

**MINUTES of the FoBRA Committee on Tuesday 9 May 2017
at 6.30pm in Widcombe Junior School**

Circulated 27 May '17

- 1 **Chairman** Robin Kerr, welcomed members' representatives and observers (details at end), particularly Ron Plant applying to renew membership for Circus Area Residents' Association.
- 2 **Minutes** of the meeting on 23 February 2017, previously circulated, were approved.
- 3 **Admission to membership:**
 - a. **Circus Area Residents' Association:** Ron Plant, Vice-chairman spoke on behalf of Chairman Barry Gilbertson, who had sent an apology, on CARA's wish to rejoin FoBRA.
 - b. **Riverside Community Voice:** Barry Henderson, Membership and Development Secretary of this recently formed Association for those living on Western Riverside, spoke on behalf of Martin Jenkins, Chairman, and Trish Fosbury, Secretary, who had been unable to attend. Both organisations were admitted to membership of FoBRA by unanimous vote.
 - c. It was suggested a map showing Members' areas of interest could be helpful. The Chairman invited any volunteers to produce this to get in touch with him or the Secretary. At present the "Members" tab on the website has an "area" facility, but it takes the reader only to a map showing the "centre of gravity" of each member Association.
- 4 **Reduction of Pollution and Traffic – Patrick Rotheram**
 - a. **Pollution:** The Government's Quality Plan included targeting of diesel engines and introduction of Clean Air Zones by Local Authorities. They had not however listed B&NES as an Authority with an air quality problem and his comments on the consultation would query this.
 - b. **The Bath Alliance for Transport and Public Realm** now includes 18 significant organisations. The election last week of Tim Bowles (Conservative) was noted as the new Metro-Mayor for the W o E Combined Authority with particular responsibilities for transport and traffic.
 - c. **'South Bath Transport Options' (Cable car) Consultation:** Ceris Humphreys for Henrietta Gardens had written on the lack of clarity of the relationship between Curo and the Council. Jeremy Boss had written of Widcombe Association's strongly reasoned opposition, shared by Greenway, Foxhill and others, including a view that it was "a vanity project unrelated to our traffic problems" and another feared an undesirable precedent. Others saw it as a proposed idea to reduce pollution, although not a plan, and almost all agreed there was not nearly enough information yet available to the public for an effective consultation, or for FoBRA to be able to take a final view on it.
 - d. **Pot holes:** Bathwick Estate Residents' Association had further researched their concerns particularly in the break up of tarmac around large metal inspection tank covers and provided photographs of two particularly shocking examples and other information. The Chairman encouraged all members to report (to Council Connect) particularly bad examples, as this should effect an established timetable for rectification.
- 5 **Planning and Development Control:**
 - a. **The Planning Brief** from Vice-chairman, Nick Tobin, circulated with the agenda, was noted – and that Curo had just re-submitted Foxhill proposals in an outline planning application.
 - b. **Housing White Paper** – we had contributed responses to the consultation through NORA.
 - c. **Christmas Market** – proposed expansion: Nick set out the background. Following discussion it was agreed that, while members were fairly relaxed about the proposed spread of the market, FOBRA should oppose the extension of the market by a further week. [Post meeting notice: Bath Tourism Plus have announced that they will not now seek to extend the market until 2020]

- d. **Placemaking Plan:** The Chairman said the Inspector's Report, on what has occupied so much of our time in the past three years, is now said to be "imminent" and with a fair wind might go to the Council's meeting in July for adoption.
- e. **Bath Boules** – Traffic experiment. Nick suggested a way forward which was generally supported.
- f. **Party Houses:** Issues of Short term rentals planning status and safety were raised. Patrick had received a response from the Fire service on inspections.

6 Engagement

The Chairman's Report, previously circulated, was approved and he added:

