



Kensington and Chelsea Social Council's Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the 12 November 2020
10.00am to 12.35pm

1. Welcome – Shelina Thawer, Chair, KCSC

Shelina Thawer (ST) welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and went through the agenda for the meeting.

[Agenda](#)

2. Introduction to 60 years of the Social Council – Angela Spence, CEO, KCSC

Angela Spence (AS) said a few words about the 60th Anniversary of the Social Council, recognising the value of the organisation having been in existence for this length of time. AS referred people to the timeline of the Social Council created by KCSC and available [to view on the website](#).

Last year a bigger programme of celebration was planned. Owing to the pandemic, a decision was made to use the AGM as an opportunity to reflect on the history of the Social Council, how it started, the reasons behind its start, what it used to do and what it does now.

Input from attendees at this meeting will be of value in helping KCSC with planning the future of the Social Council.

As part of the celebrations AS introduced the new [60th Anniversary website page](#) and logo. More information will be circulated, via the e-bulletin and updates on the website, over the coming year.



3. History of the Social Council presentation – Tank Green, Local Researcher

[History of the Social Council presentation slides](#)

[History of the Social Council presentation transcript](#)

Tank Green (TG) introduced herself and her research in the local area. Her presentation set out the background to KCSC, which had been formed from a merger between Notting Hill Church Social Council and Chelsea Social Council. The former had started in 1960s by Revd David Mason with Stephen Duckworth as Treasurer and aimed to join people together to fight for better housing, education and fairer deals for black and other new comers to the area. TG paid tribute to the organisation's secretary Pansy Geoffrey, originally from Guyana, involved in race relations. a busy social worker who was invaluable in what was then a white middle class organisation in the midst of a diverse neighbourhood. The organisation emphasised community partnerships to form coalitions better placed to fight for

change and decisions were always based on community's views drawn from monthly public open meetings: action through consensus.

The main focus was to bring the disparate people together, in partnership to form common programmes of action in an environment of mutual respect. This thought was key to the social council's success in avoiding the maintenance of the status quo. Key issues were youth, housing and race and conferences were held which received national attention.

TG referred to the youth work of the organisation through the 1960s where the concerns were over black and white youth segregation, specifically the role of the long running Portobello project in initially bringing these groups together until the early 1970s. Poor quality housing and high rents were raised throughout the 1960s specifically the role of private landlords. TG highlighted The Notting Hill Summer Project, a grass roots community empowerment project, started in 1967 which was an independent survey of housing conditions which found overcrowding, high rents and racial discrimination.

TG felt that the Social Council did not attempt to unite the communities into a coherent whole. Rev David Mason preferred involvement rather than unity, creating temporary bridges to facilitate momentary and specific needs. While this sometimes displeased radical observers, it but was probably why it achieved so much and still exists, 60 years later.

ST thanked TG for her fascinating presentation providing a thorough induction to the history of the Social Council.

[Tank Green website link](#)
[Link to download Tank Green PhD thesis](#)
iam@tankgreen.com

4. **Personal account of the Social Council – Albert Tucker**

Albert Tucker (AT) introduced himself and thanked members for the opportunity to share a personal account of his involvement with the Social Council. AT felt that his time in North Kensington with the Social Council formed a strong foundation for his career as a senior leader.

AT's time at the Social Council spanned the mid-1980s to the early 1990s a vibrant time socially and politically. The area had the largest Spanish, Irish, Portuguese, Moroccan, African, Caribbean and white working-class communities alongside some of the wealthiest areas in the country. The local operating environment and police relations had many challenges. AT reminded the members of the events at the time such as the Mangrove Nine trial, Brixton uprisings and police shootings. Anecdotally AT recalled that he had not realised until much later that every time he went to the local police station to get young people out of custody a white trustee would always accompany him to make sure they all returned.

