

SPRA Committee meeting

14th January 2025

The Carpenters Arms

1. In attendance

Joanna Edmunds (Chair)

Heather Hanbury (HH)

Maria Baharlo (MB)

Lou Devonshire (LD)

Jonathan Cheal (JC)

Oliver Leigh Wood (OL)

Alessia Pulieri Lichtenberg (AP)

Philip Back (PB)

Apologies:

Steve Askins, Elizabeth Ryland, Charlotte Reed

1. Intro

The Chair welcomed HH as the new SPRA Secretary and thanked AL for all her efforts over the last 15 months. The Chair introduced JC and MB, guests for the evening and prospective Officers.

2. Minutes of the last Committee Meeting

Amendments:

Report on security camera at this end of King Street: note that the Council said this is not on their priority list.

It was agreed that the Chair should be added to the bank account signatory list.

The Minutes will be uploaded to the website by the Chair

3. Auditors' Report

Two recommendations from Auditor:

- Any money spent on behalf of SPRA must be noted as such rather than requested by a named member of the Committee, i.e., the SPRA name stated on any invoice where possible rather than the individual's name (or both)

- Future communications to/from the bank should be via 'Treasurer', rather than to a named individual.

A mistake is noted at 1.2 on the Notes to the Accounts: the figure was copied over from 2023 Report and will be updated to the correct 2024 figure.

4. Winter Party

22 tickets sold so far and 3 of the special guests have accepted - similar numbers to last year at this stage.

A reminder email will be sent this weekend.

Bowl food and drink is included in the ticket price.

5. Raj and Asha collection (Efficient Stationers)

Online fundraising among SPRA members has been organised by Chair via 'Collctiv' app. £520 has so far been collected. Raj and Asha have accepted the invitation to be special guests at our Winter Party next week, where a cheque will be presented.

Their significant contribution to the life of the local community, as well as their support of SPRA over many years, was noted.

6. Actions from previous Committee Meeting - update

E-bikes: Chair has written to Councillors and e-bike companies, and also circulated the App link to members so that they can report rogue bikes. Experience has been that the e-bike companies are quite responsive if they receive a complaint via the app.

Derelict bike opposite Cross Keys: will be removed (OL to arrange).

Crime: two attempted thefts in the past week on BLL: 83's car (interrupted), and house entry at 103, also interrupted. Police think there is an organised group. Just before Xmas, there was also a night-time burglary from the garage of the house on the corner of Teresa / Standish Road.

Neighbourhood Watch was disbanded during Covid, but informally maintained by a few residents (including Mick, Manager of the Cross Keys). Police are not currently keen to reinstate this because they don't have manpower to manage it at their end, although there seems to be some suggestions they might reconsider. Next Ward Panel: date tbc, SPRA will aim to be represented.

Drug dealing suspected: someone loitering on corner by Carpenters' Arms 8-9am on Saturday mornings. Similarly, cars stopping on St Peter's Square for short time, playing very loud music and then driving off. Both will be reported to police if noticed again.

Light on north side of square has been off for one year: Chair emailed our Councillor - previous reports to the Council have failed. Suspicion that it might be broken on purpose to provide a dark area for drug dealing.

Trees: Chair reported that the Council plans to lop “all the plane trees by Entwistle Terrace and in St Peter’s Square”; it is not clear whether this includes the trees in the garden itself, or just those on the street. Chair will confirm.

Square garden maintenance: Stefan (Parks Officer) is not responding to OL’s email. Chair to chase.

Leaning Woman: lights attractive and it feels safer coming out of the underpass at night. Planting for the final landscaping will happen in the spring. Frame will be cut into the hedge so her back can be seen when walking down BLL. Some neighbours worried about increase in noise and have written to the Council. SPRA decided we would not make any representation to Council to prevent this, as there is no evidence that noise will worsen as a result.

