

- 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 **Councillors Tim Warren** and **Bob Goodman** spoke to the meeting, representing the Conservatives. They spoke about the future of the City centre, the wish to pedestrianise and to encourage top end stores, as was hoped to be happening at Jollys' store. They told the meeting that student accommodation would be allowed in future to be built only on University land. They said that the relationship between the Council and Universities has improved, that there was a shortage of money and that 81% of Council income was spent on adult and children's social care. There was discussion about the disproportionate number of hotel bed spaces and they said this was partly because of 'Air B n B'. They also appeared to be disappointed at the latest planning consent for another hotel. They were asked whether the diminishing open spaces would affect the World Heritage status; but they said that it would not. They hope to build small park and rides to the East; it was pointed out that York has 7 and further ones planned!
- 3 **Minutes** of the meeting on July 14th, already circulated, (**Charles Draper** proposed and **Caroline Kilner** seconded) were approved.
- 4 **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman has circulated his report. He asked whether there should be a session dedicated to the development of the Rec as a Rugby site at the next January meeting. This was agreed. He noted that an enforcement order had been put on a Party House in Greenway, but said that with party houses and Air B n B', England is very far behind most Continental Cities: - In Amsterdam for instance they can be shut down because they are classed as 'illegal hotels'. He stated how Affordable Housing was not Social housing and the latter is what is needed in Bath. It was Government policy that land value upgrades should be 'harvested' for social housing, At the moment developers pay far too much to landowners and therefore find it uneconomic to build social housing. If the land for social housing could be purchased at an acceptable price (harvesting) then it would not cost the developers so much to build the houses.
- 5 **Creation of new Local Plan.** It is important to keep the local plan up to date; otherwise developers can propose buildings which would not be in a local plan and win any subsequent appeal. There are to be restrictions on student accommodation (called the Oxford model) but, at the moment this is not in place and plans are being put in for yet more student accommodation. The recycling depot is to be relocated. Nick Tobin said that the Local plan is at the moment an *options consultation document* and is thus not very readable! It includes a vision for Keynsham, but not one for Bath, (!) and it lacks transport detail. It was felt that individual RAs should comment on the plan. Emilio Pimentel Reid asked whether there was a dedicated hotel strategy. It appears that there is not and as the information available was compiled in 2015 it is out of date. Comments have to be in by 7th January, which does not give much time. Nick asked for comments from members early, after which FoBRA would aim to circulate a draft before Christmas
- 6 **Planning Report:** Nick Tobin's report had been circulated. There is an application to build more student accommodation in Locksbrook Road:- it is 3 floors but with a mezzanine which is in reality 4 floors. There will be 103 units. Knight Frank report that the need for student accommodation has risen (hard to believe). There should be more light industrial development and more leisure in that area. It appears that there is 'height creepage' in Bath, indicating that the current Building height Policy should be given 'teeth' by being transformed into a Supplementary Planning Document.
- 7 **Transport: Patrick Rotheram** had circulated his report, but he was away so the Chairman introduced it. There was lively debate about the Council's Clean Air Zone (CAZ) consultation. The chairman reminding the meeting that Bath is one of the 29 most polluted Cities in England. There ensued a debate as to whether Class C + traffic management or Class D + traffic management was the

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answer, with opinion divided. Both would also need traffic management, as both were predicted to be non-compliant in some hot spots, and also concessions to taxis, blue badge holders and school coaches would be allowed, thereby exacerbating the problem. Having circulated to members a draft response in October showing little difference between the impact of a Class C and a Class D CAZ, leading to the view that the Council should investigate whether a Class C CAZ combined with traffic management might do the job without needing to impose restrictions on older cars, and having received broadly supportive responses, FoBRA submitted it, as promised on 16th November. However, following this submission, a number of Members came out strongly in favour of a Class D CAZ making it clear that we did not have a consensus, and that we needed to review our position.

