

CARA  
Committee Meeting Minutes  
Friday, 9th October 2020  
Venue: via Zoom conferencing.

IN ATTENDANCE : Malcolm Baldwin (Chair) (MB), Richard Brown (RB), George Feiger, Mike Richardson (MR), Sally Rothwell(SR), Stephen Taylor, Ron Temperton (RT) and Sabrina Earnshaw(SE).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Rosie Tunstall (RT).

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH AUGUST 2020: Approved.

MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

FoBRA update:

In respect of FoBRA, Robin Kerr had retired from his role as Chairman. Justin Drager had been elected as the new Chair-person with Graham Feltham being elected as the Vice Chair. Patrick Rotheram had indicated his decision to stand down as the 'Lead' of the FoBRA Transport Group by the end of November. ( M.B. also indicated his own decision to stand down as a member of the Transport Group).

An extraordinary FoBRA meeting had been held on the 8th October 2020, to discuss FoBRA's response to the Council's "Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy" document. Following a lively meeting, the text of a much discussed document was agreed upon for forwarding, on behalf of FoBRA members to the Council.

Residents' issues:

A resident of Gay Street had been experiencing some particular anti-social behaviour from immediate neighbours and had requested some assistance from CARA. Stephen Taylor was liaising with the resident and initiating appropriate action to assist in alleviating the problems.

A number of residents of Queens Parade had requested advice/assistance from CARA in respect of the Council's coach parking plans at the Queens Parade end of Royal Avenue. Unfortunately, the expiry date for public consultation relating to these parking revisions (which also related to a number of pay and display parking locations in Queens Parade Place) had expired in March of this year. Following a meeting which MB held with two of the residents to listen to their concerns, it was at least possible to provide them with all of the appropriate documentation which validated the process of consultation undertaken by the Council. [ Note: The coach and pay and display parking revisions were due to be implemented during early October ]. One of the two residents who MB met with has since joined CARA as a member.

Resident's Parking:

A Zoom conference call with our local MP, Vera Hobhouse, has been scheduled for the 16th October [ since re-scheduled at VH's request to the 6th November ] in order to highlight areas of

particular concern to our residents and to seek support particularly in key issues such as residents-only parking facilities. [ A zoom meeting with at least two of CARA's four councillors is also anticipated in the first week of November with the same remit ].

Constitution:

MB reminded the Committee that he had assumed the responsibility for undertaking a review of CARA's Constitution and indicated that he would commence this work next month in order to place recommendations to the Committee in the New Year for response and input. MB indicated that this should then provide plenty of time for submission to members for their consideration at the next AGM. The Treasurer agreed to forward to MB what he regarded as being the current version of the Constitution [ since received ].

TREASURY and MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that the current CARA bank balance stood at £10,911. This sum excluded an additional 'filming fee' contribution to CARA funds of £500, recently negotiated by MB for which we were awaiting invoicing details [ since received and now invoiced by the Treasurer].

Membership of CARA currently stood at 133 members ( households ) and 15 associate members.

A brief discussion with regard to the current level of members' annual fees (£7.50) took place but it was not deemed prudent to make any adjustment at the present time.

Following a brief discussion relating to insurance for events organised by CARA such as the annual "Carols in The Circus", it was agreed that MR should secure two quotations for cover of £1million and £2million respectively for event activity. [ Subsequent to the meeting, it was established by MR that insurance cover for any anticipated events could be initiated at quite short notice. This being the case and following a discussion with MB, it was decided to allow the current event insurance cover to lapse with no events being currently planned for the remainder of this year. Instead, that CARA would initiate new cover when new events become possible again to hold. [ Note: This decision to be ratified by full Committee at next scheduled meeting ].

SOCIAL EVENTS and ACTIVITIES:

The Chair, on behalf of Rosie Tunstall, reported that it was now extremely unlikely that a " Carols in The Circus" event could be held this year. However, RT had discussed with a Bath based choral group the opportunity for them to perhaps contribute to the musical aspect of the CARA carols event next year.

