

- 1 Chairman Robin Kerr** welcomed all to the meeting after tea and coffee had been served. Everyone introduced themselves. The **Secretary** read out apologies. There were 5 Observers. (details at end)
- 2 Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of 18th July 2019 had incorporated amendments requested by PERA and Greenway and included 2 annexes issued before the meeting. Jan Shepley from the floor asked to have her apologies for not attending noted. With this, adoption was proposed by Nick Tobin and seconded by Malcolm Baldwin.
- 3 University of Bath** has asked to be an Affiliate member., This was considered an excellent idea, the agreement was unanimous and Prof Bernie Morley was invited to join the others at the table.
- 4 Chairman's Report:** The report had been circulated on 16th September. The Chairman reported that two people had approached him about the Chairmanship. It would be good to have more as Nick Tobin is also resigning and therefore two posts are available.
NORA: It was good that PERA, Widcombe and Lansdown Crescent have joined and from the floor came the news that Royal Crescent, Bathwick Estate and St James's Square were intending to join.
Short term letting and party houses. There have been 10 items in the media since the last meeting about this subject, several referring to Bath and two very relevant, the best being Libby Purves's article on 2nd September. Nick Tobin and the Chairman had briefed Wera Hobhouse MP on 6th September. There are to be articles in the Mail on Sunday, the Observer and also Points West Politics Show. This is all good news.
The Chairman attended the **Police IAG** on 18th September. The plans for a new Police Station in Manvers Street were signed off on 18th and it should be opened by middle of 2020. 20 constables from the Neighbourhood team will be based there + a front office staff. Hate Crime Awareness week is 12th-19th October. There will be stands about this in Kingsmead Square and outside the railway station. Crime is overall marginally down in B&NES with burglary down by 14% but possession of weapons up by 20%; this probably caused by a stop and search operation at the railway station. High value bike thefts are up and County Lines cuckooing is worrying but 2 arrests of Londoners have been made recently. The Saltford Police Academy is going well and is fully recruited.
Bristol Airport Expansion. The Chairman asked whether the meeting felt strongly about this as, if it goes ahead with the current plan, there could be an average of 11 flights per night over Bath between 11pm and 6 am, a time when flying at Heathrow is much more restricted. It was agreed that FoBRA should object.
EWB's latest Building Maintenance guide. Anyone can have a look at it, very similar to the Bath Preservation Trust's Guide "Making Changes".
Climate Change Advice Seminar: The Chairman had attended half of it and the web site for anyone interested in the charts is <https://www.3sg.org.uk/resources>
Seagulls: There has been great discussion about seagulls, but from the comments on the floor, they appear to be the Marmite of Bath: those who hate them and those who don't. It appears that if you keep waste free from food they go elsewhere, but nothing stops them screeching. Direct action has been suggested but they are on the endangered list: the Hawk does seem to

be moving them, but only to other parts of the City! It was therefore agreed simply to support the Council's present actions, as they seemed to be resulting in some reduction.

5 Rec and New Stadium Proposals: The Chairman had recently attended the Rec Trust's Annual Meeting, and wondered why the Trust, an organization which owns the most prominent and important piece of open land in this World Heritage City, whether a charity or not, is able to operate in such a disrespectful, worrying and outdated way. Their attitude to answering legitimate questions is outrageous and opaque, both in public and in writing, he said, it being difficult to change the Trustees as they are self governing and self appointing. The Chairman believed that some oxygen of publicity was needed and he intended to speak on the subject at the next Council meeting using the allotted 3 minutes allowed. He has already mentioned it to the MP and the Leader of the Council. This was agreed.

Ceris Humphreys then reported on the Scoping Report for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This is a process of pre application on large projects, and sets the framework. The draft EIA Scoping Report was submitted in July. PERA had been shocked by how inadequate the document was. PERA wanted local input but this was resisted by the planning officer. However, PERA believes that some of their comments have been noted, as the Planning Officer has put more comments on the Planning website. Widcombe and FoBRA have also submitted criticisms, FoBRA's being on our website. However, there are still two serious omissions: the possible building of a temporary stadium, and what use the venue will have other than Rugby.

The full application has been put back, (probably to December). The Chairman thanked Ceris and Ian for all their hard work. It was noted that the same man, Gwilym Jones, was a consultant and not an Officer, and has been the case officer for the Rugby planning applications for some years, so perhaps there should be a change. Moreover, the Pera, Widcombe and Fobra objections had been removed from the planning portal, so Nick Tobin will write to the Director of Planning to ask why. 3 or 4 Council Departments have said the Scoping Report is not acceptable in the current form. There was a risk that revenue earned for the Council by the Manvers street car park, would cease if 670 spaces were available at the Rec. This would mean that council tax payers were subsidising the car park at the Rec, but also that the extra car parking was breaching the City's own Transport Policy. Should a Stadium planning application go to appeal, the flaws in the EIA could be damaging, so it was in Bath Rugby's interests to make it as comprehensive as possible. That said, there is no indication of either height or size in it at present!

Mention was made of the claim that legally the citizens of Bath own the open space. The Chairman said that FoBRA would not get involved in any personal legal matters but added that there was currently a crowd funding appeal to help pay for these legal issues.

6 FOBRA Review of Priorities: The revised Priorities are:

- **Traffic and Air Pollution** which was revised in June
- **Planning** which is dated December 2018 and will be tweaked by Nick Tobin
- **Housing** which is dated December 2017 and needs a re-draft
- **Environmental Pollution** with a position paper which had been produced by Diana Lockwood and others, which had been issued with the agenda.

Engagements has been dropped.

