

DRAFT MINUTES of a Meeting of the FoBRA Committee on Thursday 4th February 2016 at 6.30pm in Widcombe Junior School

Draft circulated on 9/2/16 and deemed accepted on 17/2/16 after one omitted attendee corrected

1 **Welcome** by Robin Kerr, Chairman for our 2 guest speakers with 22 representatives and 9 observers (about 10 people left after the debate - Item 2) - details on back page.

2 **Whether Bath & North East Somerset Council should have a Directly Elected Mayor:** The referendum is on Thursday 10 March 2016 from 7am to 10pm. The question to be asked is: **How would you like Bath & North East Somerset Council to be run?**

By a leader who is an elected councillor chosen by a vote of the other elected councillors. (*how the council is run now*):

OR By a mayor who is elected by voters. (*A change from how the council is run now*).

Councillor Paul Crossley with 28 years of local government experience in Bath, 9 of them as Leader of the B&NES Council spoke for the first proposition. **Mr Stephen Taylor**, the secretary of *Mayor for Banes* and a former chief executive of the Leadership Centre for Local Government, spoke for the second proposition. Each spoke for 10 minutes and answered questions and comments put by half a dozen members. The Chairman warmly thanked both speakers for giving their time to help our understanding of the matter

3 **Minutes** of the meeting on 12th November which were circulated on 25/11/15 and deemed accepted on 3/12/15, were approved. The Secretary reported that a fuller note than his at item 5c was available from him or the Foxhill Residents Association.

4 **Reduction of pollution and traffic:**

a) **Bath Transport and the Public Realm** had been circulated with the Agenda as a draft FoBRA proposal on the work to be done to implement the Bath Transport Strategy. Patrick Rotheram said it proposed a vision for the City centre, aiming to build a coalition of interest groups. He hoped members would not get hung up on details at this stage but allow it to go forward for discussion / negotiation with other organisations.

A broad discussion covered concern about traffic approaching Bath as well as in the City; the Cabinet Member for Transport's apparently 'underwhelming view' that car emissions are becoming cleaner and there is no need to bother; a call for leadership recognising some proposals are long term while others may be undertaken quickly; some resistance to be expected to the idea of a car-free city centre; a need for more proactive regulation of buses; to link with WHS and use BCF. In response to a question, the Chairman did not seek to establish a firm policy with a vote but rather had gained 'a sense of the meeting' that the paper may be taken forward for further discussion among members and with other organisations to see if a coalition might be achievable – and to report back.

b) **LEZ prospects:** Richard Samuel for Camden feared the Council had no ambition: Cllr Clarke seemed to oppose establishment of a LEZ, preferring to wait for bus emissions to be reduced – although this still left the problem of HGVs. Some thought Cllr Clarke was 'in denial' on pollution. Nigel Websper for PERA recently met Mr Freeman of First Group who hoped to have a fleet of Euro 6 buses in Bath by April which are claimed to have eight times lower emissions. The Chairman drew attention to a **Council invitation to a Public Scrutiny Day on Tuesday 22 March** to examine a range of integrated transport solutions between 10.30am and 4.30pm and **hoped that members might be represented.**

5 **Planning and Development Control:**

a) **The Planning Report**, circulated with the Agenda, was noted – and amplified by Nick:-

- i. **On the West of England (WoE) Joint Spatial Planning (JSP) Consultation:** FoBRA had submitted that a combination of scenarios 4 and 3 would best meet our needs but, after this was sent, Greenway! reported some differences which were agreeably resolved by them submitting these direct.
- ii. **DCLG Consultation** on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Widcombe Association added some of their own concerns to those we had submitted to the National Organisation of Residents' Associations (NORA).
- iii. **Mulberry Park** – Northern Boundary: Jan Shepley reported Widcombe was still uneasy about lack of detail on proposed planting on the important northern skyline.
- iv. **The Recreation Ground:** Since the report's circulation, Ceris Humphreys had spotted that the Bath Rugby application appeared to cover not only a temporary but also a permanent Stand replacement. Nick is seeking clarification of any potential confusion.

- v. **Planning Applications:** Patrick Rotheram expressed concern at the scale of provision for new car parking embedded in half a dozen planning applications. Nick accepted this, noting the substantial cumulative effect.
- b) **Placemaking Plan (PMP):** The Chairman could scarcely conceal his glee that FoBRA's final comments had been duly submitted on time following an immense amount of hard work over nearly two years and widespread support from members. Chris Beezley had highlighted many of the serious flaws and deficiencies in student housing data and consequential policy failures making the Council's draft Plan "unsound" in not conforming with NPPF guidelines, while Ceris Humphreys, Ian Herve and Patrick Rotheram had provided substantial help in other areas. He will be happy to provide interested members with details of the seven comprehensive representations submitted by FoBRA on this topic and urging an up-to-date workable Student Housing Strategy. Nick Tobin gave some revealing figures of student numbers housed in various University towns. The comments on the Placemaking Plan would now go to the Govt Inspector, for Examination in Public later in the year.
- c) **Christmas Market:** Bath Tourism Plus had cancelled a meeting called for 4th February to discuss, among other things, a proposal to extend the market from 18 to 25 days.

