

Circus Area Residents Association Limited

CARA Committee Meeting

**9.15am Friday 22nd October 2021
held at
Berdoulat, Margaret's Buildings, Bath**

MINUTES

In Attendance: Malcolm Baldwin (MB), Karen Baldwin (KB), Sabrina Earnshaw (SE), Mike Richardson (MR), Vishaka Robinson (VR), Stephen Taylor (ST) and Rosie Tunstall (RT).

Apologies for Absence: George Feiger.

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 2nd July 2021: Approved.

Matters Arising: None.

Social Events & Activities:

Christmas Lunch:

Christmas lunch to be held on Sunday 5th December 2021, venue tbc but most likely be held at Clayton's Kitchen (£39 including a glass of Prosecco on arrival).

Carol Service:

Carol Service to be held on Friday 17th December, a lot of planning with the Council and others is taking place. KB and VR have offered to assist Rosie with any requirements prior to as well as during the event.

We will also need a table with 2 fire extinguishers, 1 person with First Aid Training (Santosh), 1 person with DBS (Bernard, Santosh) and 3/4 volunteers on top of each streets that we are looking to close for up to a 3 hour period (Gay Street, Brock Street, Bennett Street and potential limited access to the South of Upper Church Street).

RT will follow up with the Salvation Army about potential contactless donations and volunteers to collect donations.

VR to see if “Davies of Bath” will kindly sponsor the printing of new carols on laminated sheets.

CARA to email members about the event and also undertake mail-outs to appropriate local residents and businesses about the street closure intentions.

The general consensus of the meeting was that a ‘duty of care’ approach to the “Carols in The Circus” event was appropriate, in light of the potential increase in people attending the event and the consideration of vehicle and electric scooter activity interfacing with the attendees to the event.

Treasury & Membership:

Bank balance of £13,092

152 paid up members

Company Directors are now Mike Richardson and Malcolm Baldwin.

Stephen Taylor is now an additional bank signatory in addition to MR and MB.

Licensing and Planning:

Multiple applications continue to be submitted to the Council but nothing is currently ‘flagging up’ to investigate further.

City Centre Action Group (CCAG):

ST has formerly taken over representation at FOBRA from MB, it was noted by the meeting. In respect of the CCAG forum, MB indicated that contrary to his original reservations, he felt that the direct access that this meeting group continued to provide to senior Council representatives justified CARA’s continued involvement and membership.

MB indicated that he did, however, retain certain reservations in respect of the usefulness of CARA’s continued involvement with UTRA (the Upper Town Residents Associations) but would revert to the Committee if he felt any change in CARA’s participation was to be recommended or discussed.

Public Realm/Environmental Services:

Lamp posts on Saville Row and Margarets Buildings are now identified and listed with the Council’s contractors for works to be carried out.

The new large bin on Margarets Buildings has been flagged up to the Council to be investigated and hopefully replaced with a smaller and more aesthetically acceptable bin.

MB hoped that he will be soon meeting with the National Trust in order to discuss their future operational plans for the Assembly Rooms and its overall upkeep (railings, lighting, courtyards). [This meeting to be 'brokered', at MB's request, by Councillor Dine Romero].

Regarding the pruning of the lower canopy of the trees on The Circus, MB is getting 3 quotes from tree surgeons (likely circa £450). It was discussed by the Committee that filming funds could be used towards the cost as CARA would be providing the resources to accelerate what was likely otherwise to be [extremely] slow action/intervention by the Council itself.

MB will secure confirmation of an appropriate mandate from any appointed tree surgeon and the Council in respect of the proposed work on the lower branch 'canopy'. MB will communicate with members and the households in The Circus for their agreements and/or objections by the December CARA Committee meeting to enable an appropriate Committee 'sign off', bearing in mind the level of monies involved in the work.

Traffic & Transport:

Not much development regarding the Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy or LTNs as conversations are now awaited with individual residents' associations. [Since the meeting MB has ascertained that these dialogues are now unlikely to commence in detail before late November].

Regarding residents' parking, with effect from January 2022, local hoteliers, guests houses and 'registered' Airbnbs will need to ensure that their guests use the Charlotte Street car park rather than local residential streets within CARA's catchment area. (The exception remaining in place for disabled hotelier and guesthouse guests).

Any Other Business:

Next Committee Meeting will be held on Friday 10th December rather than the 17th December.