

# MINUTES of the FoBRA Committee meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 6.30pm in Widcombe Junior School

Circulated on 18/7/16

- 1 **Chairman** Robin Kerr, welcomed 20 representatives and an observer - details at end.
- 2 **Minutes** of the Committee and the AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> May (previously circulated) were approved.

### 3 **Reduction of Pollution and Traffic:**

- a. **Bath Transport Commission** – The Chairman reported he had attended the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June in lieu of Patrick Rotheram - with Sir Peter Hendy in the chair as usual. Cllr Tony Clarke made an initial statement about the West of England (WoE) Devolution deal, and how the Cabinet was confident of getting a vote to agree to it on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Peter Dawson, a senior B&NES Council official, introduced his Action Plan - a “work in progress”. This was not the ‘full and professional Project Plan’ for which the Bath Alliance for Transport and the Public Realm has been pressing, but it’s a start. The Commission will be asking the Council to publish it, together with the “Vision” to be found in the Public Realm Movement Strategy (PRMS). There was good discussion on the need for: a dedicated project manager and team, better traffic management, a Low Emission Zone, reduction of off-street parking, restrictions on the freedom of coaches, and consolidated freight delivery.

Van DuBose had been invited to give an interim presentation about the Bath Alliance for Transport and the Public Realm, which he did, and in a most professional and compelling way, mentioning that only one organization had actually refused to join up so far. Peter Hendy concluded by acclaiming Tony Clarke’s support for Van’s presentation, and particularly the need to devote expertise and staff (“resource”) to a plan and implementation, though not necessarily in a separate organization. There was general agreement to this.

Peter Dawson then took the meeting through the charts from the WoE Joint Spatial and Transport Plans (of which the Bath Transport Strategy is part). They showed where housing would be best placed to minimise car commuting (and where public transport could be expanded) – better to intensify and to use parts of the Green Belt instead of expanding small towns which just result in congestion on arterial routes which happen to go through nice villages. Lastly, a considerably increased programme of Commission meetings was proposed and accepted, which should help to keep feet on accelerators.

In a discussion, Mark O’Sullivan was encouraged that people felt something may happen but “what and when”. Patrick pointed to the way in which the A36/A46 link had moved from a remote dream to being currently under consideration and the purpose of the Bath Alliance was to add some momentum.

### b. **Traffic management:**

- i. **Queen Square** – Nick Tobin reported on the closure of two sides of the Square for the Boules Tournament and as an experiment, which was chaotically mismanaged. His letter published in the Chronicle was warmly supported. He and Adam Reynolds had separately contacted Cllr Clarke, who had asked officials to put it right. Patrick felt it was wrong for the Council to have delegated responsibility and Lucy Woodcock supported him. All felt it was particularly unfortunate in giving a bad name to traffic experiments.
- ii. **Kingsmead Square** – Robin Kerr referred to the item in his report and email interchange with Emma Savage, adding that he had asked Nigel Sherwen, our lead in these matters, to look into it although there was no member association in that locality. Stephen Little felt, as the project was in the published strategy for the City, we should not duck the issue. Adam was concerned about the bad implementation of potentially good schemes like the adjacent Seven Dials and Jan Shepley saw it as another example of inadequacy of management in the department.

- c. **Saw Close Development – Public Realm proposals:** (In the Guildhall on 11<sup>th</sup> July):  
The Chairman had asked Nigel also to attend this exhibition and draft a response for the Committee’s consideration, which he summarized briefly. In the subsequent discussion an analogy was drawn between the proposed Saw Close and the modified Seven Dials. Adam pointed out that these new ‘shared spaces’ were quite hazardous, and didn’t work for the

blind or partially sighted. Other detailed concerns emerged and a draft of our proposed comments to B&NES Council is being circulated to members [before these minutes] seeking any further comments by Wednesday 20 July '16 following which our formal response will go to the Council.

#### 4 Planning and Development Control:

- a. **Planning Report:** Nick Tobin had nothing to add to his report circulated on 29<sup>th</sup> June.
- b. **World Heritage Site draft management plan:** FoBRA's comments on 21<sup>st</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> June had been circulated and broadly supported before the consultation deadline on Friday. Mark O'Sullivan was uneasy about the balance struck on the heritage issue. It was noted that Greenway! and the Widcombe Association would be making additional comments. Colin Clark agreed to keep an eye on the issues while Nick was away.
- c. **Placemaking Plan Examination in Public:** The Chairman confirmed that FoBRA experts will be seeking to engage with the Inspector on all the important elements about which we made representations (as modified by the subsequent representations of others).
- d. **Bath City Information System:** The Secretary had accepted an invitation to FoBRA, among other organisations, to participate in a focus group run by consultants appointed by the Council. The scope and terms of reference were not clear to participants (and possibly the consultants?) and appeared to be mainly about the current signage and 'wayfinding' network and how it could be improved. It seemed to disregard the scope for use and improvement of bus shelters for this purpose.

