

## **FEDERATION OF BATH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS**

Minutes of the meeting of 3 June 2021 held on Zoom at 6pm

There was a total of 36 people present

The Chair welcomed everyone. He noted he had received four apologies.

1. Minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting on 11 March 2021, which were on the website were approved.
2. Welcome to Mulberry Park RA and Bloomfield Bath Residents' Association. Two new RA's had applied to join FOBRA, bringing to six the number of new RA's and Associate Members applying to join FOBRA over the past eight months. This was helping to extend the reach of FOBRA across the city. The representatives of the applicants were invited to and did introduce themselves and their RA's.
3. BANES Cabinet changes. The Chair first thanked all those RA representatives that attended the two recent meetings with the WECA mayoral and PCC candidates. This was the first time FOBRA had held such meetings. The meetings had been instructive and would help to develop lines of communication with the successful candidates about issues of concern to FOBRA and the city. The Chair then explained that he had been advised that week by Cllr Richard Samuel that he had been appointed Council/FOBRA lead liaison. The Chair said this was a welcome development since FOBRA had been pressing the Council for a long time for better engagement with FOBRA. The Executive was planning to meet Cllr Samuel shortly (now 15 June) to discuss how best to take matters forward. A number of RA's put forward issues they wished the Executive to raise with Cllr Samuel.
4. Transport Group Report. There was brief discussion about this report and the roll-out of LTN's (announcements are due to be made at the Cabinet meeting on 23 June).
5. North Road. It is expected that an announcement about the Council's plans for this will be made at the 23 June meeting.
6. City centre security plans. These are now delayed. Further time had been granted to the public to comment, following the report to the Council by the accessibility consultants Atkins.
7. Planning Group Report. There was a brief discussion about this report and the plans for the development of the Bath Rec.

8. Entry Hill. Katina Beckett, Entry Hill's representative, was unexpectedly unable to attend the meeting but she sent the Chair an update which he read to the meeting. A copy of this appears at Annex 1 at the end of these minutes.
9. Tufa Field. The Tufa Field representatives updated the meeting. They explained that although they had initially been assured, following the change of Council leadership, that the Council no longer intended to develop the site, they were now in fact being told that approximately 10 houses would be developed on the site. There was clearly a lot of anger about this and much more work needed to be done to ensure the site was not developed.
10. Business Group. Kari Erickson, the Business Group lead, updated the meeting, especially about the efforts of Bath Bid to try to revitalise the struggling city centre. She pointed out that she had just returned from York. That city's centre was thriving, in sharp contrast to Bath's. The Chair added that on a recent visit to Oxford that he had noted that that city's centre was also thriving. It was felt that Bath Bid should be invited to make a presentation to FOBRA at a forthcoming meeting.
11. Parishing. The Chair advised that now the worst of the pandemic appeared to be over that it was time to get active on this issue. He would be fixing a meeting shortly for all of those who had expressed an interest in being involved with this initiative.
12. AOB. The Chair first thanked the outgoing FOBRA Secretary, Kirstie Rowlandson, for her tireless service to FOBRA over many years. She was standing down because she was moving from Bath. She would be very much missed. The Chair then noted that the next meeting on 9 September (which would also be the AGM) would be held in person once again at the Widcombe School. There was a discussion about whether all future meetings should be in person. It was felt by a number that Zoom meetings were a more efficient way of conducting meetings, especially for people juggling jobs, commuting etc. It was suggested that meetings alternate between in person and Zoom meetings. Emilio Pimentel-Reid raised the issue of the Fashion Museum which is going to have to move from the Assembly Rooms. He pointed out that it is an internationally important collection and at the moment there did not seem to be any plan for where in Bath the Museum could be housed. It would be appalling if the collection were lost to Bath. It was suggested that King Edward's School in Broad Street should be compulsorily purchased by the Council to provide a home for the Museum although it was suggested there may be issues with that site, such as accessibility. Finally, the new RA's (Mulberry Park and Broomfield Road) were elected as members and the Chair welcomed them formally.

Dated: 11 June 2012

Annex 1:

### **Entry Hill Golf Course / Proposed Mountain Bike Park.**

Since we last spoke we have formed a mini committee within the EHCA which has been focusing solely on the mountain bike park. We had several meetings with the council and a couple with Pedal Progression to include one site meeting a couple of months ago. The council has arranged the following for Pedal Progression:

#### Community Engagement:

We are not certain on how the engagement will work. It could be a drop in consultation - similar to the two day event held in Odd Down combined with an online consultation. Or solely, an online consultation. We have not been informed. We were in some initial communications about the community engagement a few months ago but have not heard anything recently. We do know that the community engagement was put out for tender. We are uncertain of the influence of the community as we believe the initial proposal cannot be altered drastically.

#### Site Contamination:

The invasive contamination tests on the site are still waiting to be done. From what we have been told 50 samples will be taken from the areas on the site which require the heavy excavation work to provide the mountain bike park activities, the perimeter fence and the free to access facilities on the site. The site is ex landfill, filled with industrial, commercial and household waste. The contamination issues will need to be sorted in order to make the site safe for visitors and residents. This could be very costly for the council.

Traffic Survey: The mountain bike park has the potential to significantly increase traffic on EH and because of this a traffic survey needs to be carried out.

Avon Wildlife Trust/ Forest of Imagination had their own travel plan in place - they consulted with the EHCA during the bidding process. The golf bidders did not need one. Keeping the golf course as a golf course would have not required any traffic surveys or travel plans as the flow of cars would have been regulated - due to the nature of the sport.

The traffic survey that BANES have put out to tender should happen sometime in June / July.

#### Pending Contract:

Pedal Progression are still only at the preferred bidder stage, a contract has not yet been signed between Pedal Progression and the council. The council will be pushing for this to happen after the contamination results are back, the community engagement and traffic surveys have been completed and the pre-planning application has been submitted. Any contract signed with the preferred bidder will be subject to conditions.

#### Full Planning Application:

The council and Pedal Progression are aiming to submit a full planning application by the Autumn of this year. We will keep the community and FOBRA updated on the relevant dates. We will hold a community meeting with the Entry Hill residents and the houses surrounding the site BEFORE the planning application has been submitted.

#### The Bike Park Principles Paper:

The Bike Park Principles Paper has been well received within our community. The paper was sent to all Ward Councillors within BANES including the new Leader of the Council - Kevin Guy. The paper was also sent to all FOBRA members, various departments within the BANES council including the Planning Department and Pedal Progression.

Pedal Progression and the two officers responsible for the mountain bike park project - Marc Higgins and Martin Pellow have made no comments about the Principles Paper and have had no recent communications with the EHCA.

We have had residents query the original press release by the council that promoted a family cycle park with the reality of the proposal - a mountain bike park. All social media accounts by Pedal Progression promote a mountain bike park.