During the mid-1980's the voluntary sector was the only sector that enabled black people, white women and working-class people to gain experience and skills in management. The Social Council was in the forefront of promoting community lead and user led approaches and provided management opportunities and training as evidenced in the unusual appointment of a black man and white woman in their 20s as heads of the organisation.

After leaving the Social Council AT went on to work in community development in Watford then onto what became the Fair-Trade movement working with farming

communities around the world helping them trade and develop themselves. His time at the Social Council showed him that social enterprise can make a difference.

The roles of local trustees (including Robin Tuck, Cynthia Dize, Stephen Duckworth and Richard Stone) and community leaders was particularly important. A long list of people were active in the community providing support and guidance with many still continuing to do so today. AT particularly remembered Pansy Jeffrey at Pepper Pot making him promise to seek advice before doing something difficult. AT paid tribute to institutional cooperation and the role of the Methodist Church (working with David Read and Ethaline Holder) as well as individuals who had paid a key role in bringing about change through collaboration and partnership. He noted that professional advice was also available from organisations such as the Law Centre and Citizens Advice Bureau but was often provided privately.

As a result of this support and these partnerships the Social Council deliberately never put itself forward as the organisation for the community but rather as one to open doors for the community to be able to do things.

At that time the North Kensington area was not seen as needing finance as it was part of RBKC, a wealthy borough. The Kensington Social Council worked with the Chelsea Social Council to attract funders, they invited five leading trusts to speak to community groups to explain why access to funding was not available. This built greater understanding and enabled community groups to speak.

Members heard that the board recognised the Social Council needed to become more outward looking, with wider networks. Rather than raising money and having multiple projects they would take on the role of facilitator, starting projects and setting them afloat to be independent. Support was given to any organisation providing community benefit.

- Financial training was identified as an area of need this led to the creation of CASH (Community Accountancy Self Help) who could carry out training in finance.
- The Community Festival and Portobello Arts Forum as an alternative to the Portobello Arts Festival.
- Work was done with the North Kensington Amenity Trust creating a platform used to both feedback criticism from the local community and to access resources to support the community.
- Support of the Carnival organisation took place, working on the leaflets and volunteer recruitment lead to relationships with organisation like Nova who provided training in desktop publishing to produce the leaflets. AT recounted that NOVA had a varied training programme including journalism, writing and photography.
- Westway Community Transport getting minibuses to provide accessibility. This had not worked previously but by managing minibuses for varied organisations, their time was freed up. The amalgamated new fleet of buses was leveraged to purchase new buses.

AT still feels a strong connection to Ladbroke Grove area and his experiences following the Grenfell Tower fire highlighted the impact the current funding environment has had on organisations. The active faith-based groups with assets were able to act far more swiftly than others. The contracting out of services rather than the mobilisation of communities to provide services was apparent and meant most organisations had to catch up.

To round up AT stressed that he felt that continuing to strengthen its role as a convening power and as an organising power is essential as it is more needed than

ever. He referred back to the early national influence of the Social Council and its strength in community mobilisation was he saw as now sadly lacking, under the current service contracting funding structures which he felt hindered communities' ability to voice concerns over safety. He had confidence that KCSC still had convening power and an ability to create a platform for the community.

During discussion, Judith Davey regretted what she saw as a change in the approach towards North Kensington since the start of the century as the eventual removal of Grenfell Tower was part of a regeneration project. AT drew attention to past warnings to the Council over the safety of Grenfell Tower and difficulties the community continue to have in getting legal recourse.

Lev Pedro contributed that having worked for the Social Council between 2005-2013 he was disheartened that the current Black Lives Matter movement was experiencing struggles similar to the past. He felt that the Social Council in this time adhered to the same social values as in the early days, namely mobilising the community, drawing on expertise from local charities and he questioned how the core threads managed to be transfer through time. AT responded that in the past, the community benefitted from a wide advice network, the organisation was feared and the trustee board was also strongly rooted in the community.

