

addition, but not surprisingly, many people faced similar issues – crime and disorder; community safety; illegal sub-letting; nuisance neighbours; poor enforcement of tenancy agreements by estate managers; ill thought-out allocations policies and processes; lack of facilities for young people, etc.

We have already identified some good practice by local housing managers. The network will look to get others to adopt such practice. An input from the local youth worker provoked a healthy discussion about a future youth strategy for Covent Garden and a commitment to a dedicated meeting on youth issues. The CGCA, on behalf of the Network, will soon meet with the managers of the Peabody, Westminster and Camden estates in Covent Garden to bring about some consistency and quality in housing estate management and policy.

The importance of the HAN at this time cannot be underestimated. We are grateful to those who have attended the meetings and pleased that the CGCA is part of a new network of local people. Although it is early days, the HAN has the potential of keeping the CGCA in touch, of driving the CGCA's future agenda, and of becoming an essential building block in the re-forming of an active, cohesive and successful Covent Garden community.

Come to the next meeting on 26th June 2002 - help shape the work of the CGCA and the future of our community.

Ian Todd, Vice-chair CGCA

Residents & Environment sub-committee report

We have a monthly committee meeting comprising local residents who are interested in the up-keep of standards in both the Westminster and Camden areas of Covent Garden.

We have periodic walkabouts with the appropriate officers from both Westminster and Camden, listing and photographing any defects that we can see or that have been reported to us. They take these back to their departments and place orders for work to be carried out on these defects.

Some of our successes:

Russell Street:

We have been able to alleviate problems behind numbers 8, 9 and 10 caused by 38 pieces of air conditioning plant – many without planning permission – creating nuisance from vibration and noise to all the local residents.

Westminster City Council have made an excellent job of re-paving Russell Street and we have been able, through co-operation with Mr Akers of the Tree Department, to get four new trees planted on the Opera House side of the road and we are working on an idea of our CGCA chair to place four planters on the opposite side of the road with large shrubs.

Pissoirs:

Westminster City Council picked up the idea, suggested by us, to install pissoirs on the streets to try to



Pissoirs in Agar Street – Covent Garden taking a stand against doorway urination

alleviate (or stop) the use of doorways, etc being used as public lavatories. They initiated this scheme with great alacrity and are installing more of these toilets around the borough. We are trying very hard to get the London Borough of Camden to follow this admirable example. However, they have turned us down this year, due to budget restrictions and we hope they will follow Westminster's example next year.

Macklin Street:

As part of the Boulevard Scheme, the London Borough of Camden have re-paved both sides of the street, greatly improving its general ambience. Signage has also been altered and better street lighting will follow in due course.

Street cleaning:

Westminster has bought two very powerful French street washing and cleaning machines that are able to clean chewing gum off pavements.

Complaint and Defect forms:

We now have a system whereby most of the streets in Covent Garden are