



**Minutes of the North Laine Community Association residents' meeting
on 19th September 2017**

Present: Francis Clark-Lowes, Julia Wilde, Jonathan Bromberg, Barry Leigh, David Sewell, Ruth Goodall, Ninka Willcock, Louis Blache, Anne Johnson, Jackie Fuller, Gabrielle Villermet, Lyn Turpin, Kathy Spencer, Kim Curran, Clifford Jacques, Anne Lescombe, Mitch Egan, Sarah Dunsmure, Sandy Crowhurst, Clive Brimmell, Tina Randall, Michael REMington, Terry Etherton, Richard Carter, Kate Harrison, K Turner, Emma Robertson, Jane Griffiths, Peter Crowhurst, Roy Skam (30)

1. Apologies for absence

Chris Hayes, Brian & Bobbie Cheesman, Pete West, Glynis Simpson, Geoffrey Mead, Annette Routledge, Peter Fuller, Lizzie Deane

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July – Approved

3. Chair's summary for July - September 2017

Francis mentioned that three things had come up over the past two months, our website, a planning application for the Pelham site and *The North Laine* book. Please see the planning section for more on the Pelham site.

Our website: Jane Griffiths confirmed our contract with the existing nlcaonline.org.uk website will end in February 2018. The cost of retaining it by moving it to a viable platform would cost £3,5000. As we don't have the funds, we've looked at different alternatives and Julia Wilde has created a Wix site with a new URL of northlainebrighton.org.uk We're now looking at transferring our valuable data across to the new site. However the new site doesn't have the capacity and capabilities of the old one. So what we can't migrate over, we'll save on Google Drive. This will ensure the information will be safe, secure and accessible when needed. The new site is up to date, and the existing one is running too. After February we'll change the URL to the new site and redirect people there. Our understanding is that the existing site will still be there after February, but the site won't be supported. So eventually it may fall apart. A resident queried the change of URL, the reason for which was that it's more descriptive and will be easier to find on a Google search. There was a suggestion that we keep the old name if it doesn't cost us much. Another resident commented that it was a good decision to go with Wix as it's much more flexible than the old site.

The North Laine book: At the beginning of August, Francis had heard from one of

Selma Montford's daughters that her mother wasn't very well, that Brighton Town Press (BTP) was being wound up and a request that we take the remaining books bar a few copies. We took 253 copies and Peter Fuller stored them at his house. We were led to believe we would in future have full control of the book. Then four days ago before today's NLCA meeting, another of Selma's daughters said BTP was going to continue, and could they have a box of books back for supply purposes. As Francis was going away shortly he asked to deal with the matter on his return. As Selma's daughter was also going away, it would be mid October before we can gain an agreement to continue with the same arrangement as before. Francis added that the book was a fantastic achievement and something to be proud of. It has raised funds for us, and has also raised our profile in the city.

4. Treasurer's report

Peter Fuller was not present, but reported via email that at the time of writing we had £8,521 in the bank. However, of this £2,422 is for advertisements in the Runner that have been paid for in advance. We were due to pay the printer £961 (this has now been paid). We should receive further funds from advertisers for the next edition of the newsletter. We are still looking for somebody to assist in the marketing of the Runner – finding new advertisers and promoting our new look, full colour newsletter. Francis encouraged volunteers to step forwards. The printers are asking for money upfront, before each edition is printed. So Kim Curran, our editor, is now a signatory on the bank account, but is waiting for a card to enable online payments. As a safeguard, we are looking to lodge a prepayment deposit with the printers to ensure a smooth service. Peter will speak to them about this soon. During August we sold 37 copies of The North Laine Book (30 of these were to Waterstones). We still have to collect the cash for these. We have been given a further 253 books from Selma's daughter, Sukey.

Kevin Daly at Raining Books has sold 20 tickets for the comedy fundraiser so far.

Friend's donations continue to trickle in.

Peter Crowhurst's guided walks of the North Laine gave us £81 in donations.

5. Social committee report

Kathy Spencer reminded everyone that the comedy night would be on Tuesday 26th September with the headline act Jo Neary. Kathy brought more tickets for sale during the break and some comedy night posters for residents to display in their windows. We're still looking for decent raffle prizes such as meals for two, hairdressing vouchers and so on. Francis thanked Kathy for the good line up. Kathy reminded everyone to tell their friends as you don't have to be in the NLCA or North Laine to attend. As Francis won't be there on the night, Kim will be representing the NLCA on his behalf.

Earlier in the summer we took part in the Pavilion Gardens charity day until rain fell at 2pm. We still made £62 from the tombola and Kathy has kept hold of the remaining gifts and will use some for the Christmas raffle. She mentioned there had been some very good donations, and thanked everyone who attended, including Peter F for supplying a gazebo for us. The mayor had also made an appearance.

David Sewell remarked that it was a shame the weather had prevented the annual North Laine resident's tea party at the Pavilion Gardens Café from going ahead. It had been postponed to the following weekend and around 12 residents had attended. He hoped for better weather next year. A resident mentioned that the band had also been appreciated.