ST thanked AT for a for a truly insightful account of his personal experiences at the Social Council. She commented that KCSC's current activities underlined the relevance of the organisation and how responsive it is to the circumstances and the environment.

5. **Reflecting and Responding on KCSC's past and future – Interactive session – Angela Spence**

The Social Council has evolved over time as an umbrella body for voluntary sector organisations in the borough. Funding received and the operating environment have impacted on operations and the Social Council's ability to support and enable activities. AS referenced the [KCSC 2019-20 Annual report](#) and highlighted the important development work carried out with organisations and residents providing advice, training and support, which has become a key remit. KCSC also works closely with West London Clinical Commissioning group to deliver Health and wellbeing programmes supporting the needs of residents.

AS introduced Joe Batty (JB), Nada Sallam (NS) and Busayo Twins (BT) who gave a presentation on three new areas of work KCSC have been involved in. Policy and Voice, Community Development and Community Involvement.

Presentation: [*The best way to predict the future is to create it*](#)

Busayo Twins outlined her new role in in research and analysis. She is currently analysing responses from the VCS survey collating information on the impact of Covid-19 and also financial health. Findings so far indicated similar patterns in that class and race continue to determine the level of impact, food poverty continues to be a key issue and service providers had transition to food collection and delivery.

For the future, focus will be on practical barriers and solutions - looking at systemic issues that prevent engagement; the sustainability of civic generosity and community kindness and; areas of work most at risk such as arts which could impact on mental health.

Joe Batty (JB) referred to the reasons behind the creation in 2017, of the Community Development and Engagement post, funded from several sources, in the wake of the Grenfell fire and perceived distances between the voluntary sector and the community which dovetails with the past. He outlined the work he carried out with Grenfell Network Group, colleagues, local Community Interest Companies (CIC) and supporting campaigns which has helped to rebuild relationships and trust. JB drew attention to the work KCSC enabled by the Centre for Public Scrutiny which led to the drafting of a report and a new Charter for Public Participation parts of which were adopted by RBKC.

Nada Sallam reported on the Kensington and Chelsea Together programme, launched in mid-2020 designed to increase resident involvement and representation in the voluntary sector. This includes one to one work with local organisations, resident training including soft skills development and also resident focus groups. The aim was to increase involvement with self-designed and therefore more relevant programmes for people to access and not feel excluded.

Following the presentation, the meeting attendees took part in an interactive on-line session using an interactive tool, Metimeter.

AS asked three key questions, the outcome of which would help inform KCSC'S new strategy.

Are you happy with the direction KCSC is taking in the work that we do?



Views from those that selected 'No' or 'Don't' know would be appreciated. Any comments you have can be e-mailed to Angela@kcsc.org.uk or Jenny@kcsc.org.uk.

AS took the opportunity to thank all staff for their work done this year especially in response to the pandemic, with particular thanks to Jenny Greenfield, Barnie Razzell and Dhani Dhanoa for their work on the Annual Report.

BREAK

6. Annual General Meeting

Welcome Chair's address

(i) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following Board Members:
Helen Cylwik & Daisy Ryan

Board members present: Mark Anfilogoff, Christine Bennett, Judith Davey, Stephen Duckworth, Ann Goodger and Shelina Thawer.

In addition, apologies for absence were received from Catholic Children's Society, Chelsea Academy, KIDS, Latymer Community Church, New Studio Playgroup, NICOLA Arts, Parish of St John and St Andrew, Royal Society For Blind Children, St Luke and Christ Church, St Peters Hall (1991) Charity and St Philips Pre-Amici Dance Group.

(ii) Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 22 October 2019 were approved.

Proposed Stephen Duckworth
Seconded: Ann Goodger

(iii) Chair's report

The Chair, Shelina Thawer (ST), welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the previous Chair Michael Bach. Since her appointment in March 2020, ST said that in getting to know the organisation and its work, she had found it to be well managed and well led by MB for many years. Both staff and trustees have made her aware of how much he has been valued and his commitment will always be remembered. ST also thanked Board members noting that it was a particularly busy time for trustees given the on-going Covid-19 crisis and yet they still give additional support to the management team. ST was pleased that the organisation was able to quickly adapt its way of working.

