



THE KNIGHTSBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2016

Dear Member

My first task upon taking up interim chairmanship of the Association is to thank Yoshi, our retiring chairman, for his exemplary stewardship of the KA over the past four years. He has encouraged people to step forward and assume responsibility for key briefs while taking initial steps to develop our website and IT platform. These essential resources and tools will serve us well in helping to protect the Association's interests in the increasingly challenging environment of Knightsbridge.

I would also like to welcome Paul Meitner who agreed to take over the Licensing brief from me earlier in the year. Paul is a Chartered Accountant with PwC who has lived in the area for thirty years. He is no stranger to the Association having provided advice and guidance on the preparation of the KA's annual accounts.

In the short time elapsed since publication of our summer Newsletter in May, it is hard to

believe the political landscape could change so radically to reveal a nation almost equally divided over its relationship with Europe. It was thus reassuring that on the very same day the Referendum result became known (24 June), Liverymen of the City of London exercised their time honoured right to elect the City's Sheriffs for 2016-17 - and did so by unanimous vote!

The Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Forum is a recent arrival in our galaxy. The Forum provides KA with the opportunity to participate in the longer term shaping the neighbourhood alongside commercial and institutional interests. In coming months once the Forum has 'written the rules' and its activity reduces, the KA will need to do its best to enforce them. Further detail on the Forum and its rapid progress to date is set out in Simon Birkett's report on the Forum, overleaf.

KA remains very active setting up meetings between RBKC and WCC to deal with cross border matters.

Vice-President: The Lady Grade

Interim Chairman: Melville Haggard

Vice-Chairmen: Edward Davies-Gilbert, Carol Seymour-Newton

Treasurer: Olivia J Cox

www.knightsbridgeassociation.com

Never before has cross-border collaboration between RBKC and WCC on governance of the public realm along Brompton Road been so urgently needed. Meanwhile, KA's committees responsible for Planning, Police and Law & Order, Licensing, Transport & Environment have been very active throughout the summer tackling tirelessly the many day-to-day issues affecting life in Knightsbridge, as covered in the committee reports that follow.

Now is the moment to set our compass for the remainder of the year. With all the uncertainties surrounding Brexit it may be helpful to remind ourselves of one constant that remains unaltered: **our mission to preserve and enhance the special character of Knightsbridge.**

FILTHY BROMPTON ROAD – WHAT ARE THE COUNCILS DOING?

Has Brompton Road deteriorated beyond rescue?

The state of pavements in and around Brompton Road is an utter disgrace to both Councils and the supermarkets / cafes. The afflicted areas run from Knightsbridge Green to Montpelier Street (WCC territory); from Montpelier Street to Brompton Square; and on the South side from Hans Road to Egerton Terrace (RBKC territory).

The massive staining is caused by restaurants and cafes dragging leaking bags of rubbish across pavements to collection points; spilled coffees and other liquids spread over the surface and on top of this litter, chewing gum and other rubbish strewn around giving the impression of a Third World country.

WCC is apparently launching a “hot spot drive, supported by a specialised deep cleansing unit, to raise awareness and demonstrate to businesses their waste producing obligations”. Well, they need to target their share of Brompton Road. And, RBKC needs to follow suit!

“Initiatives” are all very well. The KA has been saying for years that businesses, shops and restaurants should be required **by law** to keep the pavements - not only their forecourts - fronting their properties clean and clear of litter as most of the problem is caused by them and their customers.

Why cannot Councils put in place measures that engage the community to support its own self-interest? Pushing everything back onto Councils is not the way forward either.

On top of this, a person with a microphone and heavy pulsating loudspeaker appears regularly in Hans Crescent complete with begging

bowl. There are pop-up stands of tricksters and cardsharppers; canine sand sculptures; and crowds so dense that they impede access to Knightsbridge Tube. A trestle table appears intermittently by the post box on the corner of Montpelier Street whose literature invites interest in Islam while the table skirting proclaims the name of Jesus Christ.

What a contrast with the pursuit of excellence nurtured so painstakingly by GB's Olympic team in Rio!

