

- 1 **Chairman Robin Kerr** welcomed all to the meeting after tea and coffee had been served. The **Secretary** read out apologies. (Details at end). Everyone introduced themselves. The Chairman was pleased that there was a quorum for the AGM which would follow the meeting. Representatives of 16 or more Association were needed to be present, and they were.
- 2 **Minutes** of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 already circulated had one change asked for by Michael Wrigley. Under transport he would prefer "*the purpose of the CAZ should be to improve air quality across the whole of Bath and not just in and around the city centre*". With the acknowledgement of this change the minutes were proposed by Jan Shepley and seconded by Tony Miles and approved.
- 3 **The Chairman** reported that the Lib Dems had now 36 seats with a majority of 13. They are forming the new administration, and their Leader continues to be Dine Romero, who was confirmed at a Hustings on 7<sup>th</sup> May. It is assumed she will be elected as Council Leader at the first Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May. The other parties are: Con – 11, Independent – 6, Labour – 4, Labour & Co-op – 1, Lib Dem Focus Team – 1. The Conservatives now hold no seats in the city. FoBRA will, of course, make contact with the new Leader and her Cabinet as soon as they are ready for business. Luckily, most of them are known quite well: for example, Dine Romero and Rob Appleyard are colleagues of the Chairman from the Bath City Forum; Richard Samuel was, until recently, a representative at FoBRA Committees; Paul Crossley is a past Leader and Manda Rigby came here to address this Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> March.
- 4 **Chairman's Report:** The report had been circulated on 27<sup>th</sup> April and the Chairman had a few more items to add.
  1. NORA AGM. The Chairman had attended the AGM and there had been a speaker from 'Planning Aid' a charitable off shoot of the Royal Town Planning Institute which offers a 'pro bono' advice service and volunteer consultancy. Details of these services will be circulated when he has them. NORA is getting recognition from senior Ministry Officials and is now being called in for consultation on legislation, short term lettings for example. This is good, but to ensure credibility NORA needs more members there are currently 77 one of which is FoBRA. Would any RA feel like joining, the initial cost is £25 but reduces to £10 per year for Associations with fewer than 100 members. The more members NORA has, the more influence.
  2. Climate and Environment Hustings on 24<sup>th</sup> April. The Chairman had attended part of this He heard the end of the Labour statement the Greens and the Conservatives and all the Q&A. If anyone would like details they are available.
  3. Hope House crane has not yet been removed!
  4. Claire Jackson of Bathwick Hill had asked the Chairman to mention the Bath in Bloom competition. There are categories for community groups, private and business gardens as well as allotments and kitchen gardens. The closing date for entry is 31<sup>st</sup> May and it's free!
  5. Bath BID are looking at the feasibility of a *Son et Lumiere*-style light festival, to take place in January/February next year. These have been held in other cities and have been successful in attracting visitors during a low part of the tourism year, as well as being rather beautiful. Nick and Robin were asked to meet the person pioneering this, when they gave him advice about practicality, and the right organizations to consult.

6. The Chairman has been invited to a student housing meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May by Kalyn Mallard, head of the Student Community Partnership. This is, to his knowledge, the first time all the relevant parties have met to discuss these problems, some of them virtually intractable, as we all know, so he congratulated her.

7. Charles Draper is Chairman of the William Herschel Society, and drew our attention to the second annual Starlit Skies Conference at BRLSI, on 6th June. Details from him, or penny.williamson@starlitskies.org.uk by 15th May.

8. Finally the Chairman assumed that everyone had heard or read about the conclusions of the Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change, with its helpful suggestions of what we can do about it, such as eating less meat and planting a forest! He therefore wondered what help FoBRA and its members could add, and wanted to suggest a campaign to change the planning regulations to permit double glazing in listed properties. Of course, it should not compromise the beauty of our Georgian heritage, but experiments have shown that slim-profile double glazed panes cannot be detected visually and they certainly improve the energy efficiency of a house, as the Bath Preservation Trust's (BPT) excellent pamphlet 'Warmer Bath' states. There are, obviously, questions about retention of historic material, but these can be addressed, while the wider issue is considered in the context of this Council declared Climate Emergency. He commented that his own house, for example, had all its windows blown out by a bomb in 1942, so there was no historic glass left! Already, there are signs of readiness for this by the Conservation authorities, such as in South Parade. There was a general consensus to this view, and it was commented that already Hope House had some double glazing although a listed building and that there were other examples. There was general agreement that the Chairman should raise this with the BPT.

