

# **Lenton Drives & Neighbours Residents' Association**

## **Annual General Meeting**

### **28th February 2019**

#### **Attending:**

Kate Lowenthal (Chair of Association) **[KL]**

Sarah Piper (Treasurer of Association) **[SP]**

Virginia Rochester (Secretary) **[VR]**

Members of the Association

#### **Apologies:**

Melany Pemberton, LDNRA Committee

Alan Lemon, nominated for the LDNRA Committee

Several members of the Association

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#### **Item 1: Welcome**

KL welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming particularly in view of the bad weather that evening, and reminded everyone to sign in.

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#### **Item 2: Chair's Report**

Hello all, and thank you for being here tonight – despite the weather.

Well I know things are far from perfect and we still have many issues to work on – we'll be looking at how at a later part of the meeting. For now however, I would like to celebrate the positives – all that we have achieved since our last AGM.

At the first meeting with the new Vice Chancellor, Shearer West, we pushed for a commitment to fund the extra CPO patrols that had been initiated in September 2017. This was finally agreed last May and they committed 30 thousand pounds a year for this academic year and the next 2 years. UoN are now working together with Trent University far more, looking to tackle issues with a consistent approach and Trent have always been the runners in funding CPO. The impression given, was that this was a trial period, towards the end of which it would be assessed how successful the Operation Corridor was, and either scrap, continue or increase the funding of patrols. Hopefully, now

working closer with Trent, the scheme will continue and expand with the hope of eventually having a dedicated 'student issues team'.

CPOs have worked really hard over the last couple of years, since Operation Corridor was introduced. (For those of you who are relatively new to the group, Op Corridor was introduced after our very first residents meeting with the CPOs back in Byron House). It has been particularly difficult for them as they can only man the additional hours by officers doing overtime. This has meant on some nights, the officers covering till 3am have then had to be on their day shift at 2pm the next day. However, Tom Lynk informed me recently that they now have a full quota of CPOs for the area, so there should be more available to volunteer for the late shifts.

Whilst on the subject of CPO's, I know it has been mentioned that they need to be on all night and it is a waste of time them being on earlier. Well, for those of you who remember parties like this at 5 am and street noise like this most nights of the week, I'm sure you will agree things have changed drastically. That is largely due to the early engagement carried out by the CPOs issuing warnings to properties where they come across Pre's taking place and speaking to students they encounter on the streets, confiscating alcohol etc.

**For the academic year 2017-2018 the total number of**

CPNWS – 605

CPNs – 64

FPNs -8

Alcohol Confiscations – 710 (recorded)

Section 46s 910

**For the academic year 2018-2019 so far, the totals are**

CPNWs- 701

CPNs – 88

FPNs – 33

Alcohol confiscations – 399 (recorded)

Section 46s for bins – 992 – legal notice issued to give the resident a set time period in which to remove their bin from the street.

**The breakdown for these figures are:**

Noise :                      -CPNWs – 553

                                    -CPNs – 26

                                    -FPNs – 7

Bins on Street:        -CPNWs – 148  
                                 -CPNs – 62  
                                 -FPNs – 26

These figures show that much has been done by the CPO's but the message still doesn't seem to be getting through to the students in the way of prevention rather than cure.

As I mentioned UoN and Trent are now working more closely. I am hoping, and we will definitely be pushing UoN to follow Trent's lead on approach to CPNWs – i.e. bringing students in for a verbal discipline meeting on the first warning. Furthermore, a new scheme is being trialled whereby both universities have been working with Victim Support on an approach to tackling ASB. When issued with a CPNW, students will be asked to attend a victim awareness course run by Victim Support. This will be quite intense and in the next couple of weeks, we will be asked to provide some willing volunteers to be videoed explaining the impact the issues have on them and their family.

Furthermore, the new police inspector who attended our last meeting spoke about a new approach in the area, replacing Operation Twilight, that just targeted burglary. The new Operation Universal will have a three-prong approach, tackling ASB, Drugs and Burglary. There will be uniformed officers, plain clothed police officers, sniffer dogs and others working together. The first trial will be in March, when they intend to have one night of very large presence. This will only be till 1am, but future nights will continue to 5am. They will not be every Friday or Saturday, but random times, so that there is no pattern for the students or criminals to get wise to. Inspector Khan confirmed that he is more than willing to advise officers to make arrests for drunk and disorderly behaviour and make these well known about via social media so as to spread the word so to speak. He reiterated that the more calls to 101, the more chance he would have of persuading his bosses that more all-nighters are needed. He did however acknowledge the difficulty with low numbers of residents in comparison to other areas and has put that information across. So, this will be an interesting new approach to keep an eye on, and reason more than ever, to keep reporting.

Myself and another committee member went out with CPOs and Melanie Futer (UoN) and observed them on a night out and about. It was really interesting to see how they worked. There were a few issues that arose, such as them not having immediate access to the list of properties with CPNWs and CPNs so unable to issue on the night (file too big now for Blackberries) but they are working on it. There will be more patrols that we will be accompanying at different times, so we will keep you posted!

We have continued to object to any conversions to C4 and any extensions of HMOs outside Permitted Development. The planning department have turned down all of the applications in our favour and continue to turn down what they can in extensions. Unfortunately, if it goes to appeal, it is out of the hands of the planners. I have thought

of writing to the HMI of Planning explaining our plight in this area, imploring them to take into account not just the individual property but the impact on the neighbourhood as a whole. One of our members has been working really hard compiling a map of the area showing HMOs C3s. It is really useful for the planning HMO side of what we do. It is however, very labour intensive and time consuming and any offers of help would be really welcome.

