

FEDERATION OF BATH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

Minutes of the Committee meeting of 9 September held on Zoom at 6.30 pm

There was a total of 26 people present

The Chair welcomed everyone. He noted he had received apologies from Nick Tobin, John Rushton, Malcolm Baldwin, Graham Feltham, Patricia Fosbury, David Martin, Stephen Little and Morny Davidson.

1. Minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting on 3 June 2021, which were on the website were approved.
2. Transport Group Report. The Group's report was discussed and it was hoped that there would be positive news shortly that Cleveland Bridge would be reopening in September.
3. LTN'S. The Chair noted that September was due to be a key month for the roll-out of these with council officers beginning their engagement with those RA's that had been chosen for the first tranche of LTN's. A number of members had said to the Chair that it would be important that, when this began to happen, that RA representatives "walked the area" in which the LTN was intended with council officers, so that council officers understood exactly what the issues in each area were and that the RA's knew what options were available.
4. Planning Group Report. There was a brief discussion about this report which was felt to be comprehensive.
5. The Bath Area Forum. The Chair explained the background to this new initiative by the Council and gave his personal analysis of it and its prospects. While it is early days, concern was expressed that earlier versions of this Forum had gone nowhere and it was strongly felt that Bath needed a City Council and the Forum was no substitute for such a democratic body, if indeed the Forum was intended to be a such a substitute. It was also strongly felt that FOBRA should now campaign for a City Council.
6. Milsom Street Quarter. The Chair reported on his (and other members) participation in this initiative aimed to work out how to breathe life back into this area of the City that is suffering as a result of store closures in particular. The Chair explained that there was a lot of "blue sky" thinking at this stage and we were at a very early stage of the process. It was however very encouraging to see this initiative.

7. Entry Hill. Entry Hill's representative brought the meeting up to date with recent developments (the earlier note circulated to members refers).
8. Tufa Field. It is now understood that the Council is still looking to develop part of the site for housing.
9. 2020/2021. The Chair gave his personal view of the progress of FOBRA over the past year. It had been an unexpected year, given the pandemic, which was still preventing members meeting in person. Nevertheless, FOBRA had made its voice heard on issues of importance to residents: the CAZ, LTN's, the city centre security measures, Entry Hill and the High Common and the Tufa Field issue. A significant number of new RA's have joined over the past year, extending the reach of FOBRA more widely across the City. Much work in this regard remains to be done. There are also going to be very significant challenges for us over the next year, not least in relation to transport- and planning-related issues.
10. AOB. There was a discussion about the fact that Liverpool had recently lost its World Heritage status, in part because of the huge new Everton stadium planned for the heritage area of the city. This was felt to be a wake-up call for Bath where a large stadium was planned for the heritage centre of the City. The importance of Bath's World Heritage status was not to be underestimated and its loss would be a very significant blow to a city already struggling with the loss of vital tourists.

Minutes of the AGM of 9 September held on Zoom after the Committee meeting

1. The minutes of last year's AGM were approved.
2. The FOBRA accounts, which had been signed off by our Examiner, John Rushton, were approved.
3. It was agreed that the subscription rates would remain unchanged for the next financial year.
4. The Chair and Vice-Chair were duly re-elected for another year.
5. The Treasurer, Neil Barnes, indicated his desire to stand down, given that he had been in post for more than 6 years. He has kindly agreed to stay on until the end of the current financial year as Acting Treasurer on the understanding the FOBRA will actively look for his successor. He was duly elected.
6. John Rushton has kindly agreed to serve another year as Examiner and he was duly re-elected.
7. Ceris Humphreys was elected as Transport Group lead.

Dated: 9 September 2021