

Minutes of JAG meeting held at 1 Helix Gardens, 15/9/14

Present: Tim Sutton (chair), Hilary Box (treasurer), Marion Woodward (secretary), , Peter Morton, Naz Persairt, Y Boothe, Christopher Anene (L&Q), Irene

1. Apologies: Nick Berry, Gary Turnbull,
2. Approval of previous minutes.

Marion Apologised for failing to get the last set of minutes out: no excuse, she forgot. She read through her notes of the last meeting and promised to get these out asap.

3. Treasurer's Report

HB reported that we currently have £5,882.77 in the bank account and £21.80 in petty cash. Full report at end of minutes. She pointed out that the reason for this healthy balance is that JAG has received over £9000 from Urban Art over the last 8 years, averaging at more than £1000 per year.

The final cost of the Street Party to JAG funds was £231

4. Autumn Street Clean Saturday 11/10/14

This Agenda item took up most of the meeting.

Tim has asked the council what resources they can offer but no reply so far. They are concerned about over-filling but this is difficult to control as people who don't live here come and fill the skips with their rubbish. Tim suggested putting them in the carriageways as then they wouldn't be so obvious to 'outsiders'.

We also need more people to get involved in the process.

Christopher Anene from London and Quadrant Housing Association, which has many properties in the area, discussed what they could do for the street clean. They need a survey of all the external areas of all their properties in order to proceed. This has been done in the past but wasn't followed up so they are planning another survey and will give us a copy of the results.

Other actions from L&Q for Street Clean

Gavin Rogers, the Assistant Director of the South Neighbourhood for L&Q, has said that they will provide a lockable skip for 11/10 street clean.

L&Q will also try and get some of their staff to help.

L&Q to write to all their residents informing them of their co-operation with JAG in this matter.

Christopher suggested that we could think about an L&Q information stall. There are long-term issues such as maintenance of the carriageways, gravel and hedge-cutting and he welcomes suggestions.

We discussed the merits of street cleaning on different days but decided to keep to a Saturday, when we have access to 'Payback' workers.

The meeting felt that it would be very good to work with L&Q in this way as it is part of the JAG remit to improve the appearance of the street. If we could keep the height of the hedges down it would increase visibility and make the street safer and less easy to dump rubbish.

Currently there is a van which comes to dump building waste on a regular basis. It would be good if residents can take down its number or take a photo and use the smart phone app fixmystreet.com to report it.

Any help to distribute leaflets for the 11/10 street clean welcome.

5. Urban Art 2014 - Results

Takings were up 10% on last year, JAG received £1,177.50 (see treasurer's report). There will be an analysis of visitors for the next meeting.

Urban Art needs a sizeable number of volunteers to run on the day. In return they receive a share of the takings, usually around £1,000 per group. 4 such groups are required and this opportunity is offered to local charities who are keen to do it. The reason that the JAG account is so healthy is that we have been receiving money as one of the 4 'charities' providing volunteers for the event. The turn out of JAG volunteers this year was disappointing. We were thin on the ground anyway and some people just didn't turn up so those who were there ended up doing longer shifts. Taking this together with the lack of enthusiasm for cutting the hedges - which is a key part of maintaining the avenue and essential if Urban Arts is to take place - Tim floated an idea to make life easier for us all in the future:

We have had a quote for £500 to cut the hedges (its a much bigger job than maybe it looks.) This needs to be done twice a year so the suggestion is that the artists pay a small supplement that would raise the £1000 which would pay for the hedge cutting. That would mean that the residents do not have to cut the hedges or provide volunteers on the day, i.e. we do not have to do anything to get the street tidied up. We would, of course, be free to apply to be one of the 4 charities receiving a share of the profits if we could provide the necessary volunteers for the day.

There was some discussion of this idea and it will need to be discussed further. Input welcome.

6. No Parking signs for Carriageways

Tim has had these signs as arranged for some time someone needs to put them up. Geoff knows where it was decided they should go. Naz said that she would ask a friend to consult Geoff and put them up.

7. Street Bike Shed

Since the person who wanted this put on the agenda wasn't present this item was not discussed.

8. Controlled Parking Campaign

After submitting our petition of 600 signatures we received a template reply, which was felt to be disrespectful, saying that it was not in the budget for this year.

Before we can follow this up with the Ombudsman, we need to have complained to the Council individually. If we are not satisfied with their reply we can then go to the Ombudsman.

A draft letter is on the web-site and we are all encouraged to consider sending it. Hopefully the other roads in our parking zone (QR) will be doing the same. It was felt that if we keep the pressure on in this way we may succeed next year.

9. Constitution and inclusion of Brixton Hill

A group of people have worked on this and it was proposed that we put the revised constitution on the Web-site, invite comments and vote on it at the AGM. Main points are to reduce the minimum number of meetings per year and to include the properties at the end of Josephine Avenue on Brixton Hill.

10. AOB

Rubbish Collections

Since the new bins have been introduced there are too few of them and they are not big enough. This is causing a lot of problems as people are leaving rubbish outside the bins which is not being collected. Rubbish attracts rubbish and so certain parts of the street are becoming dumping areas.

The meeting was unable to come up with a JAG solution other than to suggest that individuals contact the council about specific problems and feed-back the response. Also to use app fixmystreet.com to show the mess.

11. Summary of points of Action

Minutes from Last meeting

Marion

Autumn Street Clean Saturday 11/10/14

Carry out new survey of L&Q

Christopher Anene

Get L&Q staff to help

Christopher Anene

Provide a lockable skip

for 11/10 street clean.

Gavin Rogers, the Assistant Director of the South Neighbourhood for L&Q.

Help to distribute leaflets for the 11/10 street clean

All

Urban Art 2014 - Results

Breakdown of footfall

Tim

. 'No Parking' signs for Carriageways

Arrange for signs to be put up

Naz

Controlled Parking Campaign

Send CPZ letter to the council

All

. Constitution and inclusion of Brixton Hill

Put revised constitution on Web-site

Tim

Rubbish Collections

Put contact details to report rubbish collection complaints

On Web-site

Tim

11. Dates for 2014 meetings.

21/11/14 Friday AGM and Party.

JAG treasurer's report Sept 2014

We have £5,882.77 in our current account and £21.80 in petty cash.

Expenses :

I have two additional expenses of £140 for Street Party (printing of 500 leaflets), & diversion signs £38 bringing total cost of the event to £844.57. The cost to JAG funds was £231.59.

The cost of the street clean was £46.96 (tarpaulins for skips) and £58.20 (hire of hedge trimmer).

Urban Art :

We received £1,177.50 from Urban Art this year – many thanks to all volunteers and especially Frances for her fantastic motivation and organisation.

JAG has received nearly £10,000 from Urban Art since 2005 according to the information I have:

2007	1,392.00
2008	1,613.00
2009	595.00
2010	1,905.00
2011	925.00
2012	1,002.00
2013	1,024.79
2014	1,177.50

TOTAL £9,624.39

Hillary Box

Record of bank transactions June – 3 Sept available on request.