

Camden Residents' Association AGM - Minutes

Held on: Wednesday 23rd November 2022, 7.00 – 8.15 pm

Venue: Burdall's Yard, London Road, Bath

Facilitated by: John Long (Chair)

Also present: Cllrs Richard Samuel, Tom Davies

| Agenda item | Key points |
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| Welcome | Chair (John): Welcomed attendees and gave a flavour of the 'new look' meeting / evening ahead. People were very kind and even laughed his ice-breaker joke 😊 |
| Housekeeping: 2022/23 CRA committee | Secretary (Louise): Introduced and confirmed committee 2022/23; no vote required as less than 10 stood: John Long (Chair), Nigel Pollard (Treasurer), Louise Coates (Sec), Bob Williams (Web). Regular members: Jeremy Labram, Carrie Stockton (Events), Jonathan Saunders, Johanna Schwart. John: Noted that there is room to get involved, and there were cards on seats for suggestions, ideas, offers of help etc. |
| Housekeeping: Finances | Treasurer (Nigel): Healthy (see CRA website for full detail); numerous events planned for 2023 which will require some expenditure, but also create opportunities to augment funds. Will be a financial plan developed to underpin activities next year. John: Added that we will look to develop a better fund raising system to provide more income certainty in 2023. |
| Year in review & 4 C's of Camden | John: Thank you to all committee members who have retired during the year or as of now: Chris Smith, Rachel Demuth, Bob Crampton, Elaine Morell, Araminta Stokes-Rys. Huge thank you to Jeremy Labram for his tireless work over the last 5 years as Chair and for establishing the CRA as a significant player amongst the other RAs and providing such a solid platform for our future. 2022 has been a great year for us, with some wonderful highlights throughout Camden - Bath Guitar School Xmas busk at Camden Crescent, volunteers, bees and goats at Camden Meadow, 400 people at our Jubilee street party with The Claremont, summer road improvements, our first Camden pub quiz, our Spooky Camden halloween, tonight's get-together... - and much planned for the year ahead. We have continued to work well alongside our local Councillors to promote the interests of our neighbourhood. John briefly explained his '4 C's of Camden' vision (Celebrate, Connect, Contribute, Campaign), and how they will guide our activities going forward and be the lens through which we judge what we do and don't take on. It does not mean doing less of the good things that we are already doing, but more of other things. |
| Outlook for year ahead, based on 4Cs | Celebrate John (standing in for Johanna): John set up his own Instagram account during the year for all things Camden, and Johanna now helps with it. They make it available to support CRA comms and it has gained traction and been of real use to the CRA. It now has 514 followers and is helping Camden as a "brand". It has been followed by Camden residents, and farther afield in Bath, including numerous local influencers, all aimed at celebrating what a great place Camden is and what a marvellous community we have. Ideas welcome. |

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| | <p>We are also taking part in the world-wide recognition of William Camden's 400th anniversary next year, perhaps the theme of our summer street party.</p> <p>Comms will also continue via traditional means - website, e-shots, newsletters etc.</p> |
| | <p>Connect</p> <p>John (standing in for Carrie): Run through of events we've held during the year (see above review). Our new Events coordinator, Carrie, will be bringing plans together for the 2023 programme – please volunteer if you'd like to be involved.</p> |
| | <p>Contribute</p> <p>Saana Karna for Friends of Camden Meadow: Showed Camden's first 2 goats and later 3 arrivals, on loan from Street Goat. Friends of Camden Meadow now has 41 volunteers working on the Meadow and of these many help on the Goat Rota. The two bee hives have established themselves well over the year, providing the first ever crop of delicious local, organic Camden Meadow honey.</p> <p>John: Thanked bee-keeper Tullio de Rosa, chief goat herd Saana, and co-leader of Camden Meadow, John Lindup for all his hard work to develop biodiversity in this important corner of Bath.</p> <p>Further ideas for the Contribute theme next year will include a Library of Things, and more.</p> |
| Campaign | <p>John: Whilst we were disappointed that our Councillor's bid for a Camden Liveable Neighbourhood (LN) was not successful, Camden Road has subsequently been included within the London Road & Snow Hill LN consultation. We are engaged with the Council to see what this might mean for Camden, and have provided our own thoughts including from our large survey of residents, and intend to play an active role in shaping any proposals.</p> <p>Further ideas for the Campaign theme next year include 'Eyes on the street', 'Green Corridor', and 'Green / Net Zero Homes Retrofit'.</p> |
| Q's and John's responses | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More advance notice suggested for road closures (eg tree felling) - noted, Councillors now aware. 2. Importance of biodiversity at Camden Meadow - agreed, and work to date has been focussed on this. 3. Street traffic matters. Point re-iterated to Cllrs RS & TD re potential danger of the Snow Hill/London Road planters, AS raised last year too - a Council matter, not within Camden. Safety for pedestrians on corner of Bennett's Lane- noted, picked up as part of LN discussion. Cars being damaged when parked on street (parking bays vary in width) - noted, will pick up in LN discussion. 4. Might badgers in gardens be linked to Camden Meadow management - we think not, have avoided setts and no evidence of disturbing pathways. |
| Suggestions – at the meeting and afterwards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cherry tree on the Meadow - nice. 2. Swift boxes (nests for swifts) - up for it. 3. Volunteer speedwatchers on key spots on the road – post meeting - has been done before but can repeat if volunteers to do so come forward. 4. Fundraiser: sell the Meadow risings as chippings - post meeting response - possibly, but currently used for weed control and pathways. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Set up a compost unit on the Meadow and sell it - post meeting response - nice idea, to be considered. 6. More honey sales - post meeting response - ditto. 7. Encourage residents to make a standing order donation to the CRA - post meeting response - that's the plan ;) |
| Thanks, and now to continue Connecting | All retired to the bar area to continue mingling and ideas. Thanks for Llyod for his beautiful guitar work |

Louise Coates, Secretary

Approved by John Long, Chair

25.11.22