

Autumn Newsletter

Since our AGM the Lansdown Crescent Association has had a busy summer. We've decided to update our members in a half yearly E-bulletin. We will continue to produce an annual newsletter in printed copy form to ensure wider distribution to all residents (non-members too) in the hope that more people will join as members.



Our membership has significantly increased since the AGM, we now have 165 members from Lansdown Place East, Lansdown Crescent, Upper Lansdown Mews, Dixon Gardens, Lansdown Place West, All Saints Road, Sion Hill East (to Ivy House), Somerset Place and Somerset Lane. Indeed we have recently had requests from residents on Winifred's Lane to join our Association. They will join as Associate members until our next AGM when we will vote to include them as full members.

Committee changes

We said goodbye to our long serving Chair, Robin Kerr at our AGM and shortly after, sadly also to Simon Heale, one of our Trustees, who has since moved from the Crescent. The Committee voted unanimously to ask Robin to take Simon's role and become one of the Association's Trustees which he accepted. Rachael Hushon was voted in as Chair. We also have four new Committee members, Adam Barnes, Sarah Garrett, Ian Lyons and James Burtoft. The Committee share in responsibilities as follows

Simon Brand	Secretary
Michelle Maguire	The Field
Stephanie Higgins	Membership Secretary, Covid coordinator, Treasurer
Megan Dalton	Social Secretary
Sarah Garrett & Ian Lyons	Community work and socials
James Burtoft	Communications
James Freeman	AGM coordination/FoBRA
Adam Barnes	Planning issues
Rachael Hushon	Chair, Transport, FoBRA, Refuse

We are very keen for members to come forward who would like to join the Committee. Please contact Rachael our Chair who can explain the process.

The Field and Sheep

The last six months have been busy this year by usual standards with sheep movement, maintenance and local interest. Many residents will have been delighted when Bill and Ben, our lovely two rams returned in Spring with two ram lambs, known as wethers.



By May, they were joined by three ewes and six lambs. The early warm and dry weather this year however led to a shortage of grass for grazing so when they returned to Kelston for shearing, only the four original rams returned. Weeks later, the grass improved so the ewes returned, then just weeks later only Bill and Ben remained.

Despite the early dry weather and bumper growth of nettles, the field remains looking splendid, healthy and green. Our Lansdown field has inspired residents of Camden Crescent to pursue a project to create similar grazing on their field on a smaller scale. We were also contacted during lockdown by locals to tell us how much they enjoyed visiting our field as part of their daily exercise. Hearing others appreciation of our field was a welcome reminder of how lucky we are to have this on our doorstep.

Bill and Ben will shortly be returning to Kelston once again for the winter. The field can only be grazed for nine months a year to allow for sufficient grass growth year on year. We look forward to starting the cycle once again next March, hopefully when we can look forward to rescheduling an open field event in 2021.

Once again, a huge thank you to all our local residents for helping to keep the field clear of litter and for raising any welfare issues regarding the sheep. This is truly appreciated!

Michelle Maguire

Socials

We've not been able to organise our usual programme of Summer or Winter events, or indeed the planned Open Field event since Covid measures were introduced earlier this year. We are mindful though that some of our residents will be self-isolating or shielding for extended periods and may appreciate a zoom social. Megan will be organising some events to try to keep our members a little more connected through the Winter. More details to follow.

Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme for the area

Since 2019 the LCA has committed to consulting on measures to reduce the amount of cut through traffic in our area. The vote in favour of this at our AGM 2020 was significant and clear, we therefore support the Council's proposal to introduce the concept of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs).

An LTN allows local residential traffic to move in, out and around the neighbourhood, but prevents through-traffic at a specific point. In summary the Association is seeking to:

- Reduce the overall amount of traffic using our area as a cut through
- In discussions with Somerset Lane residents we will include Winifred's Lane as well as the previously discussed route from Cavendish road junction along Lansdown Place West, the Crescent on to Lansdown Place East.
- Ensure that if filters are proposed they are placed with escape (safe and wide) turning circles so no traffic reverses or uses either Somerset Lane or Upper Lansdown Mews to divert.
- Ensure emergency vehicles have route through, and contingency made.
- No reduction in resident parking
- If there's a downside for residents in our area, it's simply that we too will be subject to the filter, although we would still be able to drive to our home as before from a main road, we would not be able to drive through the filter - so, depending on where we are and where we want to go, we may need to choose a different route. But we think this is a small price to pay for the prize of a more attractive, safer local neighbourhood. We will, of course, still be able to walk, cycle and use the bus - as many local people already do. And with less traffic, it will be a more pleasant, safer experience.
- The challenge will be to work closely with the Council on the detail of design and implementation. For it to work we need as many people as possible to understand and support its aims, and to contribute to the solutions. It is almost inevitable that there will be some issues; some may just be teething troubles and require us to adapt and adjust; others may be more substantial. The good news is that if we work closely with the Council we can make a start. Following this first stage consultation we will learn more from our Council about the next stages of community consultation.

