

THE BELSIZE SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 19.30 pm on Tuesday 11th October 2022
at 79 Lawn Road, NW3 2XB

Present: PV (Chair), BA, SP, AS, TS, DT

Apologies for Absence: AC, NH, SC

Minutes of last Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 September were approved.

Belsoc Business.

1. Camden consultation on draft policy on a public space protection irresponsible dog owners.

It was not clear that any response was required to what seemed a sensible proposal for a public space protection order that would cover most of the borough and allow for on-the-spot fines.

2. Camden Clean Air Action Plan

BA, and other committee members were impressed with this plan and BA has answered the consultation survey. PV will contact the LBC clean air team with a view to a possible invitation to address the next AGM.

3. Neighbourhood Forum and Plan.

- a. Streatery: RP of the Streatery had not received any response from LBC to his proposal that Belsoc act as the consultative body for the Steatery. PV will follow up on this.
- b. DT's attempts to meet with small businesses had not evinced any enthusiasm from them for the construction of a neighbourhood plan.

The committee are not aware of major concerns in Belsize to which a neighbourhood plan might offer a response. The concern over the Haverstock Hill bicycle Lanes appeared to be abating. DT and PV will attempt to progress meetings with other possible participants (schools, estate agents etc).

The Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan is in need of updating, and SP is going to talk to the leading members of the Neighbourhood Forum. She is concerned to ensure that policy facilitates the installation of heat pumps and similar energy -saving measures in the conservation areas. In this context it was noted that the Primrose Hill CAAC was holding a seminar on energy saving measures on 5 November. DT will attend and report back. The committee will then consider whether Belsoc might wish to organize a similar event.

4. Belsize Community Library.

AI is expecting to organize a meeting with PV and SC to discuss issues. They will report back

5. Possibility of inviting Councillors to committee meeting

The committee will continue to keep in good contact with local councillors and arrange at least annual meetings, but will not invite them to committee meetings.

6. Committee Chair.

PV will have soon chaired the Committee for some 8 years, and wished to step back from the chair in 2023. Committee members were invited to talk to him about the possibility of replacing him. AS noted that she had been membership secretary for much the same length of time and would also be pleased to hand the role on.

7. University of the Third Age

NH will go to the U3A open day and report back. PV will email RS and let her know.

Finance

The accounts for September were approved.

Membership

One new member shad joined since the September meeting.

Events

1. Historic Walk.

The Committee recorded its thanks to AN for two very successful walks, and to DB for an excellent tea. AN's notes from the walk should be online within the next few days.

2. Councillor's meeting.

PV will have another attempt at organizing this. Note: the only Sunday in November on which AS could host is Sunday 20 November.

3. Screening of The Belsize Story at the Everyman.

There had been no response on this. AS will follow up.

Publications

1. Newsletter: New distributors have taken over from AM. AS will contact them about the details.

2. Website: there had been no forward progress because of resource difficulties for our website developer which should soon resolve.

Planning

1. TS had looked at six applications, had no objections to 4 and had objected to one (building of a new house between Primrose Gardens and Belsize Park Gardens).

2. On one major application (a renewed application for an extra storey on Howitt Close) a great deal of work was being done to co-ordinate objections, including ensuring that they incorporated full details of the historical context, and that bodies such as the Twentieth Century Society, which objected before, would do so again. TS noted that some appeal recent rulings by Planning Inspectors provided helpful precedents.

3. The Belsoc does not normally comment on applications for electric vehicle parking bays, taking them to be a very local matter.

Trees

1. An objection had been made to one application, for a tree in Tudor Close.
2. There had been no progress on the planting of the Queen's Green Canopy site. BA, local councillors and the CIL officer at LBC were all pursuing the matter. BA would continue to follow up, possibly with the relevant LBC cabinet member.
3. The committee had been alerted to a possible application to fell trees at Belsize Square Synagogue, but no current live application had been identified.

Any Other Business

BA had attended a free preview of a new British Museum exhibition, which had been offered to local community groups. Belsoc did not appear to be on the British Library's mailing list for such opportunity. BA will enquire whether such opportunities could be open to our members.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 8 November at 19.30

Location: Sanya Polescuk Architects,

8a Belsize Court Garages, London NW3 5AJ