

LANSDOWN CRESCENT ASSOCIATION

Committee meeting Wednesday 23rd November 2016 at James' (12 LPE) 7.30 p.m.

Anthony Pearson was in attendance throughout the meeting.

1. Apologies had been received from Nick Bishop, Simon Brand and Marian McNeir.

2. Minutes of committee meeting 24th August 2016 were approved.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

a) Anthony Pearson was presented with a case of wine in recognition of his assistance over his period of office. He regaled the Committee with reminiscences drawn from all periods of the Association's existence.

b) Michael Forsyth had been approached to act as Anthony's replacement as planning adviser. He has indicated that he is willing to advise, but can devote time only to the more important items and issues. James volunteered to deal with the less complex or more bread-and-butter issues, and his offer was accepted.

c) Robin had submitted his report on UXBs to FoBRA and the council. It had been forwarded onwards to cabinet members for consideration by the planning department.

d) There have been no changes in the status of the appeal re. Beckford's Gate.

e) The council has taken no action to solve the problem of deliveries outside the Lansdown Grove Hotel.

A review has been promised, but not before January, 2017.

f) The council has taken no action to repair the paving stones outside the Lansdown Grove Hotel (the location is on the boundary of two officers' areas of responsibility, and seems to have fallen between the cracks). They will be written to once more and Age Concern (more appropriate than Help the Aged) will be contacted to effect progress.

Action JW

4. Treasurer's report. Accounts for 11 months were presented, shewing a surplus for the completed finials project of £xxxx. £xxxx of this surplus is attributable to late developments after the application to individual owners; to an increase over the match-funding proposals (£xxxx) and to a councillor's Initiative Fund grant (£xxx). The propriety of retaining the surplus was discussed. Robin was asked to confirm (once again, but finally) with Marianna Clark the committee's understanding that her donation in excess of current requirements should be retained for like projects.

Action RK [Robin has now confirmed this. His e-mail to the committee is attached to these minutes as an appendix (redacted)]

5. Hope House. Acorn have obtained permission for a modified (and reduced) exploitation of the hoardings for advertising. They have also managed to free themselves of the obligation to provide 11 units of social housing, and the age restrictions placed thereon (purchasers of 55+). Delia Jay has had a letter on the lack of affordable housing published in the Bath Chronicle. [This has now been posted to the LCA website]. Mud has been kept from Lansdown Road only fitfully, despite Association reminders; Acorn have complained that their drivers are being remonstrated with by 'a cyclist'.

6. Traffic. (see Lansdown Grove item arising from the previous minutes).

a) The installation of a restriction sign for HGVs and coaches turning right off Lansdown Road into the Crescent (LPE) is to be effected at an unresolved date. The need for the sign is in accordance with a classic manifestation of chaos theory: increased pleasure traffic along the Crescent is attributable to a change in the parking regulations at Stonehenge. There was a discussion on the necessity for the signage, and the efficacy of the solution adopted.

b) Ben Howlett's A36/A46 bypass petition has been accepted in the Department for Transport's next Strategic Plan. The scheme is currently inchoate, there being (currently) five possible solutions.

7. Social events. The Christmas party and carol singing are both confirmed, and the details are as already circulated to the membership. The party (buffet style) has a limit of 60 spaces and 50 have already been sold.

8. Constitutional study. Further thought has been given to "Chinese walls" to be instituted to process opinions solicited from the membership, and to be seen to process them above reproach. The questionnaire will be administered by Mandy and Corinne and the trial (the reserves questionnaire) will be issued next week. **Action CS**

9. Finials and other projects. The project was viewed as successful. The impressive uptake was a function of the level of contribution requested of homeowners: in future perhaps we should be more ambitious in the percentage of contribution thus sought. The possibility had been discussed (matters arising) of applying the experience acquired to a reinstatement of the Crescent cobbles, or of re-paving the Crescent's field pavement.

10. LCA website. Five more members have opted into notification by e-mail of website updates.

11. Neighbourhood Watch. Rachael reminded us that criminal activity increased at Christmas. She also related how she had been personally responsible for the identification and apprehending of a drugs dealer in Park Street. It is difficult to steer a course between forwarding all the police warnings (scare-mongering) or few of them (shielding the membership by complacency). A medium course of action should be adopted: all briefings to be posted to the website (for reference by those that seek them out) but only those who have opted in to Neighbourhood Watch briefings to be e-mailed personally. **Action RH, CT, MS (continuing)**

12. Field and sheep. Two ill sheep had been reported to James by members of the public since his last report. This gives him comfort that the welfare system is working. A chestnut tree has fallen. James said that his analysis of the terms of our lease shewed the council to be responsible for making good any damage. The Association may wish to select and finance any replacement tree, but is not legally obliged so to do.

13. Membership. Currently we have 152 members on the list (after allowing for changes of ownership at properties). The PERA drafted standing order form is to be checked for acceptability with RBS and will then be included with the new year's subscription request. **Action CT**

14. Planning

a) Re 11 LPE. James and Robin had appended comments to the planning application (not strong enough to be termed objections). The BPT have arranged a visit to assess and record the aboriginal features still present. James also related the unusual financial arrangements involved in the acquisition.

b) The LCA attitude towards the development of xx Lansdown Crescent, to be advised to xxx, would be that we would not be prescriptive about any particular solution, but would hope that whatever was settled upon would be sympathetic to the original frontage. **Action RK**

15. Lighting. No developments.

16. Litter picking rota.

Continuous: Field JW and SL DJ

December, Robin

January, Christopher

February, Rachael

March, Mandy

17. FoBRA Robin provided a summary/overview of FoBRA's activities, and referred us to recent published FoBRA minutes [The LCA meeting finished a little after 10.30 p.m. and the attention of all was at this stage diminished]. Primary concerns continue to be the new constitution (CS to be provided with a copy – **Action RK**), pollution, student housing policy and the eastern park and ride. Transport is an intractable problem, and it is hoped that regional devolution may be able to effect progress. FoBRA is a contributor to the Bath Alliance for Transport and the Public Realm to encourage the council to implement its agreed strategies. Rachael is significantly involved in the FoBRA campaign to restrict the implementation of fortnightly refuse collections in Bath. There is an ancillary problem, under discussion, of the provision for adequate storage space for refuse within HMOs.

18. Future LCA meetings The next committee meeting will be held at Sue Branfoot's house on a January date to be arranged. **Action S Brand** The AGM will have to be held at St Stephen's.

19. AOB. None arising.