

- 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.
- 2 **Councillor Robin Moss** spoke to the meeting, representing the Labour Party. He said that he represented a Ward in NE Somerset and that he did not feel that Bath and NE Somerset were always reconciled. The Labour Party were looking at introducing the Parish level of council within the City. He said that the Government had given no resources to implement the CAZ and he felt it had been kicked into the long grass. He felt that to please the people outside Bath a scrappage scheme should be introduced so that people could still drive to work! He also stated that Bath should have a pedestrianisation scheme and a tourist tax. Tourists should be encouraged to stay longer and visit the areas around Bath.  
He then asked for questions. What answers did he have for CAZ? He pushed the scrappage scheme. When asked about the transport, he said that better public transport could be helped by franchising buses. He felt that the Universities were greedy and that some how council tax or equivalent should be levied on student houses, either by the students paying council tax or the owners of the properties paying business rates. The universities should see that they are part of BANES. He was asked whether the money spent on scrappage would not be better spent on park and ride, but he did not seem to think so. He was asked about the 'long grass' statement: surely, it was pointed out to him, it was a legal requirement to introduce some scheme. It was pointed out to him that there is believed to be a government funded swappage scheme already. He appeared not to be aware of this. He stated that the majority of the money BANES has goes on social care, but more money should be spent on preventing the need for care, especially with the elderly. He was asked whether if, after the local elections, there was a hung council, which party would he be prepared to work with but he was not inclined to answer this. Again it was pointed out
  - (a) York has good clean air and that they have 7 park and rides; surely that would be a good answer in Bath, he did not appear to agree.
  - (b) It is the traffic which is causing the pollution in Bath. He was asked whether he thought introducing parking charges on Sunday was a good idea, he answered "perhaps".
- 3 **Minutes** of the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018, already circulated, (**Nick Tobin** proposed and **Colin Clark** seconded) were approved.
- 4 **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman had circulated his report. He said that he had written to Mr Gale about the access difficulties of the Main Post Office moving to WH Smith, but had had no reply. There would be a second Conference of the Alliance of Transport and the Public Realm on 4<sup>th</sup> April. Sir Peter Hendy would be Chairman. This will allow all political parties to state their ideas on how to address transport. The Alliance would like all its members including FoBRA to give £50 towards the cost. This was agreed. The WECA Mayor Tim Bowles will attend. As he did not attend the first Conference, it is hoped he will be able to say what he can do for Bath.
- 5 **Rec and New Stadium Proposals.** The actual planning application is imminent. Peter Knight of PERA had written a position paper, and as they were the most affected this had been circulated together with visualisations which had been produced with an accurate impression of what the stadium will look like from various important directions: It will be tall and 4 meters higher than it could be to allow for the 700vehicle car park. Peter said the impact that the new stadium will have on the area around is immense. PERA has been keen to discuss this with Bath Rugby, not because they were against the playing of rugby on the Rec, per se, but more that everything should be in proportion and the great height will remove views that are important to the City and WHS.  
The height has doubled since the initial discussion, it will now be level with the top windows of the houses in Johnstone Street nearby, there are 300 households (500 members) who are

members of PERA and who will be affected. The proposed temporary stadium on the second half of the Rec is speculative; it would displace all those people and teams who use that part of the Rec and there is no guarantee it will ever be returned for their use. The Rec trust may decide to undertake further development if the displaced teams decide not to return.. It is important to keep green areas in the centre of Bath.

The 700 place car park, with 2 hr parking, goes against the Bath Transport Strategy and Clean Air Zone (CAZ). There is worry that the structure will be used for unspecified events, as there appears to be no legal limit to its uses. William Street could be the most affected by the car park, so access exclusively from North Parade has been requested. There will be air and light pollution.

What will be the effect on flooding; the area is designated as a flood plain. Will the car park let alone the artificial pitch be liable to flood? It was pointed out that since the area has to be able to flood, as required by the Environment Agency, and since the grass will be man made, there could be carcinogens leaching into the water.

There needs to be transparency, as ownership is opaque and there is no guarantee that the owner may not want to do something else with the building later on. It should be accepted that it is a commercial development. PERA had tried discussions with Bath Rugby, but had hit a brick wall, so were now in the business of objecting. TARA and WA overlap in most of the objections with PERA

It was asked whether more was known about the riverside, where there are meant to be restaurants and bars. Would this not have an effect on the cafes, bars and restaurants already in the area?

FoBRA's response was then discussed:

Patrick pointed out that with 700 parking spaces at the stadium, people would not use the park and ride sites and that to stick to its own transport strategy the Council would have to close some of its car parks. This would mean a reduction in Council revenue, whilst it was estimated that the Stadium car park could produce up to £20 million pa. It was felt the whole development was revenue driven. £54 million could not justify 17 matches a year - what else would happen at the ground?

It was pointed out that the Rec should be considered belonging to the people of Bath. It should have charitable status. Some people could see that the new stadium would be wonderful for Bath Rugby but that it might have an adverse impact on the area.

As Bath is bowl shaped and the stadium will be at the bottom of said bowl the impact from both noise and pollution will be on the whole City.

DCMS has been informed about the risks and they in their turn will inform UNESCO. This is a world heritage problem.

