



Albert Square And St. Stephens Association

Minutes of ASSA meeting 12th June 2019

Welcome

Rev Bill Wilson, Chairman of ASSA, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of 2018 AGM

These were approved by the meeting.

Chairman's Report

Bill presented his report of ASSA activity over the last year to the meeting. He invited specific committee members to speak on different topics.

Traffic

Darshak Shah provided an update on the traffic situation in the ASSA area. He explained that he had worked on traffic issues for the last few years, including successfully petitioning to get no HGV signs installed at the entrances to the ASSA area, although these were often ignored.

Darshak explained how he and Geoff Parsons have more recently been working with the Save Our Streets campaign which had brought together all the residents associations in the triangle of residential streets bordered by South Lambeth Road, Harleyford Road and Clapham Road. It was agreed that all the residents associations needed to work as one to get any significant changes made to traffic flows in the area. A recent significant achievement was that traffic monitoring had taken place - the first time this has happened across the whole triangle area. Data from this survey can be used to provide a baseline to monitor any changes in the future.

Darshak continued by outlining that the council's approach to traffic issues had been slow and reactive. He was hoping to take more pro-active, speedier action outside of the council process. This could include community speeding action, where residents supported by police community support officers use speed guns to monitor speeding cars, sending warning letters to drivers. Darshak was also planning to apply for a 'Play



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Street' street closure where local roads can be closed for a few hours at the weekend to all but immediately local traffic. This allows children to use the street to play in for an afternoon.

The Fentiman Road residents had started taking photos of lorries which were breaking the HGV ban, and posting these to social media, tagging the offending companies. Darshak encouraged others to follow this approach.

There was support from meeting for Darshak's efforts, and some further discussions on the possible schemes for reducing traffic.

Filming

Peter Edwards addressed the meeting on the subject of filming. In previous years we had seen a significant amount of filming. This produced good income for ASSA, but did result in significant disruptions. A filming protocol was put in place with the Lambeth Film Office to set out the expectations of ASSA when filming took place with the ASSA area. Filming has reduced in the last couple of years, but there was a recent large film shoot on the Mursell Estate. This caused significant disruption on the approach road to Albert Square, which was not conducted in accordance with the protocol. Peter had secured a small donation to ASSA and raised his concerns with the Lambeth Film Office.

Bins

Paul Orsich raised the misuse of the public litter bin at the junction of Aldebert Terrace and St Stephen's Terrace, which was regularly used for the disposal of domestic rubbish sacks, rather than for street litter which is its intended use. Bill asked that Cllr Caldicott take note of this issue. Viv Aylmer suggested that the bin simply be removed, and others suggested that the bin be converted to a specific dog waste bin.

Charles Glanville asked the meeting to note his thanks for the speed with which the Lambeth graffiti team had removed graffiti that had been painted on the bin enclosures in Albert Square.



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Policing and Crime

Peter Edwards explained that he had asked a member of the Stockwell Safer Neighbourhood Team to join the meeting, but they were unable to do so due to a pre-planned operation taking place this evening. The SNT had given some advice and information on vehicle crime in the area. They saw two types of crime in the area. Firstly, people who accidentally leave their cars unlocked will regularly find that they are ransacked for loose change and other easily removed items. Peter advised that he regularly sees people checking car doors to see if they are unlocked. Secondly, the SNT sometimes receive reports of cars which were locked are accessed, including a recent issue where a car on Wilkinson Street was quite significantly damaged after being opened without a key. The SNT had explained that cars with keyless entry can be accessed by thieves using amplifiers to transmit the signal from a keyfob inside the house to the street outside. Emma Robb explained that she had recently purchased a small metal pouch in which she keeps her key fob when in the house. This pouch prevents the transmission of the radio signal needed to open the car.

Underground Noise

Emma Robb gave an update on underground noise. She outlined that there had been an increase in the last few years in noise from the Victoria Line which runs under the far east corner of Aldebert Terrace, Albert Square and Wilkinson Street. Whilst there had been some visits from TfL to monitor the noise, there had been no reduction in noise levels. ASSA were planning to write to TfL to request some action be taken. Cllr Caldicott suggested that ASSA should also write to our GLA member, Florence Eshalomi.

Planning

Bill explained that ASSA needed a volunteer to monitor for new planning applications within the ASSA area, as Viv Aylmer was no longer able to perform this role. There was also a need to maintain a watch on larger planning issues that whilst not within the area would have an impact on the ASSA streets, such as the Vauxhall Bus Station redevelopment.



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Sundiatu Dixon-Fyle gave an update on the South Lambeth Estate redevelopment. There had been a delay to the start of the work whilst a suitable contractor was chosen, but the work was scheduled to start in around a year's time.

Community Freshview

Bill spoke about this event held earlier in the year where a lot of great work was done to tidy up the flower beds and buildouts. Another event was planned for later in the year. The event will be followed by a lunch in the church for volunteers.

Trash and Treasure

Paul Mawdsley gave a summary of the Trash and Treasure event held in May which was a great success. A lot of stalls were setup and a wide range of goods were for sale. Next year's event would take place on the second Saturday in May.

Financial Report

Paul Mawdsley presented the latest financial report for the Association. He firstly thanked Sid Stiles for his 35 years of service as ASSA Treasurer. Paul explained that our income for the past year had been just £150 of filming income. Our expenditure last year consisted of printing costs and public liability insurance. ASSA had net assets of £1744 at the end of the year. At this level, ASSA would not be actively seeking bids for donations to local charities as it had done in the past.

Michael Leapman asked why no membership fee was charged. Paul explained that whilst ASSA had charged a fee many years ago, no fee had been charged for sometime, and the committee had decided that this was not required at the moment. There was some discussion about the merits of re-introducing a small membership fee, including the suggestion that such a fee might increase engagement in ASSA.



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Election of Officers and Committee

The following were appointed by the meeting to serve for the next year:

Chair: Bill Wilson

Treasurer: Paul Mawdsley

Secretary: Darshak Shah

Committee Members:

Emma Robb

Leo Pilkington

Charles Glanville

Neil Sanders

Peter Edwards

Sundiatu Dixon-Fyle

Viv Aylmer

Natasha Marks

Sid Stiles

Penny Howard

Geoff Parsons