If any of our members have specific questions about the Liveable Neighbourhood Consultation or the Low Traffic Neighbourhood aspect of it please contact our Traffic Lead, Rachael Hushon who is more than happy to clarify any aspects.



Adam Barnes has consulted with some of our members who have lived near construction projects, as well as Construction professionals who have worked in our area. The Committee has therefore proposed a voluntary code we would ask our members and their Contractors to consider following.

VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR CONTRACTORS OPERATING IN THE LANSDOWN CRESCENT NEIGHBOURHOOD

About the LCA

The Lansdown Crescent Association represents over 160 residents living in Lansdown Crescent and neighbouring streets. The Association was founded to conserve and enhance the amenities of Lansdown Crescent and the surrounding streets and to maintain and manage the grazing of the field in front of the Crescent and the area around it. The Lansdown Crescent Area extends from Lansdown Place East, Upper Lansdown Mews, Dixon Gardens, Lansdown Crescent, AllSaints Road, Lansdown Place West and Somerset Lane to Somerset Place.

1) POINT OF CONTACT

Please ask your contractors to ensure that there is a single point of contact with overall responsibility for your work site, and that the details of this person are available to neighbours in advance of works commencing.

Residents need to know who to talk to in the event of serious concerns - especially when it comes to health and safety.

2) PARKING

Illegal and double parking of trade vehicles can cause significant obstruction and danger at various locations, such as the junctions of the Mews with the Crescent.

Please ask your contractors to use parking suspensions for all significant loading/unloading activities, to ensure that their suppliers and subcontractors do likewise, and to pay particular attention to the Mews entrances and to neighbours' garages.

There have been several instances of vehicles driving along and parking on the pavement in front of the Crescent to load and unload close to properties. These cause damage to the pennant slabs, which are not easy to replace. More seriously, they risk the collapse of the vaults below. Please ask your contractors to keep vehicles off pavements.

The use of multiple sub contractors on projects can create a lot of congestion.

Please consider whether the Contractor could organise lift sharing if possible.

3) NOISE

The curved arrangement and proximity of buildings in the neighbourhood makes noisy machinery and radios much more of a problem than is normally the case. Single glazed windows on historic properties make them particularly susceptible.

Please ask your contractors to consider quieter ways to carry out essential processes and not to play any music. Noisy activity and the use of power tools should be restricted to between 8am and 6pm on weekdays, and 8am and 1pm on Saturdays.

4) WORKS IN THE MEWS

The mews is an awkward place to park trade vehicles, and to site skips. Residents here need particular consideration; the narrow road and lack of parking restrictions can lead to chaos and serious difficulty for some of our elderly and most vulnerable members. So please ask your contractors to pay special attention when arranging deliveries, siting skips etc in the Mews. Communicating with near neighbours would be very much appreciated.

5) LITTER

Residents sometimes have to pick up tea bags, wrappers etc from the Mews and the field, so please do ask your contractors to ensure that their staff don't leave litter.

6) IF ALL ELSE FAILS...

Sometimes, disruption is unavoidable. Please ask your contractors to do their best to keep neighbours informed in advance, and to take into account suggestions to reduce any inconvenience.

Community Speedwatch

Whilst our Area awaits consultation results, we've decided to be proactive and work with local residents on Somerset Lane and Winifred's Lane to reduce the dangerous speeding.

Volunteers from Lansdown Place East, Lansdown Place West, Somerset Lane, Winifred's Lane, Cavendish Crescent and even St James Square have formed the Lansdown Crescent Area Speedwatch Group. We've been assessed by the Avon and Somerset Police, passed the initial checks and are now awaiting our induction. The intention of the Speedwatch is to act as a reminder to traffic and to establish calming to make Winifred's Lane and the area in general safer for pedestrians (residents, school children and students) and cyclists. The Committee want to thank these volunteers as it is a commitment which requires time and weather resistance!



Enforcement of the HGV ban on the Crescent



The Committee have also been active in working with Residents from Cavendish Crescent, Cavendish Road, St James Square and our Councillors to help stop HGVs (some lorries being directed by Sat Navs, some construction traffic) from using our route as a cut through to other locations in the city or up to the motorway.

We recently had to intervene to stop Concrete deliveries cutting through our TRO protected area, these deliveries had caused a spillage of concrete near Doric House (many of you will remember the one from a year ago which we reported on). Our early intervention with this recent spill ensured that Council teams were able to attend the site and stop it from setting in the cobbled gutters.

Please take photos if you see any violation of the HGV ban in our area, we can forward them to our Councillors who are discussing enforcement with the police on our behalf.

Looking to the future if we achieve a LTN for Lansdown Crescent Area issues of HGVs and Coaches ignoring the width restriction will be resolved as HGVs will no longer be able to travel through the area as the Sat Navs will cease directing them via this route. ■