

Minutes of  
Circus Area Residents Association Limited  
Annual General Meeting  
Thursday 10th May 2018  
Royal Pavilion Café,  
Royal Avenue, Victoria Park, Bath BA1 2NR

Meeting commenced at 7 pm with the Chairman (BG) welcoming everyone, having immediately prior had a short meeting with the candidates for election to the Committee to explain the process that has been adopted, allowing all candidates to speak for 30 seconds or so to say why they want to join the committee and the skills they would bring.

**In attendance :** The Committee and approximately 55 members, associate members and guests.

The meeting began with a point of order raised by Mr Westbury regarding a procedural issue, which was not accepted by the Chairman.

Richard Brown, Vice Chair, outlined the rationale adopted by the committee regarding one vote per household. The Constitution is silent on how a member is defined, and short of various definitions that would make interpretation easier to follow. The Committee's assertion was accepted by almost everyone present as being fair and reasonable – inequitable to grant more than one vote per subscription. It was noted that it was always open to buy more than one subscription per household for each individual resident.

BG advised the meeting that there had been an approach by a group of members (per Mr Daniels, some twenty individuals including associate members) seeking an EGM to consider a revised constitution. Subsequent to the approach, it had been agreed between the Committee and the Members Group that there could be a process to try and resolve differences and seek common ground where possible prior to bringing any proposals to the full membership. It was generally accepted that the extant Constitution needs updating and revisions.

**Apologies** were received from Sam Brown, Val Mason and Nigel Cockburn Anne Love, Kim Jones and Simon Ridley, Dr and Mrs Patrick Cheney, David Blake, Diana Bourdon Smith, Stephen and Clivette Taylor, Heidi Ticker, George Feiger, Lucy Simon, Birgitte Hald, Nancy Wise Garrett, Pat Mawhood, Neil Ireson.

**The Minutes of the 2017 AGM** were noted and agreed by all present.

### **Chairman's Report**

BG had prepared a full report (attached) of the extensive activities of CARA over the 17/18 year and this had been distributed to all in advance of the meeting, which was appreciated. BG highlighted some key issues vis:

- Thanking the Committee : the Chairman asked for and the audience gave a hearty round of applause in support of all the hard work done by the Committee.

- Coaches : an update on the recent count of 227 different coach companies identified as visiting the Circus over recent months. Discussions with the Council had led to work by its officers beginning on a new Transport Management Scheme to ban coaches from the Circus. A further update would be known around the end of May.
- Constitution : the Chairman simply drew the audience's attention to the explanatory update on the revised draft constitution, without further comment.
- Membership : 68% growth to 156 households, which was attributed to the greater communication by Newsletters and e-Bulletins creating a greater awareness of CARA and the good work done on behalf of residents locally.
- Parking : a meeting this week with the Council had confirmed that, after CARA's extensive lobbying, that 35 residents only car parking spaces would be created, by changing them from dual (parking meter and residents only) to single use. A further 35 are 'guaranteed' (by the Council's Cabinet Member for Transport) for next year. Importantly, the Council have said that the spaces to be converted cannot be close to retailers but have asked where we would like them - the Committee will be working with the Council to best effect. Suggestions welcomed.
- Policing : after the recent spate of robberies of commercial premises and a range of domestic burglaries, the Committee are organising a public meeting on Crime Protection. Details will be circulated once confirmed.

The Chairman invited questions, of which there were only a couple of points of clarification.

There was a suggestion from the floor that CARA contact Chris Pawson, University of West of England regarding a report he had done in to the issue of gull nuisance to see if we could learn from it and lobby the Council to apply to the continuing menace in Bath.

David Daniels sought to advise the meeting that whilst BG's report referred to a small Members Group, this was in fact some twenty individuals (NB including individual associate members who do not have a vote), which he felt was a meaningful number.

Malcom Baldwin offered to become involved in any work to resolve the constitutional issues and had some thoughts regarding term of office for committee members – rather than annual election, it would make more sense for it to be a two year term, with perhaps a four year term for the Chairman, in order to get stabilisation and continuity. His offer was accepted with thanks and will be taken up if any changes to the Constitution are progressed by the Committee. BG confirmed that, in those circumstances, the committee would be keen to work with the membership to arrive at a satisfactory and relevant Constitution. He felt there would be a need for compromise to achieve the optimum outcome.

### **Treasurers Report.**

MR presented the short form accounts. They were accepted by the meeting unanimously and adopted accordingly.

### **Election of Committee and Officers**

As there were 18 nominations (duly proposed and seconded by the closing date) for 10 places on the Committee, an election ballot was held. The Secretary and the Treasurer acted as Scrutineers.

All candidates took up the Chairman's offer to speak on the basis outlined. Three candidates had given their apologies due to unavoidable absence. A short statement prepared by each absent candidate was read to the meeting.

The Chairman then broke the meeting for 20 minutes whilst votes were cast and the results checked, verified and confirmed.

37 voting papers cast in writing, by those entitled to vote, resulting in the following, read out in alphabetical order by the Chairman:

M Baldwin 16, R Brown 28, P Davis 14, G Feiger 18, B Gilbertson 26, J Hampton 35, B Horn 30, A Love 18, D Daniels 13, R Daniels 11, R Plant 20, M Richardson 30, S Rothwell 15, G Ryan 8, D Simon 24, L Simon 15, R Temperton 27, M Westbury 4

**Thus, the following 10 were elected to serve as the Committee for 18/19:**

**Gilbertson, Brown, Horn, Richardson, Hampton, Temperton, Plant, D. Simon Love, and Feiger.**

Furthermore, as all the current elected officers (the first five named above) had been re-elected, and no other nominations had been received by the due date, their roles were confirmed without demur by the meeting.

BG concluded this part of the meeting with thanks to those present who had confirmed his re-election. He commented that he had worked tirelessly for the good of CARA and would continue to do so. Peter Davis, who was not re-elected, was thanked for his work over the years, as was Sam Brown who had done much to improve our website and related technical issues who had to stand down from the Committee when he moved out of the CARA catchment, but remained as an individual Associate Member.

### **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

BG read out the text of a proposed email reading CARA's proposed methodology to comply.

This methodology is now well established by many organisations seeking to comply. The Chairman made clear that Household or individual members that does not "Opt-in" would not be allowed, by these Regulations (from 25 May 2018) to remain as a member as we would not be allowed to hold membership information data about them.

Hard copies would be distributed to those households not on email (10 addresses).

### **Priorities for 18/19 year ahead**

BG then invited comment from those present with a view to channelling CARA committee efforts over the next 12 months. These included traffic pollution, air quality (Sally Rothwell was thanked for her technical input and BG suggested she may be approached to assist the committee in this regard) Dog fouling in the Circus, Party Houses and related anti-social behaviour, events on the Royal Victoria Park and related disturbance. Further comment was made about HGVs, better representation from Bennett St in CARA, Plane Trees in the Circus.

The Committee would discuss and notify members of the top three priorities for the year, recognising that all suggestions were valid and important to members.

On "Traffic Management", Richard Brown updated the meeting on the Council's current proposals to ban coaches from the Circus, and to introduce a one-way system in Gay Street. Despite our survey on Gay Street vehicle movements in each direction, the Council favoured one-way northwards (up) Gay Street, in order to reduce pollution caused by congestion as vehicles waited to exit via the George Street junction.

BG offered, if requested, to hold a meeting to garner members views regarding traffic flows and related issues, once the Council's finalised plans are known around the end of May.

**Meeting concluded at 9 pm**

**Bernard Horn**

**CARA Secretary**

**12 May 2018**