

1. Vice Chairman Nick Tobin welcomed all to the meeting after tea and coffee had been served, he was standing in for the Chairman who was attending the first item of a Council Meeting and would arrive later. Everyone introduced themselves. The **Secretary** read out apologies. There were 4 Observers. (details at end)

2. Application for membership (Rosewell Court) Rosewell Court had re applied to be members having been such in the past. Rachel Hushon proposed and Patrick Rotheram seconded the application. It was agreed and the Secretary was asked to inform the Association as no members were present.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of 19th September 2019, with one change in paragraph 7 which had been amended on the web site, were adopted, proposed by Jan Shepley and seconded by Morny Davison.

4. Planning Report. The report had been circulated. Although he acknowledged the Rec development would be discussed later, Nick noted that the Scoping Report for the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham had comprised 170 pages with 17 on air quality, whereas the Bath scoping report for the Rec had only 85 pages of which a mere 2 were about air quality! On 22nd October Stadium for Bath had produced an updated report on their website: the car park had been reduced to 550 vehicles; the stadium height by 5.1 metres, although it was not stated from what original height had it had been reduced. At the last meeting Nick had been asked to find out why the comments from PERA, Widcombe Association and FoBRA had been removed from the Council website. The email exchange between him and the planners was in the Planning Report which also advised that any comments or objections on planning applications by RAs should be kept on their web sites for reference. Nick also stated that he had submitted on behalf of FoBRA an objection to the expansion of the Bristol Airport to North Somerset District Council. Widcombe Association has also objected.

5. Green Infrastructure Review. Mark O'Sullivan presented an oral report on open spaces in response to anxieties expressed at the July meeting. He remarked on the increasing recognition of the health benefits of green spaces, and the strong emphasis placed on such spaces in the World Heritage Site inscription. Current concerns were loss of green space to development such as housing, interference with views of green space and skylines, the loss of public space to private interests, and the use of public land for intrusive events such as *Pub In The Park*. Benefits offered by such spaces were incidental responsibilities of a number of Council teams, and there were risks that they suffered from being nobody's priority; there was a plethora of Council plans affecting them, but it was not clear that these were effectively co-ordinated. Further, although the Core Strategy's Policy B4 declared "There is a strong presumption against development that would result in harm to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site, its authenticity or integrity. This presumption applies equally to development within the setting of the World Heritage Site.", it was not evident that this policy was accorded weight in development control decisions. He suggested that the Council had the right basis for handling the management of open spaces but was having difficulty implementing it, and that a policy of engagement with the Council on the matter would be the best approach for FoBRA to adopt at the moment. A copy of his full report is attached to these minutes for members.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman returned from the Council meeting and resumed the Chairmanship

6. Chairman's Report. This had been circulated previously. Commentating on it he said that many members of FoBRA had now joined NORA which was pleasing. An Article in The

Guardian newspaper had pointed out that both Newcastle and Bristol Universities pay for extra policing to try and control rowdy student behaviour.

There is to be the Council's annual budget presentation on 17th November in the Guildhall, the Secretary has sent out full details.

Short Term letting and party houses, Nick has written to senior Council Officers about the way ahead and there is to be a meeting to discuss this. The terrible shooting in a party house in California let by Airbnb has led to Brian Chesky, the joint founder, announcing that the Airbnb ruling on unauthorised Party Houses in their properties would be extended worldwide by next year. This can only be good news.

The reason the Chairman was late was that he wished to comment on the Council's Peer Review of July 2019. He has pushed for development of a vision and plan for Bath and the governance structure. Bath City Forum is in limbo but Involve Bath are trying to decide what should take over.

7. Transport Report: This had been circulated previously. The Transport Group had met to discuss the consultation response and had come out of it with a better understanding of the issues, with a robust response that all were able to sign up to.

Patrick said that one thing that had become clear is the very small margins to which B&NES is working e.g. target of 39.5 at the London Street hot spot. That was reinforced by the Peer Group review.

Quite possibly the scheme will not meet the target of <40 mcg/m³ of NO₂ and it will need to be revisited. This was reflected in the response].

