

Lant and Bittern Streets TRA General Meeting 8th September 2009

Attendance

Officers:

Joe Beckles Chair, Damien Cheetham Secretary, Mona Hamed Treasurer, Shola Jacobs Deputy Chair, Mike Finnerty (minute Secretary)

Committee Members

Andy Ross Adam Tremlett, June Tremlett, David Edwards, Fatama Cole, Coral Price,

Members

Ms O Oyenuga, Mrs Teresa Lloyd, David Lloyd, Pat Watson, June Cook, John Cook, Gloria Quispe, Adam Hepburn, Mathew Hepburn, Chief-Frances Bassey, Ambine Guilcher, Ashia Cole

Invited Guest

Paul Yarrow(link TRA)

Present:

Yetunde Ayanwale LBS:

Jemma Dixon LBS:

Nicky Torode SGTO(Southwark Group of Tenants Organisation)

1.Welcome Introductions

2.Apologies

Patrica Vallas,Cllr Adele Morris-other urgent attendance,Elisabeth

Jacobs,Yannick MGrosses,

Sarmaria Sirq-sultan,Michelle Butler,Sandra Mckean,Marcia Wright,Cllr David Noakes-other urgent attendance,

3. Minutes from Meeting of 11th August 2009

DC distributed copies

Reviewed

Seconded -D.Edwards

Passed with no objections

4. Matters Arising from last meeting & previous minutes:

4.1 DC said there had been contact with the Safer Neighbourhoods team

Concern was expressed about dogs running without lead and the latest dog attack on the estate, Redman and Bittern House.

5.Officers Reports

5.1 Chair and Members recognised the Holy Month of Ramadan, the Treasurer requested to commend her report early that she can be excused before 7.45pm where she will be able to break her Fast with her family this was observed by the meeting.

5.2 Treasurer report:

Mona distributed copies of Her Report 1. Bank Statements 2.the accounting ledger books 3.Sumary of 2009/10 Profit & loss account profile Mona informed the meeting of LBS decision not to grant £300 start-up grant for Lant and Bittern TRA Mona said she'd received a cheque that day from the CCF Grassroots Fund in the amount of £1.500, further copies of the report will made available at our next meeting JB.

ACTION JB

5.3Budget Discussion

Chair Joe Beckles put forward the budget for debate/amendment/adoption JB queried whether £150 was enough for the Christmas Party, and explained that the gratuities amount was destined for the caretakers of the hall should be look at again

A discussion ensued about whether a raffle was a good idea to encourage attendance at TRA meetings

DC explained that the proposal was for £100 to be raffled once in a year and that people would be entered into the raffle once for each attendance

As there was some confusion as to how the raffle would work, and whether it was appropriate, YA suggested deferring any decision on the raffle to a committee meeting Chair asked for the acceptance of this advice, agreed.

The budget was put forward for adoption with a deferral on the £100 raffle line item. It passed without objection, agreed.

5.4 Chair's Report

JB distributed copies of his report and gave details orally

In addition to what was written in the report, JB specified that he'd been contacted by B.O.O.S regarding the issue of dogs at Redman House. LBS indicated they would move to contact Redman House residents regarding the creation of an area where dogs would be allowed

ACTION B.O.O.S

JB put forward the four proposals from his report:

- 1/ To have monthly agenda planning meetings
- 2/ To form two sub-committees: Editorial (Chair JB, Secretary DC, Michael Finnerty) and Financial (Chair JB, Secretary DC, Treasurer MH)
- 3/ To have an Assistant/Minutes Secretary -- Michael Finnerty

4/ To create a Deputy for the Area Forum -- Shola Jacobs
There were no objections to any of the four motions and they were passed, agreed.

6.Nicky's SGTO Website Demonstration

Nicky presented the website and went through the different web-pages
She indicated it was a work in progress
She asked if there were a volunteer who might agree to be in charge of updating and revising it. JB suggested that the necessary time be taken to choose someone for that role as it is quite demanding and the person who accepts needs to be ready to commit to it. JB advised the meeting that the management committee will carefully canvass members who would be able and willing to give honest commitment in caring out the task of web-mastering the website.

He reminded the meeting that hours have been spent in the construction of the Site and this is an ongoing task that would need a committed person to perform this task:

JB thanked Nicky and SGTO for all their help and hard work Applause

7.Further Presentations

Jason from Mint St Adventure Playground was unavailable

Steve PC from the Neighbourhood Watch team was unavailable

Andy Ross of Bittern House said he'd been in contact with Steve PC regarding representing the TRA at police community meetings to discuss issues arising in the neighbourhood

AR reported the police would like to discuss setting up a neighbourhood watch committee for Lant and Bittern TRA

AR volunteered to represent Lant and Bittern TRA at scheduled police meetings
It was suggested that AR should be added to the agenda of future TRA meetings in order to deliver reports on the police meetings and to receive feedback destined to feed into those police meetings -- AR will act for the TRA as the Constitution dictates

ACTION AR

AR was nominated to be Lant and Bittern TRA representative to police meetings and there were no objections from the room

ACTION AR

BREAK 8.15pm

8. Community Notices

8.1 Lant Street Road Closure

JB advised that he'd met Simon Hughes MP, and that SH had toured the hoardings on Lant Street and was not happy with the situation. SH instructed Councillor Noakes that he should get on the case

JB has emailed SH and asked for him to put his opposition to the Lant St closure/barriers into writing -- no answer as of yet
JB distributed the letter drafted on behalf of TRA to Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, requesting an investigation into the Lant St closure -- the letter was acknowledged received by BJ's office. There had been no further communications with 20 days elapsed.