This brings me on to our discussion about where we go from here. We are of course really keen to hear everyone's suggestions, but myself and Vidge are extremely busy with work and family commitments and already spend a good 5 to 10 hours each a week on Residents Association work. A couple of residents have offered to help at various events and with distribution of leaflets etc. Any suggestions that you suggest going forward that will need much manpower/manhours put in, I ask that people please consider volunteering to help

One such idea has come from Carl who cannot be here today, and this is one that everyone can help with if they walk up and down the road, or live nearby;

I would like us to home in on a specific street, e.g. Balfour, and get everyone to claim right down on it with zero tolerance, including rubbish, left out bins, party glasses, theft, unauthorised building, unauthorised HMO etc. I have a letter about this in my head that I've not managed to write yet. But I am fed up with the inaction and impact it is having on residents. And I think if we focus on one street to start with then the message will get out. After all the council's policy and CPOs view is if you have zero tolerance on rubbish and have a nice environment then folk will naturally behave more respectfully

We will take a short break and put out some drinks and nibbles, then come back together to think about where we want to be heading in the year ahead. We would like by the end of the evening to have a maximum of 5 main targets.

Thank you.

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### **Item 3: Treasurer's Report**

A bank account has been opened with 3 signatories from the committee. The next step is to cost what we want to do and submit costings to apply for grants from local area councillors and other funding bodies. Question to treasurer: how difficult is it to access funding? Answer: As long as there are reasonable costings (as in what we would want to spend the money on and sensible amounts for those things), it should be approved. KL thanked SP for her time as treasurer, as she was standing down.

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### **Item 4: Appointing the committee**

The following were standing for election:-

- Kate Lowenthal standing for Chair of the Association - as there were no other nominations this was duly confirmed
- Melany Pemberton standing for Chair of Meetings - as there were no other nominations this was duly confirmed
- Alan Lemon for Treasurer - as there were no other nominations this was duly confirmed
- Virginia Rochester for Secretary - as there were no other nominations this was duly confirmed
- There were no nominations for Committee Member for Planning and HMO matters, however Chris Finnis stepped forward in the meeting. As there were no other nominations this was duly confirmed
- Nichola Betteridge for Committee Member for Social Media - as there were no other nominations this was duly confirmed

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### **Item 5: Brainstorm of plans and aspirations for the coming year.**

- Have 'Watching You' notices (similar to those around Nottingham warning against dog fouling) on lampposts to show the idea that students and drug dealers are being watched and number plates being recorded.
- Have some CCTV on hotspots - e.g. on the gate from Pelham Crescent to Harlaxton Drive which has been vandalised.
- Residents using their smart phone to gather evidence - e.g. photos, videos, (discussion around doing this safely, without being a situation of confrontation).
- Leafleting to all the houses in the area on how to report noise and ASB. KL said that a leaflet was being produced, but waiting to go to print. Need distributors. Kate was going to email a copy around. The leaflet would have a dual purpose: to get residents to know the group exists and also for students to know how to report noise and ASB.
- Universities should be stopping things before they happen: we need to feedback to the university contacts what the issues are for their communications. Make sure communication with universities is regular and addresses current issues. Instead of residents having to nag students creating the noise / ASB, the university nags their students instead. E.g. being quiet whilst waiting on the streets late at night for taxis, or in their garden for fag, street noise, drugs smoking in garden, windows open when playing loud music, noisy pre-drinks being a problem.
- The universities are proposing showing a victim support video to show to students when they are enforcing discipline - however this would be a lot more useful to show them before they are noisy.
- Can we apply to universities for funding for the residents' association?

- Can we ask the CP team at beginning to next academic year to start on bins on streets, rather than them leaving it until after Christmas?
- We should increase membership of group, e.g. through a leaflet drop, through the Lenton Centre, can 101 callers direct people to us? Through an Evening Post article? Involve someone like Age Concern to get them to help our communication to local older people especially?
- We should write a letter to local taxi companies explaining the impact on the community of huge groups of people waiting for taxis in the road, music blasting out of taxis, and slamming doors.
- Website: there should be more blogging to drive traffic to site (volunteers to do blogging requested). There should be a section of the website where we can drop photos and videos of evidence.
- We should aim at bringing community minded students into the group, perhaps having a student community award or a student window box competition. KL has a contact to do this.
- Make people more aware of the website. Chicken and egg situation - more people need to look to justify changing content. More information going on there and there is information on planning applications, what to do about issues etc. Also incident reporting. An idea could be local recommendations for trades people etc. which would add value to the information. Jonathan Wickens is looking for people to have time to update website.
- Some kind of census of the houses in the area of which houses are HMOs, which are permanent but not involved in group.

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## **Item 6: AOB**

It was mentioned that the page on the group website to report an incident is difficult to find. A suggestion was made to place links on the closed FB group to incident report form and the page that says who to call / report incidents to.

KL advised that the incident report form was accessed through the tab on the website titled 'Report an Incident' and that there was already a link to it on the FB page along with information on who to call and how to report things in the Announcement section, with links, names and email addresses where appropriate.

## **Acronyms and Phrases:**

ASB - Anti-social behaviour

C3/C4 - denotes the type of use a property has planning permission for. C3 refers to 'family housing'; C4 is HMOs.

CP - Community Protection

CPNW - Community Protection Notice Warning

CPN - Community Protection Notice

CPO - Community Protection Officer

FPN - Fixed Penalty Notice

HMO - House of Multiple Occupation

NCC - Nottingham City Council

NTU - Nottingham Trent University

PCSO - Police Community Support Officer

'Pre's - pre-drinks: having drinks at home before going out to a club or party

PSPO - Public Space Protection Order

SU - Students' Union

UoN - University of Nottingham