**5 FoBRA Biennial Priorities:** The Chairman said that it was time to review FoBRA's priorities, they should be reviewed every two years and the Position Papers should be refreshed more often. At the moment there are 4 on the website. Traffic and Air Pollution; Planning and Development Management; Engagement; and Housing. Having already raised this at the March meeting, he then asked for comments. On Traffic and Air Pollution, Rachel Hushon felt that FoBRA should not follow a policy which implied displacement of problems from one Association's area onto another Association's area. Patrick Rotheram said that this was not FoBRA's policy, as our responses to the JLTP4 consultation and the Clean Air Plan had made clear. He would be happy to consider the wording of the Priorities statement on the website. Diana Lockwood said that the FoBRA response to the CAZ had caused displacement from one area to another; Patrick Rotheram said that the FoBRA response had included all requests sent to him by Members for extending the area of the CAZ. The Chairman suggested that we waited to see how the new administration was going to handle the CAZ; after all, it might opt instead for a Class D, which would change everything.

Ian Herve mentioned the pollution of the river; Charles Draper had already mentioned light pollution. It was suggested that all Pollution might be put together under a separate heading, but Patrick Rotheram said Air Pollution could not be separated from Traffic. The Chairman concluded that this would all be considered by the Executive and a recommendation made in July..

Engagement – Mark O'Sullivan said he would like to hear the Chairman's thoughts on this and he was referred to the current Position Paper.

Governance – since the loss of Bath City Council after BANES was formed Bath suffers from not having legal representation. Graham Felton noted that the Lib Dem representative who had spoken to FoBRA in March (Manda Rigby)said that they intended to re-introduce a Parish system within Bath in place of the Bath City Forum. Maybe Governance should be another priority..

**6 Rec and New Stadium Proposals.** Nigel Websper reported that there appeared to have been some slight alterations to the proposed stadium design compared to that which had been used and quoted from at the last FoBRA meeting, with an amendment to the high point of approximately 90 cm compared to what we used. The high point is now 19.86m and the north-stand gable ends are at 17.86m, the height of the parapet on Johnstone Street. The high point of the stands would still be almost double the present height on the West and about 2.25 times the height on the East, albeit they taper off to the sides. The footprint was still the same size encroaching an additional 48 meters into the Rec. It had also been reaffirmed that it was intended to build a temporary stand on the remaining part of the Rec, which Bath Rugby say will only be for one season. Adding in time for build construction, removal, and delays, it could well put the remainder of the Rec out of action for 24 months, with the consequent nuisance impact on the immediate locality. PERA is keeping a very close eye on everything. There are still plans for a 700 vehicle car park, with consequent impact on pollution and congestion. When complete, Bath Rugby expects the incremental visitor expenditure to be £8.4m from rugby events and £1.7m on non match days. We do not know how much of this is car park revenue, whose gross ticket revenue could well be circa £5m pa. PERA also wondered what the pitch is intended to be used for on non match days? There had been an election husting in the Bathwick ward, where most of the candidates had been opposed to the car park. The Conservatives had been lambasted for not expressing concern on the car park. The Lib Dems who have now been elected had been against the car park and on the size and impact of the whole project on the local environment and impact on our World Heritage status. The ultimate ownership of the proposed stadium owner (Arena 1865 Ltd) is a Bahamas based company. There are concerns that the lease could change hands at any time, so any agreement made with Bath Rugby could be meaningless as the ultimate owner would have the final say. There appears to be 59 years left on a 75 year lease which the Club may have the right to extend. With reference to flooding and the artificial pitch, Ian Herve said that he has been in contact with the Environment Agency (EA) who confirmed that they have not insisted on the pitch being raised. Their only requirement is that flood risk is not increased elsewhere because of the development. If it is to be raised by Bath Rugby's choice then it has to be raised above the 1:100 year return flood risk level (plus 20% allowance for climate change) which brings them to the 4.0m (approx.) level rise (or alternative mitigation measures could be taken). At the moment the EA have no policy on artificial pitches but are aware of problems. Ian Herve is in conversation with the EA and has forwarded more details of scientific studies into artificial pitches. These studies indicate that toxic compounds and heavy metals, notably zinc, leach into the groundwater and local water courses. Another consideration is the erosion of plastic grass and the addition of micro plastic particles to the air and water. This will be added to another source of micro plastics which is car tyre erosion. 700 cars in a short- term car park will produce, say, 4000 car movements each day. This will be in addition to the pitch product. World Rugby believes artificial pitches have a major role to play in developing the game in regions where natural turf is not a viable alternative. Clearly there is a viable alternative here. Considerable income will be generated from a car park below the pitch. PERA have an opinion from an eminent professor of engineering that disturbance of groundwater levels and flows by excavation at the Rec. could affect the stability of Great Pulteney Street. He is of the opinion that 700 cars will have to be accommodated on at least 3 floors.

