

Belsize Residents Association

Report on Annual General Meeting 2018

The AGM took place on Sunday 4 March at Belsize Square Synagogue with over 70 members attending. The meeting covered the minutes of the 2017 meeting, the Chair's report, the plans to change the status of the BRA to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), the Association's accounts and the election of the 2018-19 Committee.

Proceedings began with members indicating their concerns over the Sir Richard Steele pub development, which had been a topic discussed at the 2017 meeting. It was also noted that following last year's discussion, Tradesman You Can Trust would include a statement clarifying how any conflicts of interest on referrals should be avoided.

The Chair then updated the meeting about the last year, including BRA's contributions to the consultations on 100 Avenue Road, CS11 and the removal of the Swiss Cottage gyratory. His report also covered the events and publications of the Association, and the Committee's commenting on tree and planning applications. BRA successfully applied for funding for the cost of refurbishing the noticeboard from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Following the report, questions included whether the BRA could liaise with the police and the Council over the level of crime in the area, especially moped crime. An issue also noted was the level of disruption caused by major developments, such as re-routing of buses.

Much of the meeting covered plans to change the status of the BRA to a CIO. Michael Jampel indicated that the CIO application would soon be considered by the Charity Commission. He then discussed the main steps to transfer the Association's work, assets and membership into the CIO. One step was naming it: the Committee suggested the Belsize Society (BelSoc). Anne Stevens described the new organisation's constitution, which was based on a template from the Commission. This was being adapted with minimal changes as it would allow the range of activities undertaken currently by BRA, while meeting CIO requirements. The decision to change status will be taken at a future meeting of the Association.

The Treasurer reported on the accounts, which were adopted. He asked members for ideas on which charities the Association might support in 2018 and members suggested that we support organisations working with the homeless.

The new Committee was then elected and the meeting concluded and members then enjoyed tea and the usual delicious cakes.