

## **Minutes**

### **FoBRA Ordinary Committee Meeting 15th December 2022, Widcombe Junior School**

#### **Attendees:**

David Monson, Upper Oldfield Park; Tony Miles, Upper Oldfield Park; Sally Parkes, Sion Hill & Summerhill Rd; Neil Barnes, Sion Hill & Summerhill Rd; Ceris Humphreys, PERA; Sally Galsworthy, BERA; Charles Draper, BERA; Theresa Franklin, Elizabeth Curnow Cavendish Crescent; Malcolm Baldwin, CARA; , University of Bath Spa Student Union Marianne Evans, Neetu Karwal, Joshua Hale; Jeremy Boss, Widcombe Association; Justin Draeger, Emilio Pimentel-Reid, Cavendish Road Society; Graham Feltham, Vice Chair, Lower Oldfield Park RA; Rachael Hushon, Chair, Lansdown Crescent Association; Julia Perryman MLBRA; Ghika Savva, Student Community Partnership; Nola Wright, Bathwick Estate (observer), Louisa Mcfarland (observer), Mark MacDonnell (observer) Funda Kemal (Guest Transition Bath)

#### **Apologies:**

Mark O'Sullivan, Greenway Lane; Nick Tobin, Ainslie's Belvedere; Stephen Little, Royal Crescent Society; Gordon Harrower, HERA; Rob Richardson, Avondale and Osborne Road RA; Paul Crowsley, Sion Hill & Summerhill Road RA; Liz Hallam, Lower Oldfield Park RA; John Long and Jeremy Labram Camden Residents Association, Patrick Rotherham Vineyards RA, Sylvia Sinclair St James's Square Bath Ltd, Katina Beckett Entry Hill Community Association, Julie Ingerfield Bloomfield Road Association

Attention was drawn to a notice sent out by Sylvia Sinclair regarding details of each RA. Specifically, the notice requested a Name, Contact Number, email address and website address from each RA. Consent is needed from each RA for these details to be published. The information will be published on the FoBRA website and in the B&NES Council directory of community groups. Telephone numbers will no longer be published.

#### **1.Approval of Minutes 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022**

Minutes of previous meeting were approved by Charles Draper and seconded by Ceris Humphreys

#### **2. Transition Bath**

Guest Speaker, Regenerative Architect - Funda Kemal combined 3 different topics in her excellent presentation.

- i. Utopian Realism - A visual discourse of Potential future outcomes for the World Heritage City of Bath. Transforming Bath by creating a green revolution, greening the buildings and planting more trees, walking, cycling and changing the way we view the future.
- ii. A sustainable retrofit to her own home. Made possible by a government greenhouse grant. Funda explored energy saving methods such as (a) Insulation, including solid wall, cavity wall, underfloor and loft insulation. (b) Heating - A Ground Source heat pump could not be considered in her home as space was an issue. (c) Draught-proofing (d) Double glazing (c) Solar panels. Link:

<https://youtu.be/Tcere Op 0k>

- iii. Transition Bath. Emphasis was placed on Transition Bath's Thermal Imaging. A Project which aims to help the residents of Bath reduce their energy bills and carbon emissions by providing thermal imaging surveys. Here's the link to Transition Baths website [Transition Bath | community | food | energy | futurehttps://transitionbath.org](https://transitionbath.org)

Funda kept us engaged throughout. Questions and a lively discussion followed.

Some points included:

Funda's current electrical bill is no more than 10% of the families original bill, primarily due to solar panels and insulation.

Funda suggested there was "loads of scope" for improving Baths Heritage Georgian homes, even if these were flats. Barriers faced at junior planning level could occur because the advisors may be "out of date." This could be overcome if the issues were escalated up to the head of planning or to more senior decision makers who are committed to climate change in Bath. She made specific reference to contacting Councillors Kevin Guy and Sarah Warren as well as MP Wera Hobhouse. She also suggested a collective approach to the Council could be advantageous.

She advised careful analysis of original listing of the property before application to determine what original historic fabric is actually detailed.

Pro slim double glazing has been used in Bath Georgian homes. This type of double glazing is supported by Bath Preservation Trust. RA's sited Edinburgh. Copenhagen and other parts of the world use secondary double glazing on heritage buildings.

Solar panels can be tucked behind Georgian parapets.

Chimney fleeces, rather than balloons can be used.

[\(https://www.chimneysheep.co.uk/product-category/chimney-draught-excluders/\)](https://www.chimneysheep.co.uk/product-category/chimney-draught-excluders/)

### **3. The Planning Report was approved by a show of hands.**

Thank you Planning sub group for preparing.

The further question was asked whether Lidl Supermarket on London Road should be addressed now or when it comes before planning. The land is in a green belt and is designated for recreation under current B&NES Local Plan.

Since trees were already in danger of being removed, it was decided by Committee to address the matter now. Planning application will be required to remove the trees since this tract of land is still in the conservation area. Bath Conservation area map attached.

FoBRA planning sub group will become more active in monitoring tree applications.

Bath Spa University, on Sion Hill is earmarked for residential development. It was decided to keep a very watchful eye on the existing beautiful tree canopy on this site.

### **4. The World Heritage Advisory Board report was accepted by a show of hands**

Thank you to Jeremy Boss and Caroline Greenwood for preparing.

### **5. Update on Website.**

The website is currently being refreshed by Paul Crowsley.

This will be completed in the New Year. In the meantime the map of Bath Resident Associations was almost ready, awaiting information from the Universities' Liaison Officer about the main student residential areas, the committee agreed that this should be shown on the FoBRA map. This map will be included in the website refresh. Any further ideas for the website would be appreciated. Please send in photos from your resident association suitable for landscape formatting or in landscape format. People, and "slice of life" images will make the website more interesting, and engaging. Photos to be sent to Sylvia Sinclair.

#### **6. Helping new Resident Associations to form .**

The Chair made it clear that FoBRA will always be helpful and welcoming to Resident Associations formed at grassroot level, and it is not unusual to give advice and guidance to set up a resident associations, a recent example of a Warminster Road area was given. Including this guidance on the refreshed web site will be a good opportunity for FoBRA to encourage areas to form their own associations.

#### **7. Appointment of new Treasurer**

The appointment of Elizabeth Curnow, Treasurer of Cavendish Crescent R.A. was unanimously agreed.

The Chair thanked Courtenay Gardner and wished him a speedy recovery. In addition the Chair thanked Elizabeth for stepping in to the role.

#### **8. Next Committee meeting 16th March 2023**

This will be a hustings.

It was decided that each party should be asked to put forward a candidate, (this could be the Party Leaders if they wished). In addition independent candidates would be invited. Bath Spa University requested 'linking up' with FoBRA on this matter, since a third of Bath's population were students. The Chair agreed that students as residents of this city should be engaged in this.

#### **9. AOB**

i. An observer said a new bike shelter had been placed in her road, (Sydney Buildings). The bike shelter takes the place of a car, and wasn't Georgian in design. The chair responded that their neighbourhood was fortunate to be one of the first in the trial and looks forward to seeing more in Bath given how many people there are in flats who have no bike storage.

ii. Cavendish Road Society raised the issue of the Chair's accompanying note regarding the High Common. They questioned the basis on which 5 surrounding RA's chose not to support the CRS paper. The Chair, who had, indeed, spoken to the 5 RA's prior to writing her foreword, offered to invite the RA's concerned to express their reasons in writing and agreed to provide a clarification note to all FoBRA members as CRS requested.

**Prepared by Theresa Franklin acting Secretary 19/12/22**