6. Local action team issues - nothing to report

7. Planning

Barry Leigh reported that Great Brighton Metropolitan College (formerly known as City College) in Pelham Street had put forward an initial proposal for a development. It was difficult to see what they were proposing and they need to secure the funds first. The development is more scaled back than previously and therefore is not such a threat as the previous one of July 2012. As we can't see the full details yet we will keep an eye on it. Sandy said it is very early stages. It was noted that the college has offered to give us a hard copy of the plans. A bid has been made for £5million from the local growth fund – Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). They propose to sell Cheapside, Trafalgar, York and Gloucester buildings in Pelham Street which will be replaced with 130 residential units provided by another developer. All we know is that the proposal doesn't seem feasible for the space and looks rather tight. A resident mentioned that there is a timetable on their presentation which is optimistic as it shows it is due to start mid 2018. Funds raised from the LEP bid and sale of the buildings were hoped to net the college £15.7 million. Jonathan Bromberg mentioned that they will not look to build a big building on the car park this time round as they will have to pay large sums to residents for their loss of light. In their last application they circumvented the rules and were allowed to block light with the backing of the council. Jonathan felt that it was due to his personal efforts last time that the development has now been pushed eastwards and they will not develop close to us.

8. Licensing

Roy Skam reported that the police licensing department is being reduced, both civilian and uniformed. We don't have any figures yet.

Franco Manca in Church Street had applied for alcohol off sales via their Deliveroo drivers. The NLCA and the Police had opposed this and they withdrew their application. They had remarked that they have off sales at their Marina outlet and would deliver from there instead. However this is probably not feasible as it's too far away. A resident asked how anyone could prove from where the booze was being delivered. This argument had been used by the NLCA during the Council's Licensing Strategy meeting regarding the Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ). Another resident questioned if the NLCA has ever said yes to a licensing application. Roy explained that the NLCA never supports an application but we don't always object to them. About a year previously a decision had been made at a residents' meeting always to object if the police object. If the police don't object, we still look at it objectively for problems. So we never support any application but we don't always object to them.

Peter C mentioned that in 2003 there had been 20 licensed premises in the North Laine,

and today there are nearly 80. St Peter's and North Laine Ward now has the highest alcohol related incidents in the city. The resident argued that businesses bring employment and other benefits to the city. Peter C said that the NLCA takes a stance from the residents' point of view regarding noise, anti-social behaviour and so on, while the other resident was looking at it from the business angle. The resident denied this as he had moved into the area for its vibrancy. Sandy Crowhurst mentioned that the whole town is now saturated with licensed premises and that every 5th premises in North Laine has a licence. The point was then made that there are no derelict shops here, but the cafes applying for licences are already in existence. Another resident mentioned it was important not to make an assumption that all trouble in North Laine comes from premises in the area and that the problem is wider than ours alone. So we need to look at businesses individually and see the benefits as a whole.

Le Baobob Cuisine, a restaurant at 8 Trafalgar Street and corner of Pelham Square had agreed with the Police not to have outside tables and chairs so we had withdrawn our objection.

Tower Point at 44 North Road had applied for a licence for various parts of their offices. This included meeting rooms and cubicle spaces. They wanted to sell alcohol to their members. The Police and Environmental Health had objected, as had the NLCA. The hearing was on 30th August and two days beforehand the applicant had rung to say they she would be on holiday with no-one to take her place. This was peculiar as we couldn't ask questions of the applicant and the application had been refused. Peter C and Roy had represented the NLCA.

Mocatta House in Trafalgar Street is just outside the CIZ but in an SSA (Special Stress Area). They had also wanted to sell alcohol to workers and cater for meetings and events on the Ground and Sixth floors. We have put in an objection that has been validated.

Pelicano at 28 Sydney Street had applied for a licence in Dec 2015. We objected and the panel refused it. They have now applied for a restaurant licence. We are worried by the proliferation of licensing so have objected again to make a point. A restaurant licence is allowed in the council matrix (to 11pm) but the applicant has to make sure that they meet conditions. The police were satisfied with the conditions and had withdrawn their objection, but ours remains. At the Hearing we will mention our concern of street drinking (they have tables and chairs outside) and also potential for noise from their garden as it will affect residents backing onto the premises.

9. Other environmental matters

A resident had seen small plastic packets on sale in Rolyn's Newsagent on North Road. These are typically used by drug dealers for bagging drugs. The owner wants to turn a profit but the resident was going to boycott the shop as it just encourages drug taking and wanted to know what others felt. It was acknowledged that the sale of the bags is legal.

Another resident asked everyone for a favour. He lives in Whitecross Street and is the only resident in the city with one of the new bike share scheme racks under his bedroom window. The bike rack encourages antisocial behaviour such as street drinkers and beggars sitting on them. He requested anyone seeing such behaviour to take a photo and email it to secretary@nlcaonline.org.uk who will forward it to him. He is compiling a dossier on the situation.

10. Newsletter

Kim Curran reported that the next issue will be out in two weeks time and will be 24 pages instead of 32. There is still a great deal crammed into it, but it will make it lighter for Street reps to carry and we will make a bit more profit on it. We've been pleased to have had a good response to colour ads, and a couple of new advertisers had come in without us doing much for the business. However, Kim echoed that we need an active person to help us promote the newsletter to local businesses. She also announced that the February issue will cover January, February and March. It doesn't mean there will be a three month gap, rather that we are shifting the release date so the issues comes out at the beginning of month, instead of half way through two months. This will be our 250th edition. Previously we've had a lot of commemorative articles for events like this, but Kim wishes to treat this one differently. She would, however, like to track down some of the people who've been part of the NLCA and have done a lot for us. Jackie Fuller, the former editor, was still in touch with some and street reps often remain in touch with others who have left the area. Kim mentioned that our street reps are a great network to tap into as they know when something is happening in their street, or news of a neighbour. So if you are a street rep and have some news for the Runner, please drop us a line and we'll follow it up.

11. Residents' concerns, comments, announcements

Nothing to report.

Our guest speaker was David Sewell from Pavilion Gardens Cafe. He talked about the origins of the café and the Pavilion Estate. His talk followed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 21:50