6 Engagement

- a) **The Chairman's Report** previously circulated was adopted without dissent. He added news on his first meeting of the Bath City Forum, and on B&NES' intention to raise Council Tax by 3.25% next year.
- b) **Refuse & Recycling matters:** Camden sought this item on the agenda in disapproval of the Council's 'hands off' attitude during the industrial dispute at a contracted provider, believing the Council were wholly responsible for managing all aspects of the contract and deploring the lack of timely information. The Chairman and Vice-chairman undertook to bring these matters up when they meet the Leader of the Council shortly.
- c) **Winter Reception on 12th January:** The Chairman reported on another very successful event but on this occasion sadly making a financial loss. He pointed out we are entirely in the hands of members' preparedness to support such events by buying tickets, the number of "hosts" having been markedly reduced this year. In this context he had received an offer to hold a **Summer Garden Party at Lyncombe Court on Tuesday 28 June** by kind permission of Chris & Denise Rogers. This was warmly welcomed.

- 7 a) **The next meeting will be on Thursday 7 April** in Widcombe Junior School at 6.30pm:
Suggested Agenda items might include: The Chairman's Report; The Planning Report; Placemaking Plan progress; Transport vision and strategy implementation; Mayoral referendum consequences; new constitution; suggestions for the following agenda; and paving the way for the AGM.
- b) **AGM timetable:** The Secretary drew attention to the current rules for notices and nominations. Strictly, the latter would have to be submitted to him two days before the scheduled Committee meeting. He therefore proposed a derogation from Rule 7a to allow members two extra days so that nominations can be made up to the meeting on 17 May and this was agreed.
- c) **A draft new Constitution** had been circulated in the previous week with explanatory notes. The Secretary said it aimed to be shorter and easier to look up queries as well as sort a few snags which had come to light last year. He undertook to circulate a fresh draft in light of the discussion with a fuller note on the few changes of substance. Meanwhile he would welcome any further points which might occur to members; if any decisions were needed these could be made at the next meeting to allow an agreed version for the AGM.

- 8 **Forward Dates:**

Committee	- Thursday 7 April
Committee (incorporating AGM)	- Tuesday 17 May
Summer Garden Party	- Tuesday 28 June
Committee (provisionally)	- Wednesday 13 July

Barry Henderson, Secretary Draft circulated 9/2/16 deemed accepted on 17/2/16 with correction of one omitted attendee

Attendance details on following page

Present:

Robin	Kerr	Lansdown Crescent Association	FoBRA Chairman
Nicholas	Tobin	Ainslie's Belvedere & Caroline Place R A	FoBRA V-Chair
Neil	Barnes	LCA	FoBRA Treasurer
Barry	Henderson		FoBRA Secretary
Catherine	McCarthy	Batheaston Forward	Secretary
Julie	Trollope	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	Representative
Nola	Wright	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	Representative
Colin	Clark	Bathwick Hill Residents' Association	Representative
Chris	Beezley	Beech Avenue Residents' Association	Representative
Morny	Davison	Catharine Place Residents' Association	Secretary
Janet	Anderson	Camden Residents Association	Secretary
Richard	Samuel	Camden Residents Association	Chairman
Roger	Nunn	Greenway!	Chairman
Ian	Herve	Henrietta Park Residents Association	Secretary
Diana	Lockwood	Hensley & Egerton Road Association	Representative
Rachael	Hushon	Lansdown Crescent Association	Representative
Nigel	Websper	Pulteney Estate Residents' Association	Chairman
Van	Dubose	St James's Square Bath Limited	Representative
John	Rushton	Sydney Buildings Householders Assoc	Representative
Patrick	Rotheram	Vineyards Residents' Association	Chairman
Liz	Littlewood	Widcombe Association	Secretary
Jan	Shepley	Widcombe Association	Representative

In attendance:

Cllr Paul	Crossley	Guest	Speaker
Stephen	Taylor	Guest	Speaker
Simon	Johnston	Bathwick Hill	Observer
Julie	Platt	Camden Residents Association	Observer
Philip	Raby	Southstoke	Observer
Theresa	Lloyd	Catharine Place	Observer
Timothy	Lloyd		Observer
Henry	Brown		Observer
Gerald	Chown		Observer
Will	Wilson		Observer
Joe	Cussens	Marlborough Lane & Buildings	Observer
Michael	Maude	Sion Hill	Observer

Apologies

David	Greenwood	Bath Independent Guest Houses Assoc	Representative
Pat	Lunt	Bath Bus Users' Group	Chairman
Matt	Humberstone	Bath University Students Union	Community Officer
Aled	Davies	Bath Spa University Students Union	Vice-Pres Welfare
Charles	Draper	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	Chairman
Clyde	Hunter	Bear Flat Association	Chairman
Adam	Reynolds	Cycle Bath	Chairman
Mike	Arkell	Foxhill Residents Association	Representative
Nola	Edwards	Foxhill Residents Association	Secretary
Mark	O'Sullivan	Greenway!	Representative
Ceris	Humphreys	Henrietta Park Residents Association	Chairman
Caroline	Kilner	Pulteney Estate Residents' Association	Representative
Paul	Dowling	Royal Crescent Society	Deputy Chairman