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION REPORT

*Edward Davies-Gilbert and
Carol Seymour-Newton*

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

We were delighted when RBKC's planning committee gave the Museum's exciting Major Grounds Project the go ahead in June. Plans include the redesign of the grounds all around the Museum to reflect the purpose of the Museum with geology and planting reflecting the progress on earth's development from earliest times. A new entrance will be created from the Museum Tunnel to alleviate the long queues and an attractive new building will be provided below a retained East lawn. The Museum is now preparing an application for funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

As mentioned in the Annual Report, the entrance hall is being refurbished

with a £5m donation from the Hintze Charitable Foundation. Dippy the dinosaur is going on a tour, his place being taken by a blue whale. When the development of the East Lawn is complete, Dippy will take pride of place in the prehistoric section of the garden.

V&A MUSEUM

Exhibition Road Courtyard

Construction of the Exhibition Road Courtyard building continues apace. The project has shifted from over 2 years of intensive groundwork with the structure of the new exhibition gallery, sub-basement object handling areas, entrance lobby and other project spaces completed. The site team is now principally focused on finishing the complex gallery ceiling construction; when this is complete, scaffolding can be removed and the gallery space will be revealed and ready for flooring and final decorations. New scaffolding has appeared along the Exhibition Road frontage that will support the return and re-installation of the historic Aston Webb Screen, which will be rebuilt to form the new public entrance to the courtyard and V&A spaces beyond. The Courtyard is due to open in 2017.

The Arup Bridge

In the Summer Newsletter we indicated that having been refused permission twice by RBKC, a third, revised application had been submitted. Officers recommended approval, but the planning

committee, encouraged and supported by all the local associations, again refused permission, stating that because of *"the scale, design and location, the bridge structure would harm the significance of the principle entrance to the Grade I listed building by interfering with its monumental architecture"* We also feared that substantial structures in front of the Museum would become an annual feature incorporating unsightly hoardings for advertisers.

SOUTH KENSINGTON STATION

A public consultation, presenting some of the proposals for the station, was held in mid July at South Kensington Station. Discussions with RBKC officers about a canopy to cover the proposed reopened north platform continue. The new canopy must not hide the listed brick revetments but should tie in with the original station features. Although nothing has been finalized the result is an evolution from the modern to a more balanced look in line with the Edwardian platform heritage. Consultations about the developments around the station are continuing with various schemes for Pelham Street. A mix of ground floor retail and residential above look most likely. TfL are hoping to submit a planning application shortly.

SOUTH KENSINGTON ESTATE

In June the South Kensington Estate held a public consultation for their proposed plans for 1-5 Cromwell

Place. They want to turn this terrace of white stucco buildings into a series of art galleries that can be rented on a temporary basis. The plans include storage facilities and office space. This imaginative scheme has been well received but there are still issues to be resolved concerning the depth of the basement at the rear.

THE KNIGHTSBRIDGE ESTATE

The redevelopment proposal for K1, the section between Sloane St and Hoopers Court, has been granted planning permission from RBKC. As is standard practice, it was referred back to the Mayor (GLA), who has now approved the scheme. The S106 Agreement has yet to be finalised and when this is signed the planning permission will be valid. In terms of construction activity, some early enabling works to the highways on Brompton Road starting in September/October, subject to various approvals. Vacant possession of the entire site will be secured by late October and then the soft strip out of the buildings will commence. The main demolition works will not start until early next year. There is a chance that 33-35 Brompton Road, the post war modern building, will be demolished prior to the end of the year, as this creates access into the site for construction - subject to approval with the Council.

55-91 KNIGHTSBRIDGE AND 1-3 WILLIAM STREET

The scaffolding has been erected to the façade of the building allowing

the windows to be removed and the masonry cleaning to begin. The chimneystacks are being removed and the soft strip demolition material is being cleared away through the William Street site entrance. Pile probing is to start within the building shortly and remedial works to the rear of 4 William Street have begun. Meanwhile, the restriction of traffic in Knightsbridge to one lane going west will continue to cause congestion and delay for some time to come.

TYROS, 2 MONTPELIER STREET

This premises are licensed as A1, preventing the occupants from cooking and they can only sell food that has been prepared off site. However, the new occupants have started cooking foods such as beef burgers and fish & chips. The smell is causing a nuisance to neighbours and WCC is taking enforcement action.