Noise at Cross Keys: outside noise beyond 11pm and lock-ins. Manager Mick claims they are allowed outside until midnight. OL contacted Brewery who confirmed no one should be drinking outside after 11pm. Fullers reviewed all the footage AP provided and suggested we report to the Council if rules are broken again. Music has reduced somewhat since then, although the fire alarm went off non-stop from 3.32am-6am Monday 13th January. AP to follow-up.

Greek Runner statue: Council’s promised ‘Condition Survey’ is being chased, as are the promised path repairs.

The Scott Hall, St Peter’s Primary: this is hired out to community to raise funds for the school. Original guidelines for use were accepted by everyone but things have changed since then and these guidelines were not being followed. School Chair met neighbours just over a year ago and when they intervened, things improved. However, the contracts still appear to be ignored by some renters and there is no on-site management during events or after school hours. An alternative means of fundraising has been suggested: letting out the school and grounds for filming etc... This is being investigated. The fence surrounding the Hall was removed and replaced by a hedge which has not grown successfully. This is Council land, so the school is chasing them to deal with it.

Wheelie bins: Chair has emailed Council about the mess on the street – no response.

Parking Charges: this has gone quiet and nothing more has been said by the council.

Shakespeare in the Square: date changed to 14th June.

Planning Applications update - ongoing

1. 361KS – Sovereign House 2023/02343/FUL – change of use from offices to 10 flats. No material alterations for fabric of the building; “car free” development with 1 disabled bay in BLM. Existing parking for offices retained. Decision overdue since 8 Jan 24. (Note this is one of a number of applications relating to Sovereign House)

2. 351 KS - 2024/00076/FUL - Rear extension including the installation of an air conditioning unit. Decision overdue since due 23 Apr 24

3. 361KS (Sovereign House) - 2024/02600/PMA56 – conversion of 1st-3rd floors into 12 flats. Application to check if development is within permitted development rights (previous approval was for 10 flats) Decision overdue since 10 Dec 2024

4. 22-23 Aiten Place - 2024/02666/FUL - Replacement of timber framed windows with double glazed uPVC windows. Approved 18 Dec 24.

5. 23-34 Chambon Place - 2024/02666/FUL - Replacement of timber framed windows with double glazed uPVC windows. Approved 18 Dec 24.

New applications (since 29 Oct 2024)

1. 16 St Peter's Grove - 2024/02693/FUL – New hipped roof at main roof level; single storey rear extension, following demolition of existing. Note was due for determination on 20 Dec 24 but revised drawings submitted 18 Dec 24 so remains as 'pending consideration'. *Comment – hipped roof should fit with street scene and development does not appear to increase overlooking etc.*

2. 11 Beavor Lane - 2024/02891/PMA56 - Change of use from office to 7no flats: 1 x studio, 1 x 1 bedroom and 5 x 2 bedroom flats; basement car & cycle parking. Was due to determination on 7 Jan 25. *Comment - previous application for this building in 2017 was to allow 24 hour working (SPRA objected and it went to planning committee where it was refused) Change of use from commercial to residential, which may well fit better with the local area and with neighbours*

3. 10 Berestede Road - 2024/03104/FUL - Rear roof extension; rear extension at 2nd floor, over part of the existing back addition; and installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roofslope. Due for determination on 30 Jan 25. *Comment - Rooflights aside, will not be visible from the street; rear extn appears to align with neighbouring properties*

7. AOB

SPRA Archive is still in LD's garage (there are many boxes) and she needs to get rid of it. Document retention is only required for 7 years so earlier stuff can be dispensed with. Options include:

- Hammersmith Library – it is local history
- Richard Farthing at The Hammersmith Society also may be interested
- Ask Angela Dixon what she has done with her archive

The SPRA shared Google drive needs to be downloaded, transferred from AL and recreated by HH. Chair to (try to) assist.

8. Date of next Committee Meeting

17th March, 38 St Peter's Square (JC's house).