**7 Planning Report:** The planning report had been circulated. Nick Tobin wished to add a couple of things.

1. Mulberry Park stage two:- the height of the towers in the middle had been reduced by 1 storey, with less substantial harm to the World Heritage site. The plans had now been approved.

2. Hartwells garage. On 26<sup>th</sup> April plans had been submitted. In the statement of engagement most people had objected but the statement presented said the opposite. Does Bath really need more student accommodation? Ben Hoyle from Avondale and Osborne Road RA offered to help in any way.

Jeremy Labram said that, having spoken to the Vice Chancellors and others at the Winter reception, the feeling seemed to be that Bath had reached peak numbers with students. It was considered that it would not be easy to convert student accommodation to other accommodation as they had central living areas.

Mark O'Sullivan asked whether the woodland barriers at Mulberry Park were to be made thicker. The decision had not been made although representation had been made by FoBRA Greenway Lane, Widcombe and others.

There was discussion about the party house enforcement order in Greenway Lane, which had been appealed. Jan Shepley found it difficult to obtain any information having been sent round in circles by the BANES Case Officer. It will be unfortunate if the enforcement is refused at Appeal as this is the sole test case and the Council will be loath to issue another enforcement order if they have lost once. Greenway Association do not have a view as their members are divided. It is difficult to determine whether the owner lives in the property. The anonymous complaints form on the FoBRA website is hardly being used. Sadly people do not want to be seen to have an issue with a house in their area as it could reduce their chances of selling or reduce the value of their houses, and if there is a dispute it has to be mentioned at the time of selling. Kirstie Rowlandson mentioned that since 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 the 'rent a room' tax allowance of £7,500 has been tightened. In future the allowance can only be claimed if the tenant(s) are sharing a house with the owner. If the owner has left it empty (party houses) (Airbnb) then there will be no £7,500 allowance, even if the property is the home of the landlord. Rachel Hushon thought that the proposed white paper, which will make asking a tenant to leave by serving a section 21 Notice may well encourage more people to let through Airbnb instead as they will not lose control of their property.

**8 Transport Report:** The report having been circulated, Patrick Rotheram added that the Lib Dems may well change the CAZ, since they had been keener on Class D – Wera Hobhouse MP had certainly said she supported D not C. Until they started formulating plans it was impossible to know what they would do. They had talked of many small Park and Rides to the east and were very much against the large one in the Bathampton water meadow. They had talked about stopping rat runs and moving people around in Public Transport. We would have to wait to see what happens. Patrick thought they should revisit and revise the Bath Transport Strategy. The Alliance Husting on Transport had been good and Van du Bose's manifesto for the Alliance had been the best – the Alliance should become more public.

Mark O'Sullivan asked whether he thought the impact of the election would have any effect on the City's relationship with WECA. The Lib Dems had suggested that they would withdraw BANES from WECA – we would just have to wait and see.