Interesting also that Bristol, which of course has different issues, has opted for a ban on diesel vehicles (other than buses, taxis and emergency services) in its central area between 7am and 3pm. This is much more radical than B&NES even considered.

Our response sets out the FoBRA position on transport generally [paras 14-16 in particular]. The key points had been incorporated in the revised Priorities web page which was attached to the transport report.

Robin wrote to the Council leader on November 1st about the proposed stadium car park, seeking a decision about it, in principle, before any Planning Application. Stadium for Bath's latest proposal has a reduced number of spaces, now 550 but this would still have a major impact on traffic movement in and around the centre. The Transport strategy said there should be a net reduction of 330, so this would mean an increase of 550 spaces compared with the Transport Strategy and a net increase of 220 overall.

Patrick also said that there is need for consistent Definitions of Bath City centre. Definitions are different for the 'historic' core, also 'central area' that includes historic areas. It would be interesting to know the UNESCO definition.

As from January 2020 there will be an 18 tonne limit on the Cleveland bridge and it will be closed for work for at least two months. . Press release:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/streets-and-highway-maintenance/roadworks/major-transport-schemes/cleveland-bridge>

Lastly there is concern that there should be no diversion through the city centre. Ceris Humphreys considered that the closure of the bridge could alter baselines for the CAZ.

The Circus is to have double yellow lines on the inner side of the circle. There is talk of many small Park and Rides to the east as opposed to a large one. The TRO width limit in Lansdown Crescent/Cavendish Road still does not have signage.

8. The Rec and new Stadium Proposals (update). Ceris Humphreys was invited to speak.

She said that Stadium for Bath released a new update which consisted of a statement, FAQs, and three short video clips, but minimal images of the current proposals. PERA had published on its website a commentary on the new disclosures. This was picked up by local press and reported on the Bath Live website. The PERA committee were not contacted for comments, but the article reported a statement in reply from Stadium for Bath.

PERA's commentary highlighted various important respects in which the Stadium for Bath disclosure failed to address major areas of concern, notably the unacceptability of a car park at this location in the heart of the city and in the CAZ, which furthermore indirectly led to major negative impacts on heritage views (through the added height) as well as on congestion and air quality in the local area. In PERA's view, the explanation that is presented to justify a "need" to raise the pitch is implausible; it is also now explicitly acknowledged in the new disclosures that the income stream for the developers (who, it's important to remember, are not Bath Rugby) is a significant factor. PERA had urged in their commentary that a fuller disclosure should be provided with views and elevations showing true impact on heritage views.

The Stadium for Bath response as reported by Bath Live surprisingly sought to attack PERA without providing any justification for assertions of inaccuracy.

A new website has been set up by PERA at www.bathrecforall.com with information about the Rec and the potential impacts of the proposals. There are related accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Nick asked whether there was proper dialogue with Stadium for Bath. Apparently a PERA committee member has now been approached, but the locals have not been spoken to and there should be more dialogue.

9. Priorities: Revised Position Papers. Thanks were given to Diana Lockwood for her input. 2 Position papers were now on the web site – Transport will go on now and housing is to be finished. Mark O'Sullivan asked that other pollutions not just traffic should be on the pollution paper. Patrick said there was a reference to other sources of air pollution, but the subject needed a FoBRA Champion.

The Chairman said that there were now companies who were expert in double glazing for listed buildings; he himself was intending to have 4 windows done. He had discovered the firm at the Listed Property Owners show. There was no guarantee that listed permission would be given but Historic England seemed inclined to be more sympathetic.

10. Rachael Hushon reported that FoBRA held a walking tour of historic Bath streets on 4th Nov 2019 with Councillor Dave Wood, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Neighbourhood Services. The object was to observe the current refuse and recycling arrangements in practice. They were able to demonstrate:

- a. the necessity for continuing to collect non-recyclable waste on a weekly basis.
- b. how many flats there are in the majority of street fronting properties and how many residents find it hard to contain waste within small flats without managed storage facilities. The Paragon, Rivers Street, New King Street, Lansdown Road, were all discussed.

They also emphasised to him how inappropriate and unsightly larger wheelie bins or on-street storage bins would be on heritage streets in a WHS city. Also the ownership nature of courtyard/basement flats means that use of these would not be possible.