CITY CENTER ACTION GROUP (CCAG):

Ron Temperton reported that a meeting had been held with the Council Leader. Topics discussed included: various Covid-19 initiatives, the Council's approach to cycling routes about which concern was expressed in respect of the potential influence of nationally based cycling lobby groups. RT confirmed that some of the work recently undertaken by the Council in respect of the use of large concrete blocks for traffic/pedestrian 'management' were mandated by central government departments.

RT indicated that the Council had confirmed the date of 21st March 2021 for the implementation of the "Clean Air Zone".

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES:

Sabrina Earnshaw, reported on the current activities of CARA's "Environmental Sub-committee", indicating in her opening remarks that there was some 'linkage' with the sub-committee's activities and LTNs with regard to better air quality, better waste management and general health and well-being issues.

SE confirmed that the litter pick during the last weekend of September was successful and thanked those Committee members who were able to attend. The amount of discarded cigarette butts and discarded chewing gum was a particular concern in respect of general cleanliness of the CARA area but also in terms of the more vulnerable residents against a background of the current Covid-19 situation.

SE also indicated that pressure needs to be put on landlords regarding the discarding of rubbish from, in particular, Airbnb and some general rental accommodation. It was also important to report persistent offenders to the appropriate Council departments. The use of public litter bins, with overflowing rubbish being a consequence, was also an identified issue. RT highlighted this as also being an issue with the large [ commercial ] bins located at the Gay Street end of George Street.

SE further indicated that the 'parklet' on Julian Road/Upper Church was a potential for funding from the 'neighbourhood fund' currently supported by the Co-op.

## PUBLIC REALM/LICENSING:

Sally Rothwell reported that the "Commons Rooms" had applied to update their terms and conditions of operating to allow them to undertake off-sales until 2-3am which would be a serious potential nuisance.

SR confirmed that she is in touch with the Council regarding graffiti on Julian Road.

With regard to the trees on The Circus green, SR indicated that she will contact the Council in order to establish when they were last evaluated in terms of their condition.

RT highlighted that a new-style lamp-post had been installed by the Council in Circus Place and that there was a need to check with the Council that this did not represent a 'roll-out' of a new style that does not appropriately suit a conservation area.

## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT:

Richard Brown, Transport Lead, indicated that the Council's "Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy" document had received in excess of 1000 responses so far and that the date for closure of responses had been extended to 18th October 2020. RB further confirmed that there were no other further requested amendments to CARA's own response and that therefore that our own response document would now be sent to the Council.

A discussion was then commenced within the Committee with regard to Low Traffic Neighbourhoods [ the most significant element of the Council's "Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy" ] and the content/text of the proposed CARA consultation Bulletin to members and local residents on this subject.

Following a short discussion which highlighted a few key points from Committee members, it was agreed by all Committee members that a preferred forum for further discussion would be a separate committee meeting dedicated to this subject. It was agreed that meeting to be held at 10am on Thursday, 22nd October 2020 via a zoom conferencing facility.

The next pre-scheduled Committee Meeting was confirmed as being at 9.30am on the 11th December 2020.

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

#### ADDENDUM:

Committee Meeting held: 10am on Thursday, 22nd October 2020.

Subject: Low Traffic Neighbourhoods - CARA Bulletin content.

Attendees: Malcolm Baldwin (Chair), Richard Brown, Mike Richardson, Stephen Taylor, Ron Temperton, Sally Rothwell, George Feiger.

#### Note:

Following a meeting which was fully contributed to by all attendee Committee members, various suggested amendments to the text of the CARA draft LTN Bulletin, designed to inform and gain responses and input from local members and residents, were discussed and noted by RB for inclusion in a revised draft to be circulated to the Committee for their review and subsequent final approval.

In particular, it is noted that a number of Committee members expressed reservations relating to the inclusion of the suggested potential closure of Gay Street within the overall LTN concept. Following much useful input and discussion on various aspects of the draft document a request was made for a Committee vote on the particular aspect of the inclusion of the suggested Gay Street closure within the consultation Bulletin/document.

It is recorded that the result in respect of this requested vote was as follows:

In favour:	3
Against:	3
Abstain:	1

The above result being the case, the Chair's casting vote ( as determined by CARA's Constitution ) carried the decision for inclusion of the suggested Gay Street closure within the consultation Bulletin for members and residents consideration.

The meeting proceedings having been completed the meeting was duly closed.