

MINUTES of the FoBRA Committee on Tuesday 19 September 2017 at 6.30pm in Widcombe Junior School

Circulated 26 Sept '17

- 1 **Chairman** Robin Kerr, welcomed 21 members' representatives and observers (details at end).
- 2 **Minutes** of the meeting on 20 July 2017, circulated 30/7/17, were approved.
- 3 **Reduction of Pollution and Traffic** – Patrick Rotheram reported on a busy period since the previous meeting. Following the inclusion of B&NES in the Government's list of local authorities with the highest levels of air pollution, our Chairman had written on 4 August to Tim Warren, B&NES Council leader, urging the Council to start taking air pollution seriously and urgently implementing measures to reduce traffic and pollution. We had also contacted the Chronicle resulting in a two-page spread in which this letter had featured prominently.
 - a. **Air Pollution in Bath:** B&NES have just published a consultation document on its next Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP), required to meet the Government's target of reducing nitrogen dioxide levels below the legal limit as soon as possible. We had discussed the draft AQAP with officers earlier in the year, and it was gratifying to see that it included measures to reduce traffic volumes. The AQAP was also likely to include a Clean Air Zone, for which Government would now provide funding for studies.

A draft FoBRA response had been circulated to members for comment. Member Associations were encouraged to respond directly to the online survey. Patrick had also addressed the Council Development and Scrutiny Panel on the issue the day before. The fact that B&NES was now *required* by the Government to develop and implement a plan to reduce pollution provided an excellent opportunity to take forward measures to reduce traffic and pollution which successive Councils had hitherto been reluctant to implement.
 - b. **B&NES's Parking Strategy:** A consultation had just been launched and a draft FoBRA response will be circulated shortly. Related to this was the Coach Parking strategy, on which Patrick would be attending a stakeholder meeting on 28 September. He had not seen details but from what was in the Parking Strategy he feared that the coach parking strategy was seriously flawed, as it still appeared to envisage coaches coming right into the city centre to drop off at locations like Bog Island. He would also be preparing a FoBRA response on coaches; it would be helpful if member Associations would let him know of particular places where coach parking was a problem (e.g. the Crown at Bathwick).
 - c. **Bath Transport Commission:** Patrick had attended a meeting of the on 28 July which had been reasonably encouraging, given that the Council had just announced the cancellation of the Eastern P&R. It had been confirmed that the Bath Transport Strategy remained Council policy, including the reduction of off-street public parking spaces in the centre. Work was also continuing on various traffic management measures. Patrick had stressed the importance of removing the A36-A46 HGV traffic from the city and mentioned a Bathford to Beckington route as a possible alternative. He had been in correspondence with Cllr Mark Shelford on a local freight consolidation system and use of the A46/A420 as an alternative route for traffic between the east of Bath and Bristol.
 - d. **The West of England Combined Authority (WECA)** was getting underway and could provide a vital source of expertise and funding for transport projects in Bath. Unfortunately the first tranche of schemes was entirely focused on Bristol and South Gloucestershire.
- 4 **Planning and Development Control:**
 - a. **The Planning Brief** from Vice-chairman, Nick Tobin, circulated with the agenda, was noted. In Nick's absence abroad, the Chairman commented:
 - i. **Foxhill Estate** is still a very live issue. Although the Council leader declined to support a Call-in of the DMC's approval decision, the Ministry's 'Stop order' remains in place. Amanda Cameron's great piece on page 4 of the latest Chronicle quotes FoBRA. Our full statement can be found on our website.

Robin had attended Curo's 'Strategy Day' on the previous day. CEO, Victor da Cunha, said he wanted to work with all parties (Foxhill RA, Government, Local Authority) to push up the number of social rented homes to be created on the combined sites (Foxhill and Mulberry). They continued to meet the FRA and hoped to be able to adjust their current proposal to increase this figure.

Nola Edwards thanked Nick and Widcombe for their support of Foxhill residents.

