

Minutes of CRA Committee Meeting on 9th Jan '24, 19:00 – 21:00, The Claremont

Present: JLL, JSa, JSc, CS, NP, BW.

The 26 actions are in red.

1. CONSTITUTION AND COMPLIANCE

Two new 'Cs'!

1.1 Introduction

We're a new committee with the minimum number of members to make decisions and we need to rebuild somewhat, as well as stick to our rules on procedure and transparency.

These were very necessary five years ago to stop the dysfunction caused by an obstructive committee member over whom we had no constitutional sanction.

1.2 Issues confronting us:

1.2.1 Too few committee members

We all have to attend committee meetings in order to be quorate and thereby make decisions. There is also potentially too little resource to sustain the CRA

1. We must all continue to find appropriate people, ideally with appropriate skill-sets, experience whilst adhering to the Constitution

1.2.2 Missing Officer roles – ie permanent Chair, Secretary, Treasurer

2. JLL will continue until March '24 as interim Chair and will try to find a successor
3. Minute-writing for Committee Meetings to be rotated – next one JSc
4. NP agreed to be retained by the Committee by extending the definition of Camden to include Lansdown Grove. ~~JLL to amend map on web-site~~ ~~DONE~~

1.2.3 Four committee members required, with the possibility of two more cooptees

5. All to look out for these and qualify them and refer to JLL initially.

Possible candidates are:

- JSa has two possibilities on Claremont Villas
- CS has Sharon Charlton-Thomson
- CS has Nigel 3BT

1.3 AGM report

We agreed that nothing of significance was determined at the meeting itself as there were no elections or motions. Cllr Dr John Leach's prediction of 2 years until something on the LN for Camden created quite stir. As his has been superseded now we really only need to put a short record of the event on the web-site which can include the annual report, John Long's PowerPoint (we have the AGM newsletter also) and a short statement covering the LN.

6. JLL to action on the CRA web-site.

1.4 Committee Meeting Scheduling

We've now set a pattern of monthly meetings, with the option to cancel or reschedule if needed. They will alternate between Monday and Wednesday.

7. All: the next one is Wed 21/02/24 with the Progressive dinner three days later

1.5 Committee comms

1.5.1 WhatsApp

WhatsApp has now started – thx Carrie. Try and use this rather than email.

1.5.2 All definitive documentation

It can be deposited on the [G drive](#) (thanks for the link Johanna) currently hosted by John Long. This is not a long term position and it could/should be hosted on a dedicated CRA google drive, which are successors can simply take over when we each step down.

8. BW – can you draw up a plan for this?

2. CONNECT WITH:

2.1 Camden residents

The Progressive Supper is the next main opportunity on 24/02. See section 3.2

2.1.1 Belgrave Crescent – not represented

9. JLL to contact no 12 and 15.

2.2 External bodies

This is essentially a networking opportunity and winning friends, but with limited opportunities for collaboration.

2.2.1 FoBRA

10. JSa to be the main contact. JSa to inform FoBRA Sec

2.2.2 Councillors

11. JLL and BW because we already have an established relationship

2.2.3 RAs local to us in preparation for Camden Liveable Neighbourhood

12. JSa to link up with:

Ainslie's Belvedere and Caroline Place c/o Nick Tobin
Lansdown Crescent Association c/o Rachel Hushon
Richmond Road – no obvious contact??

13. Circus Area c/o Rakesh Manon

2.2.4 Transition Larkhall

14. JLL to open up a dialogue again

3. CELEBRATE

15. CS and JSc to head up


3.1 Camden Meadow Christmas Busk on 16th December '23

Good weather, joyous occasion. £460 turnover – distribution to be determined. Paper Jam group of St Stephen's School parents attracted a lot of interest. 120 attendees and 180 cups of 'up market' mulled Chianti.

16. JSc to produce video

17. Further follow up to be left to Camden Meadow - JLL.

3.2 Progressive Supper

18. CS organising: recruitment, structuring the event
19. JSc hosting the pudding course for all, with help from the rest of us
20. ~~JJL producing prototype google application form - DONE~~
21. No official cost to enter but donations of £10 per person to be encouraged
22.  to check on currency of public liability insurance

Carrie needs a CRA email address. We have admin@camdenresidentsbath.org on the web-site but I'm not sure how this is monitored.

23. BW. Can this or a more appropriate one be arranged for Carrie to use very quickly?

I'm unsure about restricting it to residents of Camden Road and have not included it in my application form work done today to get ready to find supper hosts.

We will be prioritising the recruiting of hosts. Committee hosts: CS, JJL, JS so far.

24. JJL to produce prototype 'application form' for CS on google forms - DONE

4. CONNECT

4.1 AGM

We attracted the smallest audience for the AGM since 2016, at least, despite considerable work to stage the event and cope with the venue's date changes. We agreed that the choice of venue needed reviewing in due course.

4.2 External regular comms

4.2.1 Blog

We agreed to return to a weekly frequency for blogging, rather than a monthly. This would start by launching the Progressive Supper.

4.2.2 Instagram

Johanna's work on this would continue and major on artists and others in the creative sector who would be of interest to residents, including John Eason on Belgrave Terrace and others.

4.2.3 Building a simple database of Camden residents

25. BW to develop this further.

4.3 Snow patrol

This is now a smaller affair without the use of a heavy spreader provided by B&NES. It's more about keeping the grit bins filled from our supply in the Beacon Wood House woods. This is run by Steve Kamlish and his list of local residents spread salty grit on pavements and roads not covered by the Council, and after a heavy snow fall clear the snow on the pavements into the road gutter.

26. JJL to gear up Steve Kamlish

5. CONTRIBUTE

6. Yes, we have established a reputation for fun events but we are not yet converting that into contributions towards running the CRA from our community

- a. Progressive supper successor may convert more people to being hosts next time round?

6. CAMPAIGN

6.1 Liveable Neighbourhood for Camden

The LN sub-committee had five on it at peak, in the past. New recruits who we will need will need to 'bone up' and skill up' on this subject. Some important skill-sets are:

- Stakeholder definition and management
- Change management experience
- Richard Samuel – nurture, still a big hitter

JJL explained that this is 'hotting up' – now having a good relationship with Oli Henman. After two recent meetings we are partially in the dark as to what is likely to be proposed! We understand it will involve a bus-gate and some changes to the flow of traffic on roads like Bennetts Lane, Gays Hill and Frankley Buildings. It will be implemented relatively quickly using ETRO legislation. (ETRO: experimental traffic regulation order)

We agreed the approach:

- to try to go with what the Council come up with which should include a bus-gate and let it take the initial flak and then offer the project some local wisdom, subtle advocacy and diplomacy from the CRA
- At some point we can release our information on the Camden Accident Log. This has got further augmented after another prang on Coburg Villas last week – running total is £76,800 and 19 'events'.
- JL really keen to ensure we are representative of our own community's feelings and to be seen to be reaching out into other neighbouring communities.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21/02/24, 7pm, the Claremont.