Paul Yarrow arrived from that evening's police community meeting where Councillor Morris was also in attendance.

PY reported that when the Safe Neighbours had given approval to the Lant St closure, they were under the impression (false) that Charles Dickens School owned the property in question when in fact Lant St is not their property. PY said that meant the letter approving was written in error. PY asked about reports of problems on Lant Street before the closure, such as discarded needles and rowdiness. He said the police had no reports of problems on Lant St now or historically. PY said Councillor Morris had queried why the police seemed to endorse the street closure, and the Sergeant in attendance said he would look into the matter. PY reported that a Community Council was scheduled for 15 September, and that a further Planning Meeting was in the agenda for 17th September with the Charles Dickens building proposal re-submitted for consideration AR and JB said they would request minutes from the meeting detailed by PY.

ACTION AR, JB & PY

8.2. Education and Training

YA explained that training courses were offered by LBS to committee members only, but that if anyone was interested, they should put themselves forward for committee membership and take advantage of the training offered

8.3. Programmes and Events

JB said committee was considering a day trip to France for shopping.

JB said cost of any trip to France could not be paid entirely by the TRA and that interested people would have to pay part of the cost.

There was a discussion about whether it would make more sense to travel by coach or eurostar. It was agreed that if the trip was to go to the Calais area to shop, a coach would be better as eurostar is better for going directly to Paris

There was concern expressed that recessionary times aren't the best to plan a shopping trip because people don't have as much money or inclination to shop

PY said that the TRA insurance covered another trip by coach and it would be a shame not to take advantage of that.

A suggestion was made that it would be better to travel someplace closer to home rather than a France shopping trip, maybe a trip to an old castle or suchlike. An indoor fun-day was suggested

A trip to the circus on Blackheath was suggested, as was a trip to see a fireworks display.

There was general agreement it would be nice to organise something for children.

Adam said that if we really wanted to enthuse the children we should look into something like an X-Factor talent competition.

DC seconded that idea and there was enthusiasm for the idea from the attendance.

JB tasked Adam to look into the details and come up with a proposal. He agreed.

ACTION AT & DC.

It was decided that the issue of another TRA outing should go to Committee in order for a proposal to be put before the next General Meeting

8.4 Playground Repair

JB said he would apply for funding for the second phase of the playground at Bittern House from the Cleaner/Greener fund

9.OAB

TRA Startup Fund

9.1 YA and JB argued the decision by LBS not to grant the £300 start-up for the Lant and Bittern TRAs.

YA explained that as the Lant and Bittern TRA had been set up from two former TRAs and was allowed to keep the balances from them, Lant and Bittern wasn't eligible for start-up funding JB said he understood her argument, but said the Lant and Bittern TRA was nevertheless new and it was a shame LBS couldn't be more generous to the TRA. He also pointed out the Constitution Clause 26.Dissolution

YA held to her explanation but allowed that she had been mistaken when she'd suggested that Lant and Bittern TRA would not attract interest from Redman House. She said it was clear there was participation and enthusiasm from Redman and she expressed to Redman neighbours the wish that they should continue to participate in the TRA

9.2 Illegal Parking

A Redman resident said that illegal parking in the estates was a big problem with people such as those who work at the police station regularly using spaces they had no right to. He said he had complained to LBS to no effect. No towing was undertaken after 6pm.

JB said the parking enforcement seemed to be more pro-active, but the resident disagreed and asked JB to look into it. JB said he would and asked Shola to look into the problem at Redman House

ACTION JB & SHOLA

9.3 Dogs

A resident of Redman House explained how her child had been chased by an unleashed dog on the landing of the Redman lower block outside the entrance to the flats, and that he was now frightened to leave the house

ACTION JEMMA

9.4 Request for a TRA room

JB advised that another request for space for TRA purposes was to be sent to LBS. The letter was available to see. JB argued that space was needed for storage and community purposes and that the current restroom for Redman cleaners would be first choice.

YA said LBS was in the process of reviewing room usage and said there would be no point making any requests because they would be denied pending the review

JB argued that this 'review' seemed to be going on for years, or even decades as rooms sat vacant and the need was there. He also pointed out that the request made was for Tenant Room not a Tenant Hall

YA said she would ask about it at the upcoming LBS Housing Management Meeting, but thought the answer would still be no. JB said that he may have to copy the request to Kim Humphrey. YA said we can write to any one but it would be the same reply we would get because the matter would still have to returned back to her.

YA said this TRA was lucky to have a hall to rent at a reasonable rate and other TRAs had nothing of the sort

JB pressed her to consider the request properly and she said she would take it forward and give a feed back by the end of next week.

ACTION YETUNDE

Chair Thank all

Meeting Adjourned 915pm.

8/9/2009.