



THE
JOSEPHINE AVENUE GROUP

Minutes: Meeting 19th April 2011, 7.30pm at 2 Helix Gardens

In attendance: [18]

Tim Fairhurst; Julia Wait; Christine van Duren; Afshin Dehkordi; Natasha Caruone; Naz Persaud; Philip Barcham; Sue Green; Geoff Blake; Sam Anderson; Ben Nicolson; Cllr. Marcia Cameron; Cllr. Ruth Ling; Jenny Perring; Louise Belson; Emmanuel Perrin; Len Villa; Gina Villa

Apologies: [4]

Linda Himbert; Tim Sutton; Nick Berry; Garry Turnbull

1 Welcome and introductions

It was noted that some residents were attending for the first time; they are especially welcome.

2 Minutes for 2010 AGM and February 2011. Those present who had read thought them accurate and had no further comments. No further comments.

Vote: both sets of minutes approved.

3 Safer Neighbourhood Team had intended to come; meeting assumed that other duties detained them.

Neighbourhood Watch. Follow up on last meeting. Seems easy to set up compared to previous requirements. Potential benefits include possibility of lower insurance. Signage if we want it. Karen Hunn, Lambeth Neighbourhood Watch Manager for the Met., has provided sample information.

Vote: propose Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to residents

Action: info to be distributed

4 South Beach/Licensing. (club on Brixton Hill whose operation gives rise to concern). Residents' application for licence to be reviewed resulted in it being revoked at hearing on 10th February. Decision to be appealed; date on 5th and 6th of Sep. Club may be expected to quieten down until meeting. Fewer people going in but there are fears that it will be just as messy/noisy. Sound may have been turned down, related problems may remain in street, so important for people to continue to record problems and complain. MC said residents should record everything; had heard anecdotally that the crowd at the club changed for the worse. Policy appears to be in favour of licences for restaurants rather than clubs. JP outlined list of police incidents and evidential issues (loss of CCTV recording etc) related to the club. Some discussion as to whether Lambeth in fact has a saturation policy and, if not why not. Also, what are grounds for South Beach license appeal if evidence of activity subsequent to decision to revoke license is relevant?

Action: Residents should continue to log and report problems (JP circulated a letter with contact details via newsgroup and at meeting.)



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Note: Car registrations, pictures etc. as well as reports of activity are useful. Essential that reports are factual. Residents should not be worried that their address or contact details will be disclosed if they make a written report; only names remain in any copies made.

Action: JAG to write to Chukka Umunna (MP), Cllr. Leanne Targett-Parker (chair of licensing committee) regarding saturation policy; Lambeth Licensing re grounds for appeal. (Cllr. L T-P unable to comment on specific applications).

5 Lambeth update from councillors.

- MC: Tulse Hill estate had a well-attended job fair-apprentice schemes, Jobcentre + etc. Luncheon Club on St Matt estate. £5 and inundated with people coming for Sunday lunch; community really liked it; council supportive.
- Fenstanton School on St Mark estate: lack of secondary education in borough meant that council had to build a new school on the site, but spending cuts mean there have had to be changes to original plans.
- Community allotments in Raleigh Gardens: nothing yet decided as owner of land cannot use it for much else. Could be a great scheme with workshops etc. Long waiting list for allotments. Support available from Council. **Meeting on May 11** about this probably at Corpus Christi.
- **May6**-Brockwell Park water area grand opening.
- Trees in JA-old oak tree has been burnt from inside. MC has discussed poss of project on trees with local school.

Action:MC will supply LB with contact details re trees project.

Action: MC and RL will contact JAG with full details about meeting n May 11th.

Action: LB-JAG will provide info on Green Champions. Lots of things happening-dates of events to be circulated.

- RL on Controlled Parking Zone [CPZ]. Not much to add to what is already know. CPZ to b spread to just 4 new streets. Medora, Craster and Craigdare wanted CPZ, Coverdale was 50-50. It will be extended to these 4 streets. Campaign has begun to stop the extension of CPZ. Meeting next week with new head of transport to thrash out the details.
- As far as JAG is concerned, before decision made on extension, a review of the hours of operation of current CPZ should be carried out since that might reduce pressure. No need for all day ban -perhaps only needs to be from 10 to 12 to deter commuters. More coordination needed.
- New extension due to come into effects in Nov; review due 6 months later.
- MC has sent in members enquiry and she will forward on the response.
- MC said that she could ask the traffic calming team for info on roads around JA.
- JAG could express concerns to a contact that will be provided by MC.
- RL said that there would probably be more effective ways than speed bumps as they can lead to structural problems with houses. RL pointed out that they have no money and that funds for CPZ are from TFL.



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- Comments on **bin collection**. MC asked for emails good and bad regarding the collections. LB said that there have been enquiries about green waste coll. Should be possible for residents to share a coll. Suggest that there is a shared compost bin.