- ii. **Party Houses.** In addition to what Nick reported, Robin would be addressing the Bath City Forum the following day and also the Chief Planner at DCLG during NORA's annual talks on 27th Sept. On this matter, he said we are not alone: Brighton, York, Bournemouth and Poole have similar problems.
- iii. **Destination Management Plan,** Robin confirmed Nick had given the B&NES Scrutiny Committee a hard time on 5th September and that we have submitted our initial comments on the current consultation. The Council now recognizes that residents are important stakeholders in this [Later – Council officers have confirmed that FoBRA will be part of the steering group going forward. They will continue to refine the document based on feedback between now and Christmas aiming to finalise it in early New Year].

Robin noted, according to a recent edition of the BBC's 'Costing the Earth' programme, that Amsterdam, is a city which has taken powers to tackle runaway tourism, such as curbing AirBnb's activities, banning new hotels from the city centre, closing what they refer to as 'illegal hotels' – at least 3 per week – and introducing a tax on overnight stays. They recognize there is a need to "nurture" the resident rather than chase the ready cash just to keep the places of historic interest "live".

- b. **Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs):** Robin reported FoBRA has submitted its comments on the HMO SPD review, supporting a reduction of trigger proportion to 10%, and all member associations had been asked to write as well.
- c. **Other matters:**
 - i. **Cleveland Pools:** Charles Draper spoke of BERA's continuing concerns on local aspects of the project – details can be found at <http://www.bathwickestateresidentsassociation.org/current-issues.html>
 - ii. **Pickford's site:** Jan Shepley supported what was said in the Planning Brief and that Widcombe would continue to oppose the re-submitted application.

5 Engagement

- a. **The Chairman's Report,** circulated previously, was approved – Mark O'Sullivan, our lead on the B&NES NHS Clinical Commissioning Group would be representing us at the meeting on 20th October of the NHS Sustainability & Transformation Partnership.
- b. **Council Refuse Collection:** Rachael Hushon reported that from September 25th the new containers for refuse collections will start to be distributed with details of collection days – which may change for many areas across Bath. She emphasised that residents should not start using their new container until November 6th and that, if members have any queries or want to order extra recycling boxes, they may find the www.bathnes.gov.uk website helpful.

FoBRA and the World Heritage Site committee have urged the council to reconsider the issue of wheelie bins for terraced properties which will blight the street frontages

of many Victorian / Edwardian streets where there is no side access and residents will have to keep the bins in their front gardens.

In addition, FoBRA is seeking reassurance that "side waste" overspill put out on railings will be dealt with quickly and effectively so that the Georgian heritage streets with a high proportion of HMOs and flatted properties are not blighted by piles of refuse which will now not be taken by refuse crews on collection days.

Rachael will keep a watch on the impact of the scheme in the weeks following November 6th and ensure that a record is maintained of any problems. This will be fed back to the council team.

- c. **The Summer Garden Party** was held on 26th July at Casa Bianca, Bathwick Hill. Numbers recovered this year, with 55 payees, but many of these applied at the last minute, and after the deadline for ordering food, so we had to take a chance. Profit recovered, too, the ticket price having been raised from £10 to £12.50. There was enough food but limited oven capacity prevented some of its being warmed in time. The dull weather (and threat of rain) reinforced the need always to have a wet-weather option. Student waiters were hard to come by, being vacation, but numbers were met, thanks to Julie Trollope's resourcefulness but absenteeism and late substitution is never the best recipe. Parking arrangements needed to be made more clear and circulated to applicants earlier.

- 6 FoBRA Priorities:** A paper based on previous discussions had been circulated with the Agenda and was broadly agreed unanimously. Discussion brought out a number of helpful suggestions, mainly on aspects of engagement, including appropriate issues and processes for public consultation and encouragement for informed community associations. Most will be incorporated in the final document, to be posted on the website before the end of the month.