Reviewing the past year, ST referred attendees to the link to the Annual Report 2019/20 and drew attention to the organisation's work in particular My Care My Way a collaborative programme with the NHS which delivers services for older people with long term complex health needs. ST was pleased to report that on external evaluation in 2017 and 2019, the project had been found to yield a social return of £3.20 for every £1 spent in 2019 compared to £2.80 in 2017.

ST also reported that the governance structure of the Community Interest Company (CIC) was now in place which would ensure that voluntary and community sector organisations will be able to bid for health and wellbeing contracts and she encouraged organisations to get involved. She also highlighted the increasing role of the Organisation Development team in providing advice, training and support, a role

that increased significantly following the successful application to the Council for funding for Grenfell work. By the end of this financial year, organisation development support helped organisations to bring in almost £1.2m into the borough for services for residents.

ST drew attention to the role of KCSC in community development, having a funded role on the ground, dedicated to understanding the issues faced by communities in North Kensington and supporting community input into council policy developments, in particular, helping to shape the final outcome of the Council's Charter for Public Participation with input from resident groups and voluntary and community organisations.

ST referred to the significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the borough and paid tribute to the role KCSC played in helping make food available to those aged 65 and under, working collaboratively to set up a food distribution service. KCSC also worked with the Council to ensure their helpline was kept up to date so that people could be referred to organisations for additional support where needed.

ST noted that the Pandemic will continue to have an impact for the foreseeable future and so as the three year strategy comes to an end in March 2021, she assured that the organisation will be looking at how to develop an organisation that can continue to respond to the challenges faced by the voluntary sector and residents. ST stressed the importance of feedback and input, vital to help inform the work of KCSC.

ST placed on record her gratitude to all KCSC staff for their hard work and boundless energy particularly since the start of the pandemic, the Trustees for supporting the organisation, stakeholders for putting their trust in KCSC and the community for their continued feedback and participation and with whom she looked forward to working in the future.

In response to an invitation for questions, the meeting heard a request from a member of the public, Mr Jacob Rety, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, into reasons behind KCSC's decision to cease the contract with CASH (Community Accountants and Self Help) and to contract an organisation outside of the borough to carry out the work instead. Mr Rety indicated that he had put his questions in the Zoom Chat. AS responded that while she was happy to respond, she felt it was more appropriate for the conversation to take place outside of this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

(i) Presentation Annual Accounts

The Treasurer, Mark Anfilogoff (MA) drew attention to the statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2020 as set out in the Annual Report which provided a detailed account of income and expenditure during 2019-20. He reported that the organisation was in a good position with income for 2019-20 at £1,096,828 an increase of £136,000 on the previous year, mainly due to new funding received from the Tudor Trust for community development, RBKC for Grenfell Community Leadership capacity building work and the Westway Trust for Covid Relief food support. MA reported that income remains high due to investments from West London Clinical Commissioning Group to deliver the Voluntary Sector Transformation Programme, the over 65s Self Care programme as well as a further investment of £345,000 from WLCCG to deliver a new North Kensington Social Prescribing programme.

The meeting heard that expenditure for 2019-20 was £1,018,841. With a brought forward balance of £952,944 giving a year end total of £1,017,133. It was noted that much of this is committed funding for specific projects and programmes, but there are free reserves amount to £227,435, kept in line with the reserves policy of having five months operating reserves in case of difficulties. MA advised that during the year, KCSC gave out just under £400,000 to voluntary and community organisations through various grant programmes funded by WLCCG. The funds were mainly linked to: The Mental health grants programme, The Men's Shed service, The North Kensington Engagement programme and The Self Care Programme. KCSC also, as part of the Covid response, used £25,000 of the funds donated from the Westway Trust to buy food and goods to distribute to residents in need during lockdown.

