

## Columbia TRA

### CTRA General Meeting minutes - 13 January 2020

Present from the Committee

1. Kevin McKenna (Chair)
2. Penny Creed (Vice Chair)
3. Jonathan Moberly (Secretary)
4. John Cotter
5. Pam Haluwa
6. Dave Sinclair
7. Ed Furey (Treasurer)
8. Rupsha Begum-Smith
9. Jodie de Haarte

Residents:

Mary Dineen (Chambord), Kevin Moore (OMS), Sheila Jackson (Pelter St), Susan Clark (Pelter St), Jean White (Pelter St), Jean Locker (Boundary Estate), Sheila (JHH), Nazrul (DCA), Mokbul (Pelter St), N Islam (James Brine), A.Prokopp (GLH),

Council Officers:

John Fortune (LBTH, neighbourhood manager), Peter Allnutt (LBTH, cctv control room)

Friends of Joiners Arms:

Amy Roberts, Cathy Taylor

*Apologies*

Councillors Mukit and Pierce, Kobir (housing officer - on annual leave)

#### **Kobir feedback (correspondence)**

Re fire inspections - fire safety team work to an agreed protocol set up by the borough.

In relation to stay put - we were sent back an answer about whether or not residents need to stay put in blocks but lacking in detail, doesn't say which blocks. We need to ask for detail and for fire instructions to be put up in the blocks **[TODO - ask Kobir]**

Bins at cuff point - feedback is that bins have been put back

Gating off George Loveless House - due to financials not able to put the bins in the corrals until April 2020 (new financial year).

Gate between JHH GLH - expected completion by mid feb 2020 or april 2020 depending on finance meeting at the end of this month **[TODO - verify]**

Lighting poor on the estate - a works order is out to repair the lights. LED replacements take place during major works. **[TODO - verify]**

Pelter St overgrown trees - Kobir has sent a legal letter to tenant.

#### **Previous minutes - matters arising**

THH Kobir will sort out plastic pots swap for anyone that needs them.

JP to get commitment in writing regarding co-design of area in front of Birdcage pub. **[TODO - verify]**

Ravenscroft park renovation - improved play area, night time safety, ... two fronts, (1) push via John Pierce to get parks cabinet member to come and speak to us and (2) Dunmore point landscapers could do some design work. Design job on Ravenscroft estimate: £5K **[TODO - see how to raise these funds / involved John Pierce]**

#### *Other general questions*

- Cuff Point recycling bins are still being stored in the front of the block which is turning it into a fly tipping area. Kobir has replied that this has been noted and passed on to the caretakers. This is not a strong enough msg **[TODO - follow up with Kobir]**

- General issues about locations of bins and how they attract dumping if in the wrong place. Vaughn Estate - bins left outside. We've asked if they can completely redo the bin house.  
[TODO - bin walkabout with Kobir]
- Fourth bollard request on Pelter st as cars getting in via the pavement
- Estate parking - complaints about it being unenforceable. New estate parking rules being rolled out across the borough. 2 options (a) controlled parking per allocated area or (b) no controls. Wapping and Shadwell are consulting first.

### **THH community awards 2019**

WCAG was shortlisted for Community Safety Award and Jonathan won Community Champion Award.

### **Night time economy**

1 - we have notice shift in night time economy towards us. Less activity around Old St tube station and more on Shoreditch High St. Similarly Norton Folgate has been demolished so venues are shifting towards us, along Bethnal Green Road and Hackney Road.

2 - hotel developments. Shoreditch Triangle has seen a lot of new hotels. Plans on Bethnal Green Road for a trendy 400 bed hostel, 200 bed hotel where majestic wine bar etc.

3 - Pelter st development - has planning permission for a mixed use office site, joiners. The bank won't lend on the scheme because too many offices have been approved recently. So current plan is to turn the site into a 280 room hotel. This will drive the night economy. Planning has been submitted but not yet validated.

The fear is that when the hotel is in will attract a transient night time economy population and an economic effect on businesses around it. There will also be delivery bay issues around Diss St.

[TODO - alert residents to object to the planning permission]

### **Friends of Joiners Arms**

- Five years since it closed. FJA are passionate about fighting back about the closure of LGBTQ spaces. FJA are not the previous joiners management and not affiliated with them. Plan is for a community run not for profit bar late license bar. In 2015 FJA won a community value planning protection for A4 use and have reapplied (as it expires after 5 years).
- Joiners was more than just a drinking establishment but a community space. Planning approval depends on provision of an LGBTQ bar in the space for 25 years. Also won protection of late license. For the first 12 months the same operating hours as before will be available.
- The lease will go to tender and the community group will bid. Not tied to it legally.
- Concerns about bar next to hotel so friends will object.
- FJA plans a community-run space. Friends have community shares, so that shareholders get a vote. Community benefit society. Society elects a management committee of unpaid volunteers. Everyone who works in the bar would be paid but community would have a say.
- Desire to put together a community advisory board to keep local community involved.
- Keen to offer space for free for community use.
- Plans are only for ground floor but floor area will be greater. No idea about detail like food offer / kitchen.
- Community shares will be low priced to encourage as many people as possible to get involved

### **Gentrification**

General discussion on fears of gentrification from Hackney Road down to Whitechapel, catalysed by the new town hall development.

### **Car bars and the NTE**

- Loud violent language fights dangerous driving. Traumatizing families.
- John Fortune is keen to know what impact the new parking controls are having.
- Driven by kids not having homes to go to
- John Fortune - Clubs in other parts of London closing down, and the scene shifted towards us. Hackney NTE is about growth and making money for the borough, it generates revenue. We see the fallout from that in Tower Hamlets. JF is working with senior partners in Hackney and the police to manage the problem. Looking at car bars - and connection with drug dealing and NOX dealing. The police force is now the same in both boroughs - they recognise that there is a problem. The police will deal with the biggest risk element, which is the violence in and outside the bars.

- There are licensing saturation policies. But Hackney and Tower Hamlets have contrasting priorities. Hackney is making money out of it but not dealing with the problems on our side.
- Boundary passage urinal: the sports bar development has been there for over six years, but the council are calling it a temporary structure. Residents have to take big diversions to avoid it. [JF - will talk to hackney enforcement.]
- JF - Hackney does not consult properly with Tower Hamlets on licensing issues and the NTE.
- PA - there is a council plan for the borough.
- London Plan, Hackney plan and Tower Hamlets local plan are all available online to look at.
- Penny - number of applications we need to respond to is overwhelming
- Night time improvement district to bring in additional resources to the wards in both boroughs around Hackney Road and Shoreditch High St

### **Bishopsgate Goodsyrd**

- The big planning application for the land spanning the railway between Shoreditch High St to Brick Lane. Developers have just submitted a revision to a 2014 application.
- We are campaigning for a new scheme to acknowledge that this is public land and needs to be used for public good.
- We are being asked by a community to comment so are encouraging people to object. Plan to put it to the mayoral candidates.
- <http://www.goodsyard.org>, twitter @OurGoodsyard