Action: MC to fwd response to members inquiry above; will also provide contact to whom JAG can express concerns about traffic.

6 BLIP

- Land behind even nos and flats is being developed into allotments by a group called BLIP. Good idea but some things have caused friction, esp cutting down trees without permission. Generally not doing what they said they would. Admirable intentions conflicting with bullish attitude. People organising it do not live in the area Changes without proper consultation. Affects people in JA.
- SG and GB's garden esp affected; loss of privacy and amenity.
- A large dog has been seen in gardens not previously an issue.
- Beehive project causes concern too.
- SA has written to BLIP regarding consultation and letter back was an apology (from Mike Noy) but future commitment to consultation unclear.
- MC said there are special rules regarding bees as they are protected.
- SA asked for backing of group and advice from councillors. Ian Leonard, Lambeth tree officer, has said he would be happy to meet with residents and BLIP to address concerns.
- Who in Waldron House [WH] can speak for residents? Reports that majority of res of WH worried about bees. As it is council property who can speak fro the residents? GB said big branches from trees are up against the wall allowing a nuisance dog to climb over into gardens of JA. People in flats can now see straight in to JA houses. There have been 2 burglaries since the trees were brought down.
- Who are BLIP? [subsequent note: <http://projectdirt.com/group/blip>] Part of the Transition Town movement?

Action: Information to be gathered then special meeting can be convened between JAG on behalf of residents and BLIP. Try to act swiftly to help with gardens/privacy if possible to benefit from growing season.

7 New Planting

- LB: Area outside Jobcentre ready & Zak's house were cleared at the last Freshview event ready for planting up. We have also treated the knotweed twice.
- The Freshview Team have said that The Parks department may donate plants if asked, to add to those residents have already donated.
- Volunteers are needed to help plant both areas. May 14/15 might be poss weekend. List of names and emails to be filled in by people wishing to help.

Action: Offers of help to LB please; several given at meeting. 14/15 May confirmed.



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LB to organise.

8 Rush Common

- LB: (Details of proposed Rush Common Survey and completed Tree Survey Report distributed and read out.)
- Details of walk around with Ian and Marcia to assess general condition of trees in street. Most trees on private land – even if Rush Common too - so comments are there to help residents, but are not a directive, and no council funds are available for work on private land.
- Rush Common Survey could prove the basis for a great community project and attract funding.
- RL: ‘ward purse’ might be available for help with Rush Common improvements. No money from council but there are alternatives. RL said she will find out what funds might be available.
- Links to be looked at with other groups esp. Seamus M who is a renowned expert on the matter & runs the Rush Common Society

Action: RL and LB to co-ordinate re funding and possible action; expressions of interest to LB from anyone interested in a Rush Common project, survey etc.; some given at meeting.

9 JAG admin

- EP has looked at constitution: observed that current practice does not match provision of constitution (e.g. it say we should have audited accounts, monthly meetings, reporting provisions etc.). Similarly, its stated aims are environmental, whereas it seems evident that aims also include social cohesion etc.
- LB: Reason for latest version of constitution is that JAG explicitly needed to be an environmental group to be able to apply for certain sources of funding. It does also clearly state that JAG aims are also social.
- SA said she would be happy to help with revising the cons.
- TF: Annual process could be changed to Sep to Dec so that AGM will be in Nov rather than at Xmas; distributed possible calendar. Meetings like today to happen 6 times a year, there will be a handful of street cleans, Aug and Jan meetings to be informal.. Alt Mons and Tues for formal meetings. Ok to organise a special meeting if something else comes up.

7 AOB

- Website costs: as prev reported (£500 to developer, plus hosting, domains and members services). More to come soon about updates (subsequent note: www.josephineavenue.org now re-published; easier for residents to contribute; final tweaks in progress).



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- Urban Art [UA]/street closure: recent notice about street closure might give impression that JAG was holding/organising UA. It was clarified that UA is its own entity and is the sole organiser of UA. JAG is not the organiser (this has to be clarified for public liability reasons). Some questions about UA financials etc. It was suggested that these would be better addressed another time/in another forum, not least because UA not present to discuss. UA has been the source of JAG funds for several years. Website of UA given out so newer residents can learn more meanwhile: www.urbanart.co.uk
- Street Party: following sad cancellation of last year's party, SA reported that children have requested a party this year. Volunteers please. JAG funds would be available to support such an event.
- Sound stage during UA: CVD asked for any more volunteers and musicians, DL etc; also help with cake stall etc. 16th July.

Action: Volunteers to SA for help with street party please

Action: Volunteers to contact CVD about sound stage and cake stall

Action: Arrange JAG/UA discussion

11.

Close

The meeting thanked EP for hospitality (lots of great food and drink!). There being no further business, the meeting closed at about 9.15pm.