LAW AND ORDER REPORT

Maddie Elsdon

At the time of writing the tourist season rolls on. Ramadan was quite early this year and the season for Middle Eastern visitors coming to London for their holidays now extends over three months, which, although a longer period, means that our infrastructure is actually less stressed. The RBKC Public Space Protection Order (introduced only to control supercar drivers behaviour) has been fairly successful but as it was only introduced this year may have to be modified in future to make

it more effective. Flimsy plastic signs were attached to lampposts and a sign outside Harvey Nichols read, "This is a PSPO Zone - No anti-social driving." More substantial signs are planned but do the supercar drivers read them and do they even care?

In Westminster, it is hoped to extend the Community Protection Order to Knightsbridge and Belgravia. An authorised person may issue a community protection notice to an individual aged 16 or over, or a body, if satisfied on reasonable grounds that (i) the conduct of the individual or body is having a detrimental effect, of a persistent or continuing nature, on the quality of life of those in the locality; and (ii) the conduct is unreasonable. A community protection notice imposes any of the following requirements on the individual or body issued with it: **a)** A requirement to stop doing specified things **b)** A requirement to do specified things **c)** A requirement to take reasonable steps to achieve specified results.

The CPO can only be issued if the offender has been given a written warning that the notice will be issued if their conduct doesn't change and that they have been given enough time to have reasonably made those changes, and yet have chosen not to do so. A person issued with a community protection notice who fails to comply with it commits an offence. This notice could be used against someone who regularly

allows their dog to foul inappropriately, a noisy group who regularly wake their neighbours late at night and other anti-social behaviours such as begging and nuisance pedicabs. Hopefully it will push forward a positive change in their conduct and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

Motor vehicle crime continues to dominate the statistics. Both police teams have spent a huge amount of time, especially in our garden squares, trying to deter criminals from breaking into cars and builders' vans, using surveillance and leafleting. In spite of their efforts people still continue to leave valuables on show or in the boot. If you see anyone acting suspiciously near a motor vehicle please do not hesitate to call 101 and report them as a squad car could be there within minutes.

Up to 4,000 people gathered at Hyde Park on 19th July for a water fight but as dusk fell it exploded into violence. It was necessary to draft in hundreds of police to deal with a running battle. Victims suffered stab wounds and a 'dangerous' teenage knife man who was recognized by a gang specialist has been warned that he is facing a very significant term of detention

In the early hours of 12th August a man was found badly beaten near Speakers Corner. He subsequently died and police are investigating if homophobia could have been a

motive for the killing. The rise of public violence was again evident at this year's Notting Hill Carnival. A thousand police officers were deployed at the Notting Hill Carnival this year. There were 156 arrests on Sunday 28th August and 298 arrests on Monday 29th August. In total 454 arrests. There were incidents where people were stabbed and many police officers were injured. A million people attended the event that annually causes major disruption to the area and its residents. It has been suggested that the Carnival be held in a park in future. Members can be assured that the Association will strongly object to any attempts to relocate this event to Hyde Park.

A formal Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association is in the process of being formed. Sgt Tom Clements (david.clements@met.police.uk) (020 7321 6714) is asking our members to become part of this process and we have already found an excellent representative for the Montpeliers. The benefits are: greater representation at local, regional and national level; greater influence over ward panels; the Westminster Safer Neighbourhood Board police priorities; Westminster City Council and MOPAC; and increased access to funds for crime reduction initiatives. If you feel you could play a part by representing your street, block of flats or even your house then join the borough wide Association. The Law and Order Committee would also like to invite

members to participate and come along to our meetings. Please contact the Association for details.

LICENSING

Paul Meitner

This summer has seen an increase in the number of applications made to the licensing teams at City of Westminster and RBKC, with potentially significant impact on the quality of life of residents. Many of these applications appear at first sight to be insignificant, involving small extensions to licensing hours, the serving of alcohol from existing retail premises and small increments to permissions to place tables and chairs on pavements.

However, taken as a whole they represent a significant extension of the "cafe monoculture" increasingly evident in Knightsbridge that is a cause of concern to many. We have reviewed these applications carefully and where necessary made representations to the licensing teams. In one case, Cheval Residences, we were successful in persuading RBKC that a number of conditions should be applied to the licence before it was granted, in particular limiting the hours during which alcohol deliveries can be made and a rigorous application of the 'Challenge 25' principle (to ensure that alcohol is not sold to minors). Often meeting the applicant in person to discuss the details of the application, before the licensing

application is heard, is a more effective way of modifying it than outright opposition at the hearing itself.

TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The streets of Knightsbridge -- Safety, Cleanliness, Traffic

Marc Winer

In the coming months we will be focusing on the following issues:-

Pedestrian Safety: unstable or slippery paving stones, street lights that do not work at night, areas where lighting may not be adequate.

Auto safety: potholes and other damage to road surfaces.

Each Knightsbridge resident can easily make a contribution to the quality of life here by reporting problems as soon as they are noticed. For those who do not use email, please note the following phone numbers of the Problem Lines of our two Councils:-

Westminster	020 7641 3000
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	020 7361 3002

If you use internet, the two Councils have made it easy to report problems on their websites:-

Go to www.westminster.gov.uk
then click on "REPORT IT"

Go to www.rbkc.gov.uk then click on
"REPORT A PROBLEM"

We will also be keeping an eye on potential nuisance issues such as:-

1. The two major residential redevelopment projects approved for Lancelot Place. We are working with the council and with Transport for London to minimize problems of dirt, noise, traffic congestion and other forms of disturbance to our residents. To date, no formal approval has been granted for the Construction Management Plan for either of these two projects.

2. Problems relating to the Cycle Super-Highway, including problems for pedestrians or vehicles caused by incorrect positioning of cycle ways, dangerous situations caused by bicyclists' failure to use lights and reflective materials at night and audible warning signals at all times.

3. The on-going and increasingly serious issue of the cleanliness of the 10km of roadways and roughly 15km of pavement in Knightsbridge. Cleanliness in the streets throughout the neighbourhood: Please keep on your Council's back on this matter and feel free to use the email address below to enlist our help.

Cleanliness on Brompton Road:

This issue is deeply tied to modern realities, as referred to in the Introduction above. The increase in rental fees for ground-floor retail space on Brompton Road, means that many small businesses have left and been replaced by retail food

operations serving primarily tourists. Unfortunately, the licensing agreements that allow these food businesses to ply their trade do not include the obligation to clean, regularly and thoroughly, the pavement in front of their establishment.

Any resident not receiving satisfactory action from the councils on any matter of safety (including distressed pavements, distressed roadways, and non-functioning street lights), traffic problems, or cleanliness, should email streets@knightsbridgeassociation.com

NIGHT TUBE

London Underground's long-awaited new Night Tube was launched on 19 August - almost a year later than planned - with 24-hour trains on the Central and Victoria lines. Night services on the Jubilee, Northern and Piccadilly lines will follow in two separate phases later in the autumn, as new Tube drivers complete their training. However, the RMT Union have made it clear that they are not entirely happy with the revised arrangements and suggested that further industrial action remains a possibility.

GOVERNMENT

THE REFERENDUM

As mentioned above, the Referendum duly took place in June, and to the universal amazement of both the Remain and Leave voters - and

probably the Don't Knows - resulted in Brexit, followed swiftly by the resignation of David Cameron and Theresa May becoming the UK's second female Prime Minister.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WCC CITY PLAN

Westminster's City Plan is the key policy document for determining planning applications in Westminster. The Council formally adopted the latest version of the Plan (July 2016) that includes the Basements Revision and the Mixed Use Revision on 13 July. Following the independent examination, the Inspector's Report was published in June 2016 and the recommended main modifications have been incorporated.

Peerage for WCC Leader

Congratulations to our ward councillor and Leader of the Council. Phillippa Roe, who received a peerage in David Cameron's resignation honours list for services to Local Government.

RBKC

Local Plan - Partial Review The Council is in the process of updating the areas within the Local Plan that were not revised in the last round in July 2015. The draft policies consultation will be issued in October and the consultation will last for 6 weeks. The KA, together with other amenity associations, will be participating.

Sloane Street improvements

RBKC and the Cadogan Estate are keen to upgrade Sloane Street and have produced outline plans that were publicly consulted on in July.