FoBRA then had a planned consultation session with B&NES on 24th November, where graphs showed a higher chance of compliance with a Class D CAZ, and access to greater Government funding. B&NES requested a further meeting, which is why FoBRA could not submit the revised response until 27th November. This allowed FoBRA to press the Council on the need for additional measures to achieve compliance. In the revised submission, we attempted to present a balanced view, essentially commenting on the options – that Class D (plus traffic management) offers the best chance of compliance, but that Class C plus traffic management might suffice and would avoid the acknowledged problems associated with a Class D. Finally the Chairman emphasised that, if the pollution levels are not brought down to legal levels by 2021, B&NES risked being fined, and that money would come from us, the taxpayers, so an answer had to be found. Pedestrianisation could be part of the solution but not if it just pushes the vehicles on to unsuitable streets. More Park and Rides are needed, and could be developed into transport hubs, for children going to school for instance.

The Chairman then asked for a Straw Poll of those now in favour of the two Classes (C&D). The results of this (rather rough and ready) poll were (a) that the Committee endorsed the Executive's overall approach and (b) that Class C + Traffic Management was slightly preferred

The Chairman went on to cover the 16th November Alliance Transport Conference, which was successful and well attended. Some stated that congestion had to be tackled too. Jonathan Stapleton (MD Royal Crescent Hotel) felt the City's current tourism policy was out of date, pandering to quite the wrong part of the market.

Emilio Pimentel Read asked about the Trains. He thought that the service was very poor to and from London and this was not a good advertisement for Bath. There are plans to link Bristol airport and Bath and go on out to Westbury. Trams are discussed but are less likely. Gareth Somerset asked whether the river could be used, but this was thought unlikely as it was not continuous (weir with no lock). In London, where the river bus network is good, there is the facility for ferries to go up to 40 knots. (but not in Bath!)

8 Winter Reception 12th February 2018 at the VAG Neil asked that anyone who wanted to come should email him and transfer the money into the FoBRA account. Tickets are not being issued. So far 8 people are coming. The Secretary will send out a reminder with the minutes. The Chairman encouraged members to pass the invitation to all RA members, as it is an excellent chance to talk to Councillors etc who will be invited.

9 No AOB except to remind everyone that at the next meeting on 22nd January Robin Moss will be representing the Labour party and on the 14th March Dina Romero will be representing the Liberals Democrats.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd January at Widcombe Junior School and subsequent meetings will be on Thursday 14th March and Thursday 9th May (incorporating the AGM) at Widcombe Junior School.

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FoBRA Attendees – Meeting 15th October 2018

Baldwin	Malcolm	CARA	Representative
Barnes	Neil	Sion Hill and Summer Hill Road RA	Treasurer/FoBRA Treasurer
Bellamy	Terry	Macaulay Prospect	Representative
Colston	Richard	Green Park	Representative
Davison	Morny	Catherine Place	Representative
Draeger	Justin	Cavendish Road Society	Chairman
Draper	Charles	BERA	Chairman
DuBose	Van	St. James's square	Representative
Edwards	Nola	Foxhill RA	Chairman
Feltham	Graham	LOPRA	Chairman
Hallam	Liz	LOPRA	Representative
Herve	Ian	PERA	Representative
Huard	Stephen	MLBRA	Chairman
Humphreys	Ceris	PERA	Representative
Isherwood	Nicola	RCS	Chairman
Kerr	Robin	LCA	Chairman/FoBRA Chairman
Kilner	Caroline	PERA	Committee
Labram	Jeremy	Camden RA	Representative
Lockwood	Diana	HERA	Representative
Ludlam	Patricia	Sion Hill and Summer Hill Road RA	Representative
Miles	Tony	UOPRA	Representative
O'Sullivan	Mark	Greenway Lane Area Resident Forum	Representative
Pimentel-Reid	Emilo	Cavendish Road Society	Secretary
Pryce	Adrian		Observer
Ray	Mike	Riverside Community Voice	Representative
Rowlandson	Kirstie	UOPRA	Secretary/FoBRA Secretary
Rushton	John	Sydney Buildings	Representative
Somerset	Gareth	BFA	Chairman
Stapleton	Jonathan	Royal Crescent Society	Representative
Tobin	Nick	ABCPRA	Chairman/FoBRA Vice
Chairman			
Wright	Nola		Observer

Apologies

Franklin	Theresa
Hushon	Rachel
Lobo	Alisha
Rotheram	Patrick
Websper	Nigel
Little	Stephen
Sandford	Paul