dates (we plan to meet the last Sunday in the month) please email: coppocknancy1@icloud.com and I will email you a reminder. Thank you! Remember to bring your SMILES!

Nancy

Encouraging walking along Camden

It is not only the Bath stone facades and the variety of the houses along Camden Road which enhance the character of the Conservation Area, but also the trees and shrubs planted in front gardens. We are trying to encourage people to walk rather than use their cars, so please make sure that we don't allow trees, shrubs and hedges to extend over the pavements to make life difficult for pedestrians, on what can be very narrow paths close to traffic.

NigelS

SNOW WARDEN ACTIVITIES.

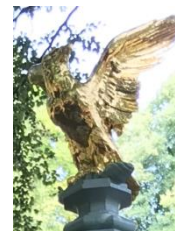


When snow falls or ice is forecast our Snow Warden team will again this Winter be spreading salt/grit (supplied by Council)

onto Camden pavements and danger points on roads. Should snow fall, please can all Camden residents help by shoveling snow off the footpath next to your property – Council recommends banking it up against the side of the path or moving it into the edge of the road. Any residents who are willing to help with the salt/grit spreading will be welcomed by our team – please contact us by email (chris_b_smith@btopenworld.com) or by phone (481588)

Chris

FRIENDS OF HEDGEMOOR PARK



The recent long, hot summer, saw the renovation of the ironwork of the Victorian drinking fountain. Made in the 1880's by Walter Macfarlane & Co. of Glasgow, this

wonderfully ornate cast iron structure had become unloved and rusty. Generously funded by the 'Bath World Heritage Enhancement Fund', a team of volunteers set about cleaning and repainting it. Meanwhile the golden eagle crowning the design was taken away for repair and re-gilding. Now reunited and whole again, the fountain looks immaculate although unfortunately still without a water supply!

The Friends would welcome others to join them in efforts to preserve and enhance this delightful city space. - Would you like to get involved? – The Council have promised some heritage and wildlife information boards and we need to ensure that the Park looks its best for our 130th anniversary year celebrations next July!

NigelP

Spotlight on Camden's shop windows



ANDREWS ESTATE AGENTS

We are most grateful again to Andrews and their Barbara for generously printing this newsletter each year which takes three hours of machine time to do.



MILLIES CARE AND SUPPORT AGENCY

Millies takes its name from the mother of Gillian and Beverley who, in her memory, set up the care agency. It aims to provide support and encouragement to those who otherwise would not be able to manage to live independently in their own homes.

RISING SUN

Do you see the quiz sign in the picture above? - or is it the Clarendon? The tenancy is still available according to the web site and a big refurb is offered. See <https://www.punchtaverns.com/pub/rising-sun-bath-ba16eh/>.

LOOSE ENDS

Our local hairdresser offers prices below the city centre, and they don't serve divas, they tell us! There is unlimited tea, coffee and biscuits and there is always a friendly welcome.

WELL PHARMACY

Did you know that they can help you maintain a healthy lifestyle with: smoking cessation, blood pressure checks, flu vaccinations, emergency hormonal contraception and travel advice?

CAMDEN COFFEE

On Saturday 3rd November they're offering a chance to watch the fireworks at the Rec from their stunning terrace. Pop along now for a hot ticket.

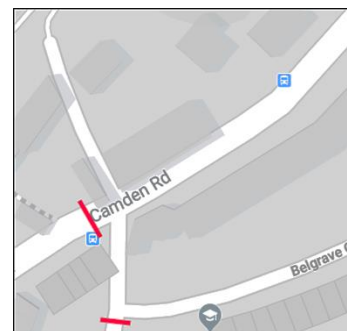
CAMDEN HOUSE

It is a family business letting agency offering landlords and tenants a truly personal, yet highly professional service for renting with some of the lowest fees in Bath.

Motion at the AGM

At the time of printing we've only had 3 days to consider the Clean Air Plan with its Clean Air Zone. By the time of the AGM we will have a more considered position and be ready to put a motion to the meeting after hearing from the main councillors involved, urging for our suggested changes to be included in the final plan. Please come and hear the issues and make up your own mind at the meeting. Here are some of them:

1. At the starting point in late 2020, the 25% of car owners predicted to have chargeable cars will have to pay £9 to enter the zone and then they will be free to travel for 24 hours within the zone. After that, if they move the car they are likely to trigger another £9 charge. So for someone working away and returning on Friday evening, it will cost them £9 to park, and assuming they do not use the car over the week-end, they will have another £9 to pay to drive away from the zone. That is £18 for a total driving time of perhaps 5 minutes. This along with other perversities will push people into parking outside the zone in Fairfield Park or Richmond Road, for example.
2. The proposed boundary crosses Camden Road at Gay's Hill. So drivers deciding not to proceed, at the last minute, will turn round and inappropriately use Belgrave Crescent to escape. Whilst not ideal, pushing the zone boundary to the Bennett Lane avoids this and provides the only escape route to the London Road.
3. Any residents in NE Bath with a chargeable car aiming to drive to Wells, for example, will have to use a rat run through Fairfield Park and Lansdown, to Weston and Newbridge passing six schools, before taking the A4 to Corston. This means driving several miles more and increasing CO₂ emissions.
4. It is surprisingly easy to get round the whole scheme if you have a chargeable car. You can buy an additional 2006 Ford Ka for £700 to use as your run around car. Is this what the council want to encourage?



Camden Residents' Association <https://camdenresidentsbath.org/>

We don't have members as such but we do encourage residents to subscribe to our site to receive our weekly newsletters.