Whilst we are all in favour of general improvements to the 'public realm', we have written objecting to the most controversial element, which is the proposal to widen the pavements by narrowing the highway from four lanes to two. This we feel would intensify the congestion that builds up, particularly at the north end. We can foresee that should the lanes be reduced, cars dropping people off and commercial vehicles making deliveries would make matters worse. A perfect example is Hans Road, which is regularly blocked by double parked cars, mostly taxis waiting for fares, so traffic is unable to move for some considerable time.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Simon Birkett

Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Forum (Forum) held its second consultation event and Annual General Meeting at the wonderful Goethe Institut in Exhibition Road on 6 July. We also used an online 'Survey Monkey' to collect feedback on the detailed priorities for our neighbourhood plan.

Over 90 people participated in one way or another. Feedback was

overwhelmingly supportive with all our proposals receiving over 85% support and most receiving over 90%. You can see the consultation draft of our proposals here

http://www.knightsbridgeforum.org/media/documents/knf_second_consultation_060716_final.pdf.

The detailed plan is likely to include our Vision and Values and 10 Objectives under five themes: Character; Community; Cultural and Education; Public spaces and Utilities; and the Environment. Further sections will cover Neighbourhood Management, which are important priorities that cannot be classified as planning policies; and priorities and projects for spending Community Infrastructure Levy funds. We expect the Plan to total well over 100 pages with pictures, tables and maps.

The Forum hopes to launch its first six-week public consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan in October or November so that it can close before Christmas or very shortly afterwards. Please look out for it. Once the six-week consultation has closed and we have considered the responses and refined the draft plan, we will submit it to WCC. Legislation requires them then to hold another six-week consultation! After that, a planning examiner must consider whether the draft Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the City Plan for the area.

The final step is a referendum of local residents on the electoral roll, which might be held by the third quarter of 2017. We'll try to get a good turn out and strong demonstration of support for the plan. Your help will be needed to ensure that happens! If the referendum gets over 50% support, the Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Plan will then enter into force. And, with the Forum having 'written the rules', it will then be up to the Knightsbridge Association and others to 'enforce them'.

Last but not least, please take a look at our website knightsbridgeforum.org and consider becoming a member of the Forum if you live, work or study in our area. Applications can be submitted online and membership is free.

THE 56th AGM – Wednesday 11 January 2017

We are extremely grateful to the Bulgari Hotel and Residences who will be hosting our Annual General Meeting and reception in their magnificent Ballroom. Our gratitude is extended to Sylvain Ercoli, General Manager for his generosity in making this beautiful setting available to members. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the AGM is transferring from December to January as December dates have become increasingly difficult to find.

EVENTS – Forthcoming

HYDE PARK EVENTS:

Saturday 20 August /

Sunday 11 September:

BBC Proms and Radio 2 Live

Saturday 24 / Sunday 25 September:

Swim Serpentine

Sunday 9 October:

Royal Parks Half Marathon

Any feedback, comments or complaints should be addressed at the time to:

eventfeedback@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk

or tel: 0300 061 2222

EATON SQUARE CONCERTS

The Autumn season of Thursday evening concerts at St Peter's Eaton Square begins on 13 October and concludes on 10 November
www.eatonsquareconcerts.org.uk

EVENTS – Past

BRITISH SUMMERTIME CONCERTS

Friday 1 to Sunday 10 July

Running for 10 days with six evening concerts at the weekends and featuring a variety of other entertainments during the week, they again proved enormously popular with the public.

PRUDENTIAL RIDE LONDON – SURREY: Sunday 31 July

This annual event entails closure of Brompton Road / Cromwell Road on the outward bound journey from 5am to 3pm as thousands of cyclists, some

professional, many amateur stream westwards at the start of their 100mile journey.

OPEN GARDEN SQUARE WEEKEND

Saturday 18 / Sunday 19 June

Blessed with perfect weather over 200 London gardens welcomed some 20,000 visitors from all over the world. Dates for your diary in 2017 – Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 June.

Finally...

We would like to extend a note of thanks to Ian Davidson for typesetting and printing yet another edition of the KA Newsletter.

I hope you have enjoyed a restful summer break and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Annual General Meeting at the Bulgari Hotel on **Wednesday 11 January 2017**



Melville Haggard
Interim Chairman

The Knightsbridge Association
Chairman@knightsbridgeassociation.com

**The Knightsbridge Association
Autumn Newsletter 2016**