

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting of Camden Residents Association
10th Sept 2019**

1. Present:

Jeremy Labram, Janet Anderson, Nigel Pollard, Frank Benyon, Caroline Groom, Bob Williams (apologies from Chris S, John L, Gloria G)

2. The minutes of the previous committee meeting

were approved.

3. Low Traffic Neighbourhood

Jeremy explained the long history of the CRA attempting to cut traffic on Camden Rd and improve pollution and safety, but concluded there had been no radical changes in the recent past. We had been very hopeful of including older diesel cars in the CAZ D but this had not come about. Our hope now lay with the LTN.

Bob had seen this in the Lib Dem manifesto, and Joanna Wright had confirmed at their meeting the Council's determination to go ahead with this. He said that there was the opportunity to make substantial change, although there were clearly difficulties ahead.

We needed to be able to sell the idea to our local residents, many of whom would be inconvenienced by the plan, as well as gaining the amenity benefits. The details must be clear, and it needed to be sorted quickly as Joanna was anxious for it to be implemented by the end of 2020.

A working party including Jeremy, Bob, Joanna and Adam Reynolds, [REDACTED], would be having a first meeting on 27th Sept, when they had put aside an afternoon for a walk and talk around our area to review the first attempt at an LTN scheme.

Caroline wondered whether it should be up to residents to come up with schemes, or whether it should be left to Council transport experts. Bob pointed out that any plan would need local support. Local knowledge was useful and we should be involved at an early stage. Nigel said that we should involve some younger working people who were more representative of local residents than those on the Committee. Jeremy said that above all any plan must look to be acceptable to most of our residents.

Caroline pointed out that many of the examples shown in the photographs were not comparable, and had nothing like the topography of our part of Bath, which was very hilly and with little opportunity for cycling, retail and cafe culture.

Frank agreed that Camden was essentially just a road. Only Larkhall which could be considered a neighbourhood. He saw the improvement of the road as a priority, perhaps making it look less like a main road, perhaps trying to make parts such as Claremont and Camden Crescent more like community areas. Nigel said he thought we should wait for the Council to come up with plans.

There was discussion about the possible blocking off of other rat-runs, such as the Thomas St exit on to the London Rd, and whether these were most used by local residents who parked in the nearby streets.

Nigel was in favour of more research into the origins and destinations of car journeys on Camden Road. Bob pointed out that we already had a lot of data from the Larkhall study and Jeremy said such detailed data would require interviewing every driver.

Jeremy is currently in favour of a 'LTN light', with perhaps one busgate. However it was agreed that we should at least wait until the working party meeting on the 27th Sept to see what proposals were being considered before trying to have an influence.

Bob reported that Joanna had emphasised the scheme would have to be 'big bang' and not incremental so it would have to be 'right first time', because of the legal expense of making changes to the highway and parking.

4. Safety along CR following the accident at Malvern Villas.

Jeremy had met with Council officials, Debra Scott, Richard Samuels and Tom Davies on Sept. 5th.

He reported that the Council officers were not very optimistic. They did not agree that VASs were effective, nor give way signs and pointed out the high expense of pavement improvement etc. Th

Jeremy furnished them with links on our website to our work on VASs and the detailed suggestions in our Nov 2017 report.

5. Prioritising and taking forward the nine initiatives previously agreed

Camden Rd/ Lansdown Rd Junction: we hope to hear more from Chris following his meeting with council officers

Eastern P&R: Councillors had suggested that Link and Rides were more likely to be provided than Park and Rides to the east of Bath

The LTN might mean that the other initiatives might be swept up in any LTN scheme.

6. Serving on the committee next year

Janet confirmed she would be stepping down from the Committee this year. John and Gloria were also stepping down.

Possible new recruits were Steve K, Debra, Elaine and Francois de Louw.

7. Newsletter and AGM (21/11/19)

Jeremy outlined the timetable for the months ahead, the compilation of the newsletter, printing, doorknocking, AGM arrangements. He asked for contributions to the newsletter. The following were suggested:

- Frank - the work on the Camden vaults
- Janet - changes to the shops and pub at Claremont
- Bob - the school run
- Nigel - Hedgemoor

In addition, on the subject of the LTN, it was suggested that individual committee members submit personal views about the benefits of the scheme and any reservations they might have.

Janet will book the hall and Jeremy will discuss the printing of the newsletter with Andrews.

8. Wild Camden

Nigel said that he would email Stephen George about the possibility of having some Council pruning and clearing work done while access was being made easier by the work on the vaults.

9. Accounts

Nigel explained that the CRA accounts were now with Santander. Current account balance was £2112, savings account £5613. RBS had given the CRA £750 for moving accounts. It was agreed to join Friends of Hedgemoor Park with for annual subscription of £25.

10. Web Site Performance

- Activity highlights. - Local Hero, LTN, Massive Bang, missing dog
- 162 subscribers, up three

11. AOB

FoBRA Meeting 19/09: Jeremy said that he could not attend and asked other committee members if they could. Caroline said she would go if she could

FoHP Fete: Nigel and Caroline reported that this had been a huge success and about £800 raised.

FoHP in general: Nigel said that there were now more than 20 members. Group members were two local churches and Vineyards and Ainslie's Belvedere Residents Associations, and now the CRA.

Bath Alliance for Transport and the Public Realm: Jeremy was working with this group and had set up a website for them.

12. DONMs for next year

- a. Twice monthly thereafter (8 Oct, 17 Dec)
- b. AGM 21/11/19
- c. Venue for 08/10. Caroline kindly agreed to host