- a. **The West of England Combined Authority** – Mayoral Election: Tim Bowles' election may be significant in view of his statements in support of the Bath Transport Policy.
- b. **Consultation on Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs):** Comprehensive FoBRA draft comments, based on the discussions held in Committee over the years, had been circulated the previous day. Members were encouraged to respond and / or draft their own submission, before the 15th May deadline.
- c. **Council Refuse Collection policy:** Rachael Hushon reported on the Alfred Street trial.
- d. **Council by-election:** Richard Samuel, Chairman of Camden Association was congratulated on being elected as a Councillor for the Walcot Ward.
- e. **Bath Pattern Book** from B&NES Council is the culmination of extensive research which began with the Public Realm and Movement Strategy for Bath City Centre and is a technical manual to assist the Council in delivering its Transport Strategy – Getting Around Bath. With the Placemaking Plan and Development Management Policies, it sets the standard B&NES will expect of private sector development proposals – details on the Council website. The Chairman had brought the Federation's copy, for inspection.
- f. **Making Changes** - Guidance for owners of listed buildings in Bath: This slim and attractive handbook by Joanna Robinson, Bath Preservation Trust's Conservation Officer, has an overview of making changes to listed buildings and also looks at individual house features such as paintwork, ironwork, roofs, windows, etc. A 'jargon-busting' glossary assists in understanding the planning system. To receive a PDF copy by email, contact Sacha Hunter at conservation@bptrust.org.uk For a hard copy by post, please send her a SAE for £1.50 to No.1 Royal Crescent, Bath, BA1 2LR with a voluntary donation - £5 is suggested.
- g. **Two Student Union representatives** are standing down. Matt Humbertstone and Aled Davies have made notable contributions to University-Resident relations and FoBRA. We thank them for their contributions. They leave with our best wishes for the future.
- h. **FoBRA Priorities:** The Secretary regretted he had not yet circulated a questionnaire / survey, in preparation for a discussion paper, but aims to do so before the next meeting.

7 Functions and Forward Dates:

- a. **The next Committee** meets on **Thursday 20 July** at 6.30pm in Widcombe Junior School.
- b. **Our Summer Garden Party** on **Wednesday 26th July** at 6.30pm is in the lovely gardens of Casa Bianca, Bathwick Hill BA2 6LA by kind invitation of Felix and Lilian Moore. Wine, soft drinks and canapés will be served – see flyer attached. The Treasurer will accept bookings at £12.50 per person now.
- c. **Subsequent scheduled Committee dates** are: Tuesday 19 September, Tuesday 14 November, Thursday 18 January.
- d. **Our Winter Reception** is planned for **Tuesday 6 February** in the Victoria Art Gallery.

8 AGM – the meeting then addressed the AGM agenda – see separate Minutes

Attendance details and Apologies for absence

Present:

Robin	Kerr	Lansdown Crescent Association	FoBRA Chairman
Nicholas	Tobin	Ainslie's Belvedere & CPRA Chairman	FoBRA V-Chairman
Neil	Barnes	Lansdown Crescent Association	FoBRA Treasurer
Barry	Henderson	Riverside Community Voice Representative	FoBRA Secretary
Matt	Humberstone	Bath University Students Union	Community Officer
Charles	Draper	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	Chairman
Ken	Ayers	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	Representative
Ron	Plant	Circus Area Residents' Association	Vice-chairman
Adam	Reynolds	Cycle Bath	Chairman
Nola	Edwards	Foxhill Residents Association	Secretary
Margarida	Dolan	Greenway!	Chairman
Diana	Lockwood	Hensley & Egerton Rd Residents Association	Representative
Stephen	Huard	Marlborough Lane & Buildings Res Assoc	Chairman
Rachael	Hushon	Lansdown Crescent Association	Representative
Graham	Feltham	Lower Oldfield Park Residents Association	Chairman
Elizabeth	Hallam	Lower Oldfield Park Residents Association	Representative
Penelope	Feltham	Lower Oldfield Park Residents Association	Observer
Caroline	Kilner	Pulteney Estate Residents' Association	Representative
Paul	Dowling	Royal Crescent Society	Deputy Chairman
Stephen	Little	Royal Crescent Society	Treasurer
Van	DuBose	St. James's Square Limited	Representative
John	Rushton	Sydney Buildings Householders Association	Representative
Paul	Sandford	Upper Oldfield Park Residents Association	Chairman
Kirstie	Rowlandson	Upper Oldfield Park Residents Association	Secretary
Mike	Rowlandson	Upper Oldfield Park Residents Association	Observer
Patrick	Rotheram	Vineyards Residents' Association	Chairman
Michael	Wrigley	Widcombe Association	Representative

Apologies

Aled	Davies	Bath Spa University Students Union	Vice-Pres Welfare
Lucy	Woodcock	Bath University Students Union	President
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
Morny	Davison	Catharine Place Residents' Association	Secretary
Mark	O'Sullivan	Greenway!	Representative
Ceris	Humphreys	Henrietta Park Residents Association	Chairman
Ian	Herve	Henrietta Park Residents' Association	Secretary
Nigel	Websper	Pulteney Estate Residents' Association	Chairman
Jeremy	Boss	Widcombe Association	Chairman
Jan	Shepley	Widcombe Association	Representative