- 7 New FoBRA Secretary:** Kirstie Rowlandson, currently Secretary of Upper Oldfield Park Residents Association, formerly a Magistrate and a Trustee of the Victoria Art Gallery, was proposed for appointment from 1st October. This was welcomed with acclamation. Pending further decisions it was noted **she intends to use the email address fobrasecretary@gmail.com**

- 8 a) Bath City Conference Friday afternoon 13 October:** Jeremy Boss proposed, and after discussion it was agreed, we should participate with a stall at this worthwhile event and encourage members to visit – more information at www.bathcityconference.net

b) Vote of thanks: The Treasurer proposed thanks to Barry for his three years service as Secretary – there was a generous response.

9 Functions and Forward Dates:

- a. **Next Committee** is on Tuesday 14 November 2017 at 6.30pm in Widcombe Junior School.
b. **Scheduled Committee dates in 2018** are: Thursday 18 January, Tuesday 20 March and Thursday 17 May (incorporating the AGM).
c. **Our Winter Reception** is planned for **Tuesday 6 February 2018** in the Victoria Art Gallery.

Attendance details and Apologies for absence on next page

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Present:

Robin	Kerr	Lansdown Crescent Association	FoBRA Chairman
Neil	Barnes	Lansdown Crescent Association	FoBRA Treasurer
Barry	Henderson	Riverside Community Voice	FoBRA Secretary
Ben	Palmer	Bath University Students Union	Community Officer
Charles	Draper	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	Chairman
Ken	Ayers	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	Representative
Richard	Brown	Circus Area Residents Association	Traffic/Representative
Nola	Edwards	Foxhill Residents Association	Chair
Margarida	Dolan	Greenway!	Chair
Diana	Lockwood	Hensley & Egerton Rd Residents Association	Representative
Rachael	Hushon	Lansdown Crescent Association	Representative
Alison	Paine	Macaulay Prospect Association	Chairman
Martin	Jenkins	Riverside Community Voice	Chairman
Liz	Hallam	Lower Oldfield Park Residents Association	Secretary
Van	DuBose	St. James's Square Limited	Representative
Paul	Sandford	Upper Oldfield Park Residents Association	Chairman
Patrick	Rotheram	Vineyards Residents' Association	Chairman
Jeremy	Boss	Widcombe Association	Chair
Jan	Shepley	Widcombe Association	Representative
Sion Elis	Williams	Friends of the Earth, Regional Campaigner	Observer
Leslie	Redwood	Bath Tourism Plus, Development & Partners	Observer

Apologies

Nicholas	Tobin	Ainslie's Belvedere & CPRA Chairman	FoBRA V-Chairman
Colin	Clark	Bathwick Hill Residents' Association	Representative
Clyde	Hunter	Bear Flat Association	Representative
Chris	Beezley	Beech Avenue Residents' Association	Chairman
Janet	Anderson	Camden Residents Association	Secretary
Justin	Draeger	Cavendish Road Society	Chairman
Emilio	Pimentel-Reid	Cavendish Road Society	Secretary
Theresa	Franklin	Cavendish Crescent Association	Secretary
Barry	Gilbertson	Circus Area Residents' Association	Chairman
Ron	Plant	Circus Area Residents' Association	V-c / Representative
Morny	Davison	Catharine Place Residents' Association	Secretary
Richard	Colston	Green Park Residents' Association	Chairman
Adam	Reynolds	Cycle Bath	Chairman
Mark	O'Sullivan	Greenway!	Representative
Ceris	Humphreys	Henrietta Park Residents Association	Chairman
Ian	Herve	Henrietta Park Residents' Association	Secretary
Graham	Feltham	Lower Oldfield Park Residents Association	Chairman
Stephen	Huard	Marlborough Lane & Buildings Res Assoc	Chairman
Nigel	Websper	Pulteney Estate Residents' Association	Chairman
Caroline	Kilner	Pulteney Estate Residents' Association	Representative
Stephen	Little	Royal Crescent Society	Treasurer
Nicola	Isherwood	Royal Crescent Society	Representative
John	Rushton	Sydney Buildings Household Association	Representative
Kirstie	Rowlandson	Upper Oldfield Park Residents Association	Secretary