MA took the opportunity to thank all of the funders for 2019-20, referring the meeting to the list at back of report, namely West London CCG who provide substantial support for the sector, RBKC Corporate and Public Health Grants, Trust for London and Tudor Trust in funding community development work. Also the Westway Trust, the City of Westminster Council and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. MA specifically thanked the CEO and staff for maintaining those relationships of which the organisation is extremely proud.

MA referred to the organisation's secure financial position which allowed it to be able to pivot and respond to the Covid-19 situation. He was pleased to report that all the existing funders were supportive of KCSC in redirecting efforts to support what was needed. For example the setting up and delivery of a food distribution service, supporting RBKC's shielding population by providing a regularly updated list of organisations able to provide health and wellbeing support and a shopping service as well as continuing to provide advice and training to organisations now facing the many challenges throughout.

Finally, the Treasurer extended a special thanks to all Board members, for their continued support..

MA proposed to adopt the accounts.

Proposer: Christine Bennett

Seconder: Cynthia Dize

(ii) Appointment of the Auditor

MA thanked the auditors Goodwins, in particular Anthony Epton who was present at the meeting, for their work throughout the year and advised that as the Trustees were not seeking to change Auditors, he invited members to adopt Goodwins as KCSC's Auditors for 2020/21.

In the absence of any questions or requests for change from the Trustees, MA invited the members to confirm acceptance of the accounts which had been professionally audited by Goodwins Ltd. Members then voted to adopt Goodwins as auditors which was unanimously agreed.

Presentation to Michael Bach, former Chair, KCSC

AS reminded the members that the former Chair, Michael Bach, earlier in the year, had stepped down from this position and she took the opportunity to reflect on the time she had spent working with him and the relationship they had developed since she joined KCSC and took over the role of CEO in 2014. During their regular meetings to go over work, AS felt that Michael Bach had played a key advisory and

supportive role, taking a personal and professional interest in her wellbeing. AS commended the amount of time he contributed and recognised that he was at the forefront in both good and challenging times whilst at KCSC. He would be missed as part of the KCSC family.

Christine Bennett added her contribution having been a trustee for two terms and known MB for many years. She said she felt respected by him from the start and commended his ability to make people feel their contributions were always welcome. Trustees were helped by his confidence and he was always available to assist. She valued his measured approach, gentle manner and unwavering support. CB stated that she had learned from Michael Bach the importance of taking time to get to know people, considered him genuine and authentic and paid tribute to his 100% dedication to the community.

Mark Anfilogoff also reflected on KCSC Board with Michael Bach, since 2012. He found KCSC to be a very different organisation from his previous experience and was grateful for the support from Michael Bach during the time of adjustment, his gentle approach and consideration, while exuding calm assurance. Through challenging times, this calm and measured leadership was vital in supporting staff. On behalf of the Trustees and personally MA offered his sincere thanks for all his work and support over the years.

Michael Bach in response, thanked contributors for their kind words. In reflecting on his time advised he had been involved in the Social Council for almost 40 years. He recalled that he started with planning in Earls Court and, eventually chaired the voluntary organisation – Response based in Earls Court, later receiving a grant from the GLC and learning the lesson that voluntary organisations need full time paid workers. In 1987 he was recruited to join Chelsea Social Council and in the 1990s RBKC sought to merge it with Notting Hill Social Council, despite of a review pointing to their very different identities. The merger took place in 2002 and taught the lesson that mergers can be disruptive but can produce new results. Prior to retirement in 2005, Michael Bach reported that he took over as Chair of KCSC and learnt the importance of investment in research and also that mergers can work with a shared ethos. Since 2014, Michael worked with Angela as a new CEO and new Board.