There was considerable conversation about covenants from 1922 and 1956/7. No firm conclusion could be drawn, although the covenants state that the rec is for the people of Bath in perpetuity whilst others state that this has been rescinded.

Steve Osgood an observer was invited to speak. He believed that there were legal ways to resolve this, as he still believed that the covenants were binding and that the land belonged to

the people of Bath. The Council and Trust disagree and believe it was settled. The whole issue appeared to be a 'land grab' by a private equity company with the Council not objecting.

An application has gone to the DCMS Minister from the Friends of the Rec to make it a Local Green Space. Unfortunately the Friends of the Rec do not have the same resources as Bath Rugby.

He felt that BANES should defend the rights of the citizens of Bath.

Graeme McLagan, another observer, was invited to speak, having issued an email to City Councillors about the rights of citizens on this subject. Mr McLagan, being a journalist at national level and having listened to this disquieting discussion, proposed to draft an article for one of the National Dailies

The FoBRA Executive was asked to prepare a paper for member's consideration which should be published and sent to Bath Rugby and others to influence the stadium design. Morny Davidson said she believed that the people of Bath had not realised the scale of the proposals.

It was considered that the Bath Chronicle was siding with Bath Rugby. Members are not against Bath Rugby but against the proposals.

**6 Planning Report:** Nick Tobin's report had been circulated. He had little to add, the Community Asset Policy seems fine. The height of building at Mulberry Park had been reported to UNESCO by an individual and was being reconsidered. The Local Plan revision proposals indicate that Universities will not be given planning permission for more teaching space unless accommodation for the consequential extra students is also proposed on University land.

**7 Transport.** Difficult to understand when the CAZ will come to fruition, March 18th is the start of the 'purdah' – the cut off before the elections. Most likely the new Council will deal with it, but there is a legal obligation to reduce pollution. Van du Bose, Robin Kerr and Patrick Rotheram are in discussions about the joint Transport Plan with WECA's Director of Infrastructure. What can WECA do to help? There is £30million allocated for investment in transport.

The A350 could be upgraded, allowing restrictions to be placed on HGV's over Cleveland Bridge. Van DuBose suggested that WECA should absorb the Bath Transport plan into their regional plan.

**8 Winter Reception 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the VAG.** Numbers looking good but could still have more. Both University Vice Chancellors are attending and the WECA Mayor

**9 AOB** Clyde Hunter said that Virgin Media were using poor quality contractors for laying cables under the streets and pavements around Bear Flat and had destroyed an ancient artefact. They were ruining the areas where they worked.

**The next meetings will be on: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March** at Widcombe Junior School,

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May** (incorporating the AGM) at Widcombe Junior School

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

**Attenders**

Ayers	Ken	Bathwick Estate RA	Representative
Baldwin	Malcolm	CARA	Representative
Barnes	Neil	Sion Hill and Summer Hill Road RA	Treasurer/FoBRA Treasurer

The Federation of Bath Resident's Associations  
Minutes of a meeting held at 6.30 on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019 at Widcombe Junior School

Boss	Jeremy	Widcombe Association	Representative
Clark	Colin	Bathwick Hill RA	Representative
Davison	Morny	Catherine Place	Representative
DuBose	Van	St. James's Square	Representative
Edwards	Nola	Foxhill RA	Chairman
Feltham	Graham	LOPRA	Chairman
Franklin	Theresa	Cavendish Crescent RA	Representative
Hallam	Liz	LOPRA	Representative
Herve	Ian	PERA	Representative
Humphreys	Ceris	PERA	Representative
Hunter	Clyde	Bear Flat Association	Representative
Isherwood	Nicola	RCS	Chairman
Kerr	Robin	LCA	Chairman/FoBRA Chairman
Knight	Peter	PERA	Representative
Labram	Jeremy	Camden RA	Representative
Lockwood	Diana	HERA	Representative
Lobo	Alisha	University of Bath	Representative
Ludlam	Patricia	Sion Hill and Summer Hill Road RA	Representative
Maude	Michael	Sion Hill and Summer Hill Road RA	Chairman
Miles	Tony	UOPRA	Representative
Pimentel-Reid	Emilio	Cavendish Road Society	Secretary
Roy	Mike	Riverside Community Voice	Representative
Rigby	Manda	Bathwick	Representative
Rotheram	Patrick	Vineyard RA/FoBRA	Transport Lead
Rowlandson	Kirstie	UOPRA	Secretary/FoBRA Secretary
Rushton	John	Sydney Buildings	Representative
Shepley	Jan	Widcombe Association	Representative
Tobin	Nick	ABCPRA	FoBRA Vice Chairman
Wrigley	Michael	Widcombe Association	Representative

**Observers and Speakers**

Moss	Robin	BANES Labour Group	Speaker
McLagan	Graeme		Observer
Osgood	Steve		Observer
Richardson	Rob		Observer
Sparrow	Jack		Observer
Wright	Nola		Observer
Wyle	Brenda		Observer

**Apologies**

Bellamy	Terry	Macaulay Prospect	Representative
Draper	Charles	BERA	Chairman
Greenwood	Caroline		
Hushon	Rachael	LCA	
Little	Stephen	RCS	
O'Sullivan	Mark	Greenway Lane Area Resident Forum	Representative
Sandford	Paul	UOPRA	
Somerset	Gareth	BFA	Chairman
Websper	Nigel	PERA	