Coaches had been banned from The Circus as an experiment although the open-top tourist buses still could go round. The Coach strategy was dreadful, recommending what the coach operators wanted. Centre for London has come up with a Green light strategy where cars would be charged, not just for the day, but for the amount of use made by them on the roads in a day. If this were to work in London it may well be introduced in Bath. WECA had asked for a presentation on it. There was certainly a need for a park and ride on the East of Bath.

Jeremy Labram said that he would investigate to see whether the CAZ will be implemented this month.

The Federation of Bath Resident's Associations  
Minutes of a meeting held at 6.30 May 9th 2019 at Widcombe Junior School

Liz Hallam stated that initially First Bus used Euro 6 compliant buses on the U1 route, but now have reverted to using much older buses.

**9 Summer Party:** The Summer Party will be in the double gardens of Catharine Place, thanks to Morny Davison and the Catharine Place Association, with the use of her house for the kitchen and loos and for wet weather. Neil asked that people pay him either this evening or by bank transfer and an email informing him. He asked that they put their Association for the name badge. If they send a cheque there is no need for a stamped addressed envelope.

**10 There was no AOB**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July** at Widcombe Junior School (please note change of date from 8<sup>th</sup> July)  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September** at Widcombe Junior School

**Attendees – Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

Barnes	Neil	Sion Hill and Summerhill Road RA	Treasurer/FoBRA Treasurer
Bellamy	Terry	Macaulay Prospect	Representative
Benyon	Frank	Camden	Representative
Clark	Colin	Bathwick Hill RA	Representative
Crowsley	Paul	Sion Hill and Summerhill Rd RA	Representative
Davison	Morny	Catharine Place	Representative
Draeger	Justin	Cavendish Road	Chairman
Draper	Charles	BERA	Chairman
Du Bose	Van	St James's Square	
Edwards	Nola	Foxhill RA	Chairman
Feltham	Graham	LOPRA	Chairman
Franklin	Theresa	Cavendish Crescent RA	Representative
Hallam	Liz	LOPRA	Representative
Herve	Ian	PERA	Representative
Hoyle	Ben	Avondale and Osborne Road	Representative
Huard	Stephen	Marlborough Lane and Buildings RA	Chairman
Hushon	Rachael	Lansdown Crescent	
Isherwood	Nicola	RCS	Chairman
Kerr	Robin	LCA	Chairman/FoBRA Chairman
Labram	Jeremy	Camden RA	Chairman
Lobo	Alisha	University of Bath SU	Representative
Lockwood	Diana	Hensley and Egerton	Representative
Miles	Tony	UOPRA	Representative
O'Sullivan	Mark	Greenway Lane Area Resident Forum	Representative
Richardson	Rob	Avondale and Osborne	Chairman
Rotheram	Patrick	Vineyard RA/FoBRA	Transport Lead
Rowlandson	Kirstie	UOPRA	Secretary/FoBRA Secretary
Rushton	John	Sydney Buildings	Representative
Sandford	Paul	UOPRA	Chairman
Shepley	Jan	Widcombe Association	Representative
Tobin	Nick	ABCPRA	Chairman/FoBRA Vice Chairman
Websper	Nigel	PERA	Chairman
Wrigley	Michael	Widcombe Association	Representative
Wright	Nola	Bathwick Estate	Representative

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**Observers and Speakers**

Willey	Brenda	PERA	
Pollard	Nigel	Camden RA	Treasurer/Observer
Brown	Jill	Bathwick Hill	Observer
Brown	Graham	Bathwick Hill	Observer
Barron	Alasdair	Bathwick	Observer

**Apologies**

Baldwin	Malcolm	CARA	Representative
Boss	Jeremy	Widcombe Association	Chairman
Lacy	William		
Little	Stephen	RCS	
Maude	Michael	Sion Hill and Summerhill RA	Chairman
Pimentel-Reid	Emilio	Cavendish Road Society	Secretary
Roy	Mike	Riverside Community Voice	Representative

Kirstie Rowlandson

31st May 2019