



FRIENDS OF ARNOLD CIRCUS

Committee Meeting Minutes for trustees' meeting held on 29 September 2011, at Leila's 17 Calvert Avenue, E2 7JP

Present: Farid Djebrouni (minutes), Naseem Khan, Jean Locker, Finn Williams (Chair), Robin Hatton-Gore, Marine Shah, Jenny Bernard.

1. Apologies: Sabeha Miah, Leila McAlister

2. August minutes: The August minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Finance:

The accounts year 2011/2012 were presented eloquently to the group by Marine in a new clearer layout. She went through all the summer events as well as outreach and fundraising.

- The friends agreed that the money raised from filming should be set aside for reinvesting in physical improvements to Arnold Circus, but not ringfenced to exclude funding related activities should this be necessary.
- There is a need to decide on whether further funding should be allocated / raised for the OpenOpen website. It was agreed that further information on visitor numbers, costs of maintaining the website, and a quote for the cost of further publicity work, is needed to inform a decision.
- Jean suggested that the webpage should be updated more often (at least twice a week) to keep local people interested and connected.

Action Finn to contact Jerome / Lara for information on the website

- The friends will work on trying to improve revenues from t-shirt sales. The idea of asking local outlets to stock our products, particularly during the run-up to Christmas, was popular and should be explored further. Other possibilities include making a bespoke bicycle trailer that could be used to transport and present the t-shirts, or hanging t-shirts off temporary washing lines on the circus when the weather is good

4. Gardening:

- Andy's hours were increased from 3 to 5 per week.
- In addition to his usual work on the circus Andy will work closely with the community, by trying to help and advise local residents on gardening matters.
- Jean pointed out that a careful distinction will need to be made between Andy helping residents with their own gardening, and avoiding interfering with areas of planting in courtyards etc... maintained by the Council.



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Action Jean will request a copy of Andy's contract so his job description can be updated.

5. Great Ormond Street Hospital:

The amount of money raised for the Hospital reached £930. Trustees have pledged to cover the remaining £70 to make up the total of £1000.

Action Robin will email receipts to the donors who requested them.

6. Road closure:

The friends have agreed that a feasibility study should be done in order to:

- improve the setting of the gardens
- make the road around the circus more pedestrian friendly
- make the space as a whole more accessible to all by providing better quality open space at street level
- and protect the Circus from the increasing road traffic.

It was agreed that the friends should send out an email calling for landscape architects, transport engineers and quantity surveyors interested in voluntarily preparing a basic feasibility study setting out ambitions and options for turning the Arnold Circus road into a 'shared surface'.

Action Finn to draft the invitation and email to the friends for circulating wider to local consultants / university course leaders etc...

7.SLA:

The final draft hasn't been signed yet, Naseem will contact the council to find out why it's taking that long

- Continue the established three events (Arnold Day, Carrom and Picnic)
- Aim to take forward a few small interventions, possibly around using the Circus for exercise, and connecting designers and local groups.

Action list:

- **Finn will contact LBTH in order to see how a developer might be encouraged to fund a feasibility study over the impact of closing or modifying the use of the road. Leila suggested that that could form part of the parking consultation planned by LBTH, and Finn is to suggest this extension to Shazia.**



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- **Leila is to contact the trainer who works out regularly on the Circus, about using the Circus for fitness., and Martino Gamper**
- **Naseem is to continue with a fund-raising strategy as outlined, focussing on the way in which the programme centres on Olympics values while rearticulating them in terms of the local community. She will liaise with Alice over integrating the theme of games into the major Olympic picnic.**

8. AOB:

- Pay Pal: The donation button is working at last. We have already received two donations and are hoping that more will follow soon.

- Equipment: Robin will buy a laminator machine for the friends, to avoid needing to regularly borrow a machine or pay for it to be done professionally. The machine should pay for itself within a few years.

- Robin has begun an inventory of equipment belonging to the friends.

Action: Robin to complete the inventory and circulate.

- Dina Omar will donate £300 towards a bench on the the Circus dedicated to her late mother. The design has been selected, and does not need approval from the Council.

- It was agreed that Alice Herrick and Jason Caffrey be be invited to become trustees.

9. Date of next meeting: 6.50pm Thursday, 27th October, Leila's Cafe