Michael Bach continued by reflecting on events since 2019, notably the Grenfell fire and the Covid-19 Pandemic which have brought about significant changes and the need to help communities to articulate their concerns and help them help themselves. He thanked Trust for London, Tudor Trust and City Bridge Trust which have enabled KCSC to work with communities and empower them. He was pleased KCSC continues to be a trusted partner with the NHS and the Council. KCSC's raised profile has resulted in raised expectations.

Looking back at the organisation's achievements Michael Bach felt that KCSC is no longer peripheral but a key player and interface between the Council and the NHS and both funding and activities have been diversified.

Michael Bach paid tribute to the former and present CEOs, Mary Gardner and Angela Spence for their foresight and energy and an excellent and supportive Board and funders for their trust and support. He thanked all for making his 15 years as chair a rewarding experience and extended best wishes for the future to the new Chair and the Board.

The former Chair then received a farewell card and gifts for himself and his wife Carol for which he expressed gratitude.

Confirmation of KCSC Board Members

AS drew attention to the displayed list of Board Trustees:

| | |
|--|---|
| Ann Goodger Anna Louise Thomond Anneka Singh Annie Redmile Christine Bennett Daisy Ryan Helen Cylwik | Judith Davey Kevin Masters Mark Anfilogoff Miles Kerstein Shelina Thawer Stephen Duckworth |
|--|---|

AS thanked the speakers and staff for their background work in facilitating the meeting.

Attendance

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Abbas Dadou | |
| AH Bioso Duplan | Volunteer Centre |
| Albert Tucker | |
| Amanda Clarke | ShareandCare Homeshare |
| Ann Goodger | Dalgarno Trust |
| Anna-Louise Thomond | KCSC Board Member |
| Bobby Juniper | The ClementJames Centre |
| Carrie Hirst | West London CCG |
| Chris Shirley | Kensington Dragons FC |
| Christine Bennett | KCSC Board Member |
| Clare Scott Booth | The Sheppard Trust |
| Cynthia Dize | Golborne Forum |
| Dilu | Queens Park Bangladesh Association |
| Eman Yosry | Tudor Trust Silchester R/A LWCCN |
| Gazala Alvi | West London Action for Children |
| Iain Cassidy | Open Age |
| Jackie Rosenberg | One Westminster |
| Jacob | Street Runner |
| Jenni Henry | Portobello Business Centre |
| Judith Blakeman | BME Health Forum Councillor for Notting Dale Ward |
| Judith Davey | The Advocacy Project KCSC Board Member |
| Julie Scheiner | CGL alcohol services |
| Kalwant Sahota | West London CCG |
| Kim Howell | Chair SNB |
| Lev Pedro | NCVO |
| Mark Anfilogoff | KCSC Board Member |
| Melanie Juno Wolfe | North Kensington Community Kitchen North Kensington Law Centre |
| Mohammed Mukit, | Kensington and Chelsea Council |
| Nigeal | West London Community Consortium |
| Rob Taylor | KC MIND |
| Sarah Simms | Crosslight Advice |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Stephen Duckworth | Notting Hill Methodist Church |
| Tania Moore | Youth Action Alliance |
| Tania | YAA |
| Tank Green | |
| Tom Fitch | |
| Vesna Petkovic | Pro Art & Co |
| William Roberts | Chelsea Theatre Venture Community Association |
| Zara Ghods | Kensington and Chelsea over 50s Forum |
| Zohra Davis | Al-Hasaniya MWC |
| Zina Serageldin | KCSC |
| Angela Spence | KCSC |
| Sara Murphey | KCSC |
| Joe Batty | KCSC |
| Jenny Greenfield | KCSC |
| Dhanveer Dhanoa | KCSC |
| Tom Richards | KCSC |
| Hayley Turner | KCSC |
| Busayo Twins | KCSC |
| Nada Sallam | KCSC |
| Brenda Nambooze | KCSC |
| Michael Godfrey | KCSC |
| James King | KCSC |