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Chair: Ian Comfort JP BA LLM  
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Association of Calypsonians UK/Association of British Calypsonians

**By email only**

Dear Vincent and ACUK/ABC Executive/Board

As you know, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea ("the Council") published a notice in December last year seeking expressions of interest from organisations interested in organising the Notting Hill Carnival in 2018. The Council stated that its reason for doing this was that 2017 was the final year of the three-year funding agreement between the Council and the organisers of Notting Hill Carnival during this period, London Notting Hill Carnival Enterprises Trust ("LNHCET"). I am aware that LNHCET did not agree with this process and did not submit an expression of interest. Carnival Village Trust did submit an expression of interest, a copy of which is available on our website at:

<http://carnivalvillage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/180119-CVT-expression-of-interest-RBKC.pdf>

The Council has indicated that it has accepted our expression of interest and is to "*award funding of £100,000 to Carnival Village Trust to plan and coordinate the event management of Notting Hill Carnival 2018, engaging the wider Carnival community in planning and delivery, and liaising with the local authorities and statutory agencies.*"

In light of this decision we have commenced a programme of consultations with carnivalists and local communities. I am aware that: the decision of the Council to invite organisations to express an interest in acting as the Carnival organiser; the submission of an expression of interest by Carnival Village Trust; and the decision by the Council to accept and fund that expression of interest, has caused discord in sectors of the carnival community. This was inevitable and is something that we need to work through.

I want to make it clear that Carnival Village Trust does not want to disempower the existing Carnival arenas or to undermine the success of Carnival in any way. Our intention is, and always has been, to engage fully with the arenas and directly with all participants. Our expression of interest sets out some ideas and strategic thrusts but it is not our final business plan. We wish to discuss our ideas openly and widely before we finalise our plans. Each of the arena organisations has a key part to play in this and we would want them to be part of our governance structure. I recognise the difficulties with this and the tension that currently exists. We can collectively allow that tension to continue to build or we can take steps now to try to

address it in the interests of Carnival. The consequences of not addressing issues are significant and should be avoided.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with representatives of ACUK/ABC and other arenas, individually or collectively, either sometime this weekend or one evening next week. I will try to be as flexible as possible to fit in with your commitments.

I hope that you will feel that this is a genuine offer to discuss how we can work together for Carnival this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes



Chair, Carnival Village Trust