#### 5. Engagement

- a. **Chairman's Report** – (circulated 10<sup>th</sup> July) The Chairman added:
  - i. **NORA campaign on Space Standards:** Ben Howlett MP had replied to Robin's 24<sup>th</sup> June letter about Space Standards in market housing and has forwarded it to the Housing Minister with his recommendation.
  - ii. **House of Lords Enquiry into the Licensing Act 2003:** The Secretary will circulate (for response if any by the end of the month) NORA's draft response to the HoL Select Committee questions on the Act. It seems well-composed and relevant to Bath. The Chairman is minded to support NORA in this, and members may choose to do likewise. He also forwarded it to Ian Perkins, an acknowledged expert on licensing, though, sadly, no longer a member of FoBRA. He has replied that he is looking at it.
  - iii. **Stothert Avenue:** The Chairman had received an email from residents in the Western Riverside about the planned uses of this new street and had invited the Secretary to take the matter forward perhaps encouraging establishment of a residents' association.
- b. **Bath City Conference** was on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Several members had attended and found it interesting. The Chairman had served on its Steering Committee and thought the Q&A session was particularly worthwhile (enlivened by Dom Chambers' skilled chairing). He was also proud that, at last, they managed to wrinkle out the Rec Trust to give an account of itself, through its Chief Executive, John Flinn.
- c. **Bath City Forum** had not met since our last Committee, as the AGM had been deferred from 1 July to 13 September due to a delay by a political party over adoption of the constitution. However, the BCC this year was a BCF event, compered by the BCF's Chairman, Cllr Bob Goodman.
- d. **West of England Devolution Deal:** [www.westofenglanddevolution.co.uk](http://www.westofenglanddevolution.co.uk) is the consultation website. Roadshows in Bath are to be held in the Guildhall on Tuesday 19 July from 1600-1800 and at the bottom of Milsom Street on Saturday 13 August from 1100-1600. Deadline for comment remains 15 August. Unless there is objection from some new quarter, FoBRA's response will be along the lines already put to the Council meeting.
- e. **Summer Party:** Over 40 FoBRA members enjoyed the Summer Garden Party in the grounds of beautiful Lyncombe Court on the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> June, thanks to the generosity of Chris and Denise Rogers. A modest profit was made but we could have had many more people in this wonderful place. The Chairman hoped representatives are diligent in

advertising this event to their own members because it is a privilege to be allowed to visit these wonderful places, and “it ain’t a party unless there’s a bit of a crowd!”

**f. Winter Reception:** The Chairman asked if members still wanted FoBRA to hold its customary Winter Reception in the Victoria Art Gallery, with a sprinkling of the ‘Great and the Good’. In discussion this was supported if a slightly later date in January than last year could be found. [Subsequently: Tuesday 17 January has been booked].

**6. Revised Constitution:** In light of the AGM debate about the proposed new constitution, the Secretary had issued a revised one which seemed to have been generally accepted. It was agreed to take this forward for formal approval at the next meeting to be combined, for this purpose, with an Extraordinary General Meeting.

**7. Forward Dates:** – **Tuesday 20 September – Next Committee meeting**  
(to include discussion with Curo and EGM to adopt new constitution)  
– Tuesday 15 November – Committee meeting  
– Tuesday 17 January 2017 – Winter Reception

**Present:**

Robin	Kerr	Lansdown Crescent Association	FoBRA Chairman
Nicholas	Tobin	Ainslie’s Belvedere & Caroline Place R A	FoBRA V-Chairman
Neil	Barnes	LCA	FoBRA Treasurer
Barry	Henderson	Western Riverside	FoBRA Secretary
Matt	Humberstone	Bath University Students Union	Community Officer
Liz	Woodcock	Bath University Students Union	Representative
Aled	Davies	Bath Spa University Students Union	Vice-Pres Welfare
Leslie	Redwood	Bath Tourism Plus	Observer
Charles	Draper	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	Chairman
Ken	Ayers	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	Representative
Colin	Clark	Bathwick Hill Residents’ Association	Representative
Adam	Reynolds	Cycle Bath	Chairman
Nola	Edwards	Foxhill Residents Association	Secretary
Margarida	Dolan	Greenway!	Chairman
Mark	O’Sullivan	Greenway!	Representative
Ceris	Humphreys	Henrietta Park Residents Association	Chairman
Stephen	Little	Royal Crescent Society	Treasurer
John	Rushton	Sydney Buildings Householders Assoc	Representative
Patrick	Rotheram	Vineyards Residents’ Association	Chairman
Jan	Shepley	Widcombe Association	Representative
Liz	Littlewood	Widcombe Association	Secretary

Apologies are listed on the next page

**Apologies**

David	Greenwood	Bath Independent Guest Houses Assoc	Representative
Steve	Frayling	Batheaston Forward	Chairman
Catherine	McCarthy	Batheaston Forward	Secretary
Julie	Trollope	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	FoBRA Social Sec
Clyde	Hunter	Bear Flat Association	Chairman
Chris	Beezley	Beech Avenue Residents' Association	Representative
Janet	Anderson	Camden Residents Association	Secretary
Richard	Samuel	Camden Residents Association	Chairman
Morny	Davison	Catharine Place Residents' Association	Secretary
Mike	Arkell	Foxhill Residents Association	Representative
Ian	Herve	Henrietta Park Residents' Association	Secretary
Ian	Blair	Hensley & Egerton Road Res Assoc	Chairman
Rachael	Hushon	Lansdown Crescent Association	Representative
Gerald	Chown	MacAulay Prospect	Representative
Stephen	Huard	Marlborough Lane & Buildings	Chairman
Caroline	Kilner	Pulteney Estate Residents' Association	Representative
Nigel	Websper	Pulteney Estate Residents' Association	Chairman
Paul	Dowling	Royal Crescent Society	Deputy Chairman
Van	Dubose	St James's Square Bath Limited	Representative
Jeremy	Boss	Widcombe Association	Chairman

Barry Henderson, Secretary      Circulated 18/7/16