

## CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS AT 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Before we start I would like to spend just a couple of moments reflecting on the last year.

Last year's AGM was challenging to say the least.

At its heart the AGM brought us face-to-face with deep frustration and sadness from parts of the community that we had not understood and reflected the needs and wants of people living and working here.

As a charity, set up to benefit local people, hearing such discontent was extremely upsetting and concerning.

We spent the last year working more deeply with individuals and interested groups, our members and a small group from Westway 23, to better understand what has gone wrong and how we can find a way to build a positive relationship. What is encouraging is that we have opened channels with many more people. We are grateful to those who have spent time sharing their views, and hope you will agree that the proposals and decisions coming forward more recently reflect your feedback. We are not complacent; we know we still have more to do.

Going forward, we have set out a commitment that as our plans progress we will engage with people at the outset, talk frankly and openly about the challenges we face, the choices we have to make and the opportunities that lie ahead. We will look to work with and involve more people in designing our spaces and initiatives.

As well as the engagement work that has gone on, I want to highlight three specific areas where we have made head way.

Immediately after the AGM I made it my personal mission to enhance the diversity of the Board and its connectivity with the local community. We have made three appointments this year - Angela Spence, who has worked in the area for over 20 years and is CEO of the Kensington and Chelsea Social Council, local ward Cllr Monica Press, Sheraine Williams, representative of Westway23. All three have been assets to the Board and have brought new and important perspectives.

The second aspect I want to focus on is the variety of cultural and artistic activities that have been organised with the community this year – some of the highlights include:

- celebrating 50 years of Notting Hill Carnival with support for the London Notting Hill Carnival Enterprise Trust dinner, Notting Hill Nurseries Carnival and Carnival Pioneers.
- supporting other significant local events including InTransit, Portobello Live, Portobello Film Festival, Nour Festival of contemporary arts and culture from the Middle East and North Africa, and Grove Roots Revival.
- the Portobello Summer Festival; the Trust's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary (which commemorated the passing of the Trust's first Director, Anthony Perry), with Portobello Film Festival and local DJs; and at the beginning of December we worked with local traders, the council and local business people to promote the Portobello Winter Festival.

Finally, and more recently, I am pleased we have reached an agreement with the North Kensington Community Stables CIC. After some creative thinking on both sides, we have both signed a document that sees them become our preferred community riding partner.

While these are good examples of progress, I and the team are well aware we are on a journey and there is still much more to do.

Next year we will advance our engagement with you all and the community at large to host more public forum meetings like this; involve more people in deciding what goes on under the motorway; and activate more of the spaces. We also want to make tangible progress on tackling the impact of air pollution from the motorway.

We want to hear from everyone who wants to speak tonight.

In terms of how I would like to conduct the meeting. I will Chair and will take questions and then direct them to relevant colleagues who are sitting amongst you. We are looking forward to a constructive dialogue.

I will ask for questions from members first before opening up the meeting to the wider community.

Now we move to the formal business of the AGM.

The minutes of the 2015 AGM record the questions that were asked last year on the accuracy of the minutes of the 2014 AGM.

To look into this, we brought together a working party that included Maggie Tyler, Eddie Adams, Tom Fitch (all representatives of Member Organisations), Cynthia Dize (Trustee) and Robina Rose (the originator of the concerns at the 2015 AGM). We looked at a number of the governance issues that were raised at last year's AGM and checked the minutes with our independent minute taker. We agreed that the minutes of 2014 were an accurate reflection of the discussions and voting at the meeting in 2014.

One of the questions that was asked related to the consultation about the changes to the Trust's constitution in 2014. I was not around at that time, but I do know that Members' meetings were held to explain the changes, although back then only 14-or-so Member Organisations were represented at those meetings. After last year's AGM we had a series of meetings with our Member Organisations and the Members themselves were broadly confident in the resolutions that had been passed at the AGM in 2014.

Collectively the working group felt that, on reflection, a minority of Members may have wished they had interrogated the proposed changes in more detail, but that the meeting at the time voted in favour of the changes.

The minutes of last year's 2015 meeting were circulated with the Notice of Meeting. Can I take them as a correct record of the meeting?