Michael Wrigley said that there should be a reference in **Environmental Pollution** to noise from party houses; and Ric Jerrom said that public announcement pollution from the Rec and Victoria Park should also be included. RJ and MW will liaise.

7 Planning: The report had been circulated on 7th September. With reference to Bath City Football it had come to FoBRA's attention that, were the planning for student accommodation

not to be passed, then the football club, which will have accumulated debts of approximately £1 million by the time they fall due for repayment by 2022, might well collapse. There was some discussion as to whether the area of Twerton needed student accommodation and might be better served with affordable housing, but that unfortunately would not make enough profit for the developer. So what do the people of Twerton feel?

With respect to the Hartwell's site, Oakhill (developers) should perhaps talk to the local residents, as there had been many objections. Professor Morley stated that the Universities preferred cluster flats which were more affordable for the student than studio apartments, but that it was up to the developers. The Council thought that Twerton Mill was a good example of cluster flats. One can hope that there will be a change in the law or regulations which will restrict developers from contravening their planning approval by turning student flats into airbnb.

8 Transport: The Transport report had been circulated on 7th September. Patrick Rotheram was away so the Chairman spoke. The Lib Dem clean air plan was nearly the same as the Conservatives' one had been. There is progress, and £10 million will be provided by the government for implementation. It was asked whether open topped buses were exempt from the £100 per day charge, the answer being that they will have to be to Euro 6 standards. The Clean Air Zone is not the total answer to the pollution problem. Low Traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) could help in places like the Circus., though some felt that LTN could just move the problem somewhere else. A lot of talk and not much action? Lastly, Milsom Street will be car free this Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September – another useful experiment. Moreover, there are plans to have 'parklets' in Kingsmead square; these being areas the size of a car park which are left for people to sit in, etc. Council Officers will be available there to discuss them on 23 and 24 Sept.

9 Winter Reception: The Winter reception will take place on 12th February at the Victoria Art Gallery, this will be an excellent opportunity to meet new Lib Dem Council and Cabinet members. All FoBRA members are encouraged to attend.

10 AOB Nola Edwards had received a letter from the former Chair of the Independent Resident Scrutiny Panel for Curo who was worried that the residents, both tenants and leaseholders, were not being listened to by Curo and this should be watched. There is now a process called 'Fast Effective Scrutiny', but this does not seem to be very efficient. The Chair of Rosewell Court RA who was sitting as an observer said that Curo listened but did not do much; and they did not seem to liaise with the Council. It was agreed that the system should be monitored, and the FoBRA Chairman kept informed.

Future dates: Meeting 7th November at Widcombe Junior School

21st January 2020 at Widcombe Junior School

Winter Reception 12th February at the Victoria Art Gallery

There will be a meeting in January, date to be announced.

The Federation of Bath Resident's Associations
 Minutes of a meeting held at 6.30 on 19th September 2019 at Widcombe Junior School

FoBRA Attendees – Meeting 19th September 2019

Barnes	Neil	Sion Hill and Summerhill Road RA	Treasurer/FoBRA Treasurer
Baldwin	Malcolm	CARA	Representative
Edwards	Nola	Foxhill RA	Chairman
Feltham	Graham	LOPRA	Chairman
Gallie	James	Greenway	Representative
Groom	Caroline	Camden RA	Representative
Hallam	Liz	LOPRA	Representative
Herve	Ian	PERA	Representative
Humphreys	Ceris	PERA	Representative
Isherwood	Nicola	RCS	Chairman
Jerrom	Ric	BERA	Representative
Kerr	Robin	LCA	Chairman/FoBRA Chairman
Lobo	Alisha	University of Bath SU	Representative
Lockwood	Diana	Hensley and Egerton	Representative
Maude	Michael	SH&SRRA	Chairman
Prof Morley	Bernie	University of Bath	Representative
Reynolds	Adam	Cycle Bath	Chair
Richardson	Rob	Avondale and Osborne Roads	Chair
Rowlandson	Kirstie	UOPRA	Secretary/FoBRA Secretary
Shepley	Jan	Widcombe Association	Representative
Sinclair	Sylvia	St James's Square	Secretary
Tobin	Nick	ABCPRA	Chairman/FoBRA Vice
Chairman			
Wrigley	Michael	Widcombe Association	Representative
Todd	Rosemary	Sydney Buildings	Representative
Observers			
Osgood	Steve	PERA&SBHA	Observer
Roles	Paul	Rosewell court	Observer
McLagan	Graham	Widcombe	Observer
Rigby	Manda	Lib Dem Councillor	Observer

Apologies

Bellamy	Terry	Macaulay Prospect	Representative
Clark	Colin	Bathwick Hill RA	Representative
Crowsley	Paul	SH&SRRA	Representative
Davison	Morny	Catharine Place	Representative
Draper	Charles	BERA	Chairman
Du Bose	Van	St James's Square	Representative
Greenwood	Caroline	PERA	Observer
Hushon	Rachael	Lansdown Crescent	Representative
Labram	Jeremy	Camden RA	Representative
Little	Stephen	Royal Crescent Society	
Nesbitt-Larking	Jazz	Bath Spa SU	President
O'Sullivan	Mark	Greenway Lane Area Resident Forum	Representative
Roy	Mike	Riverside Community Voice	Representative
Robertson	Megan	Bath Spa SU	Vice President
Rotheram	Patrick	Vineyard RA/FoBRA	Transport Lead
Rushton	John	Sydney Buildings	Representative

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Sandford	Paul	UOPRA	Chairman
Wright	Nola	Bathwick Estate	Observer
Miles	Tony	UOPRA	Representative

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