They noted that the central areas are provided with smaller reusable sacks (half size) so, far from being an unfair policy favouring the centre, it is a reflection of a "one size does not fit all" policy which is entirely appropriate and an intelligent way to approach refuse across BANES, which has different property types.

They emphasised that FoBRA wants to support the Council in its efforts to improve recycling rates but does not accept that a move from weekly collections is right for the heritage core of the city . These areas face significant challenges to keep clean and rubbish free and need increased rather than reduced collections. FoBRA would be keen to work with the Council to drive recycling rates with our member resident associations.

11. 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. The Secretary has sent out a proforma for the reception and all Associations are encouraged to send this to their members. All members of FoBRA members are encouraged to attend. It should be noted that applications should be emailed to Kirstie Rowlandson and where possible the cost of the evening should be sent by bank transfer with an email stating that this has been done sent to Kirstie at fobrasecretary@gmail.com.

11. AOB. Ian Herve mentioned the Water Space project being undertaken by the River Trust and the Environment Agency. This is an audit of safety features on the river, number of grab lines, ladders etc.

Future dates: Meeting

21st January 2020 at Widcombe Junior School

Winter Reception 12th February at the Victoria Art Gallery

Kirstie Rowlandson

20th November 2019

FoBRA Attendees – Meeting 19th September 2019

Barnes	Neil	Sion Hill and Summerhill Road RA	Treasurer/FoBRA Treasurer
Baldwin	Malcolm	CARA	Representative
Barron	Alasdair	BERA	Representative
Bellamy	Terry	Macaulay Prospect	Representative
Benyon	Frank	Camden	Representative
Clark	Colin	Bathwick Hill	Representative
Davison	Morny	Catharine Place	Representative
Draeger	Justin	Cavendish Road	Chair
Du Bose	Van	St James's Square	Representative
Franklin	Theresa	Cavendish Crescent	Representative
Herve	Ian	PERA	Representative
Humphreys	Ceris	PERA	Representative
Hushon	Rachael	Lansdown Crescent	Representative
Isherwood	Nicola	RCS	Chairman
Kerr	Robin	LCA	Chairman/FoBRA Chairman
Lockwood	Diana	Hensley and Egerton	Representative
Ludlam	Patricia	Sion Hill and Summerhill Road	Representative
Miles	Tony	UOPRA	Representative
O'Sullivan	Mark	Greenway Lane Area Resident Forum	Representative
Pollard	Nigel	Camden	Representative
Richardson	Rob	Avondale and Osborne Roads	Chair
Rotheram	Patrick	Vineyard RA/FoBRA	Transport Lead
Rowlandson	Kirstie	UOPRA	Secretary/FoBRA Secretary
Roy	Mike	Riverside Community Voice	Representative
Rushton	John	Sydney Buildings HA	Representative
Sandford	Paul	UOPRA	Chairman
Shepley	Jan	Widcombe Association	Representative
Sinclair	Sylvia	St James's Square	Secretary
Tobin	Nick	ABCPRA Chairman	FoBRA Vice Chairman
Wrigley	Michael	Widcombe Association	Representative
Wright	Nola	Bathwick Estate	Observer

Observers

Flinn	John	CE, Recreation Trust Ltd	Observer
Greenwood	Caroline	PERA Committee member	Observer
Rigby	Manda	Lib Dem Councillor/Bathwick	Observer
Willey	Brenda	PERA	Observer

Apologies

Boss	Jeremy	Widcombe Association	Chairman
Draper	Charles	BERA	Chairman
Edwards	Nola	Foxhill RA	Chairman
Feltham	Graham	LOPRA	Chairman
Francis	Nick	Bear Flat Association	Chairman

The Federation of Bath Resident's Associations
Minutes of a meeting held at 6.30 on 7th November 2019 at Widcombe Junior School

Hallam	Liz	LOPRA	Representative
Labram	Jeremy	Camden RA	Representative
Lobo	Alisha	University of Bath SU	Vice-President
Prof Morley	Bernie	University of Bath	Representative
Maude	Michael	SH&SRRA	Chairman
Nesbitt-Larking	Jazz	Bath Spa SU	President
Robertson	Megan	Bath Spa SU	Vice President