

LANSDOWN CRESCENT ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting Wednesday 25rd May 2016 at Marian's (20 LC) 7.30pm

1. Apologies please to the secretary

Anthony Pearson

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting 23rd March 2016

The minutes were approved.

3. Matters arising from the minutes (where not covered by agenda items)

(i) *Finials (see agenda item 8)*

(ii) *Parking outside Lansdown Grove Hotel (Shaws)*

The parking situation has Improved, but some smaller vehicles are still parking on the road, despite the traffic constrictions imposed by the new Hope House hoardings.

Jane (manager of hotel) wrote to inform us that some of the lorries were now unloading in the car park. She was concerned that the lorries would cause safety issues when reversing out from the car park.

Robin replied to her asking if the Hope House traffic issues could be the excuse for creating a permanent solution.

LCA suggested that lorries must reverse into (not out of) the hotel car park, to avoid having to reverse out.

(iii) *Beckford Gate – planning application – target date 21st Jan - and consequential actions (RK, AP)*

Enforcement notice has been issued 4th August. 7th September is the next date to watch, by when an appeal must be made (it probably will, given the history). If an appeal is made, then the issue could run for another 2 years. If they do not appeal and have not rebuilt the wall after three months, then they

will be served with a court notice.

Robin met with Mark Reynolds (the senior council officer for the case), who explained the enforcement process and stated the council's resolve to see the wall reinstated, if the law permitted.

(iv) Rachael reported that 3 LPW has put in a planning application to replace the heavy wooden handrail on the basement staircase with an iron one. The steps will remain as they are (i.e. timber). The planning application also includes reverting the Victorian windows to Georgian.

4. Treasurer's Report (CS)

Statement prepared for final account shows a £xxx surplus.

Robin suggested that the surplus could be used for a plaque

The Proposals for Reserves document prepared by Christopher was discussed. This work is ongoing. **Action CS**

5. Traffic (NB)

i. Hope House related traffic

The committee felt that the current Hope House traffic arrangements would influence the results of the traffic survey. The committee agreed that the next survey in September 2016 would, therefore, not give a fair comparison to the earlier surveys and should be deferred until the Hope House work is completed - **action NB**

Robin has written to Hope House (Acorn) asking that the water-filled barriers be lowered as they are presently in a car driver's sightline.

Acorn replied that they have a solution in hand.

Rachael mentioned that the 3.5 ton limit applies up and down Lansdown Road, starting at the top by the Hare and Hounds pub.

Buses are allowed despite this weight restriction, but coaches are not. We discussed investigating an additional sign on Lansdown Road and to check the status of Cavendish Road - **action NB**

6. Social Events. (MMcN and SueB)

(i) Events 2016

- LCA garden party 18th June – (MMcN)
 - 50 are now confirmed. Tickets for up to 63 are available and children are welcome.
- Other events and social plan - Nothing further to report

7. Actions from AGM

- Constitutional study

Robin recommended that a draft be circulated well in advance.

Christopher is still cogitating - **action CS**

- Voting by those absent from the AGM

Christopher and Mandy to draw up a proposal on how this type of voting would work.

Marian suggested that the committee could determine if an issue was worthy of a membership-wide vote post its discussion at the AGM. **Action CS & MS**

- Seeking membership's ideas

Mandy mentioned that QuestionPro can be used to seek the views of up to 100 people. This is free.

8. Progress of finials project

Beccy Derry-Evans gave an update.

The order for casting the finials has been placed, following a search for best value, which has caused some delay. All stubs have been removed and some holes have been drilled, but these are weather dependent.

End of June has been put forward by Demian (from Chapel Forge) as a completion date, as he is going on holiday after this.

Minor repairs to the field railings? Demian will give a quote, but the council will be required to pay, including replacing the urns, which form a part of the details of the railings.

Robin proposed a finial inauguration party, once a completion date is known. Robin will invite the Mayor to attend - **action RK**

Beccy will speak to her council contact regarding further refurbishment of the council-owned railings and enquire as to the status of the railings at the top (downhill) side of All Saints Road.

A plaque was proposed on a bench. Whether this would be on an existing bench or a new one is subject to further discussion.

As an initial step, Beccy will find out if the middle house is in favour of a new bench, and what the approval planning process would be. Action **BDE**

9. LCA Website (MS)

Mandy gave an update of the website.

She requested more local stories.

The website costs £56 + VAT a year.

The committee expressed its thanks to Mandy for her work on the website.

10. Neighbourhood Watch

Fraudulent callers have been calling at some locations in Bath.

11. The Field and its Sheep (JW)

In view of the reserves the Association now has, James proposed to approach the council and suggest that the LCA pays (say) 20 years' field rent in advance. This would secure the field and reduce the risk of annual rental increases. James will investigate the possibility of this proposal - action **James**

The lambs are back!

Andrew will scythe the nettles.

The situation with litter has improved. This was thought to be due to the current lack of builders' vans.

The plaque for the chestnut tree at the bottom of the field seems to have disappeared, but was not thought worth replacing.

12. Membership (CT)

From the previous meeting's minutes, Rachael volunteered to draw up a standing order form. – **RCH**

Corinne updated us on membership composition. The membership currently stands at 148 - a record number!

There are not many members from Somerset Place; however. Corinne had a leafleting campaign to attract more members there.

13. Planning

1. *Hope House site and ownership by Acorn Property (RK & AP) – discussed – see above.*
2. *Kingswood Nursery – nothing more to say.*

3. *Somerset Place are building a new house on the end, over the car park – Noted.*
4. *The Catholic Church off Burlington Street intends to have replica houses built on its car park, thereby dealing with the collapsed wall problem – Noted.*

14. Hope House

See notes under other relevant items.

15. Bomb

Wash-up and any consequential actions

*Robin will assemble a report to discuss at the next LCA committee meeting, covering the Developer's actions and the responses of the Council and the Emergency Services, for subsequent forwarding to FoBRA. **Action RK***

*Rachael asked all to email Robin with inputs for this - **Action everyone.***

16. Litter Picking Rota

(i) Continuous: Field (JW) and SL (DJ).

(ii) Rota volunteers.

1. Robin May
2. Corinne June
3. Christopher July
4. Nick August
5. Rachael September

17. FoBRA

(i) Feedback & minutes from meetings. (RCH & RK)

See LCA website

(ii) Batheaston Park and ride

Nothing further to add at present.

Rachael stated that on occasion she wanted to email us to seek our views on issues so she could vote with confidence at FoBRA meetings on our behalf.

Dates of note:

Noon to 8.00pm - 1st July, Guildhall - Bath City Conference (with panel discussion at 6.00pm, including Ben Howlett).

The FoBRA summer party will take place on 27th June in the garden of Lyncombe Court, near Paragon school. All LCA members welcome. - £10 a ticket – details on LCA website

18. Future LCA Committee Meetings and Venues

Suggested date – Wednesday 24th August 2016

This date was approved. Venue to be decided - **action SB**

Additional trustees must be discussed at the next committee meeting.

19. AOB

Ben Howlett's A36/A46 bypass petition.

Ben asked this at PMQ and PM was supportive.

When the petition is published, we are being encouraged to sign.

Nick will let us know. **Action NB**

James reported that paving stones by Lansdown Grove Hotel are uneven. James reported this to the council, but after 10 weeks there has been no progress. James will pursue. **Action James**