

Federation of Bath Residents' Associations

Thursday, 7th March 2024

Widcombe Junior School

Ordinary Committee Meeting

Draft Minutes.

Attendees:

Rachael Hushon, Chair (LCA); Sylvia Sinclair, Secretary (SJS); Jeremy Boss, Vice Chair (WA); Elizabeth Curnow, Treasurer (CCA); David Monson (UOPRA); Tony Miles (UOPRA); Chris Meehan (BERA); Mark Thurstain (BERA); Theresa Franklin (CCA); Julia Perryman (MLBRA); Mark O'Sullivan (Greenway RA); Julie Ingerfield (Bloomfield RA); Malcolm Baldwin (CARA); Sabrina Earnshaw (CARA); Neil Dickinson (LCA); Chris Brennan (LCA); Ian Tarr (TARA); Michael Wrigley (WA); Jan Shepley (WA); Sally Parkes (SH&SRRA); Morny Davison (Catharine Place RA); Nick Tobin (AB&CPRA); Richard Wales (Bathwick Hill RA); Ceris Humphreys (PERA); David Morgan (Bear Flat); Timothy Cantell (Bear Flat); John Rushton, Examiner of Accounts (SBHA); Chris Jones (PERA); Mike Elliott (SBHA).

Observers: Ghika Savva (SCP); Charlotte Hanna (WBRA); Peter Cook (WBRA); Corinne Evans, University of Bath, Charlotte Hook

1>Welcome

Chair welcomed observers including Ghika Savva from the Student Community Partnership and Charlotte Hanna and Peter Cook from Wellsway RA who are seeking FoBRA membership.

2.Apologies

Patrick Rotherham

Graham Feltham

Caroline Greenwood

Stephen Little

Paul Crowsley

Laura Bold

Jas Raymond-Barker

3.Minutes to be approved 7th September 2023 Committee Meeting

Proposer: Michael Wrigley

Seconder: Julie Ingerfield

Minutes approved

4.Planning Report– by Jeremy Boss

Circulated with agenda – key items to note:

JB recommended RAs look at how Local Plan Options document relates to own areas.

Lidl latest change in application for parking on the Rugby Training Ground was withdrawn  
Bath riverside no updates

Bath rugby awaiting update following ICOMOS feedback on Stadium heights

Homebase site has been sold. New owner resubmitting application as plans no longer include assisted living/care home use but residential development, build to rent including

affordable home quota. FoBRA exec members were invited to an initial meeting by company called the Hub the new owners. Invites to community wide consultation will follow. UNESCO World Heritage Advisory Board – Chair Barry Gilbertson has stepped down, Barry will be greatly missed. Recruitment for a new chair is underway (unpaid position advertised on the Council website). March Board meeting was postponed, new date tbc.

The following comments were raised:

Tony Miles noted that the Bath press site has been sold.

Ceris Humphreys asked question relating to GP services shortage and new housing supply. Chair commented that this is something Riverside Voice RA raised previously as part of “lack of community services” and agreed it is an issue.

Michael Wrigley commented that with regards to LPPU that impact on traffic isn't being looked at needs to be looked at in local plan

Nick Tobin asked about Bath Rugby what are the strengths of the objection to height of stands. Jeremy – from heritage point of view its height of one stand and block nature of the other. Concerns have been raised over other non-Rugby uses of the Rec and the impact of excessive noise and substantial increase of traffic congestion relating to these non Rugby uses of the Stadium.

Theresa Franklin asked how flooding is being taken into account in these applications.

Jeremy – flooding is taken into account for all sites by environment agency.

Ceris responded - flooding is considered within a series of cells. This means that development in one cell can't increase the risk somewhere else. Floodable gardens are an example of how this addressed along the riverside at North Quays. At the Rec there is an intention to raise the pitch. It seems that there is planned compensation to excavate around it to address flood water run-off from the raised pitch. The Environment Agency assessment report is due. Local residents are eager to understand the implications of the plan for the leisure centre and Johnstone Street .

#### 5. Local Plan Options Consultation: Draft Paper – by Michael Wrigley/Jan Shepley

Draft report circulated with agenda

The Council document is 420 pages plus due to statutory nature and will become B&NES Local Plan to 2042.

Looks at broad strategy. Looks at housing and possible sites. Asks if you support or not.

Report relies heavily on previous documents and is difficult to read as a result.

Three areas worth considering:

- Needs more strategic input considering travel and transport
- Needs more strategic input to define capacity of City of Bath. Depends on density, traffic impacts, environmental impacts.
- Concern regarding release of Greenbelt for housing development without the definition of need from the capacity strategy. Sulis down been released already.

Some comments:

Current LPPU runs until 2029 and this one looking to signed off by 2026.

Current population of Bath 94,000 (student population 24%)

All recognised the desire to prevent more PBSA unless it is on campus development

All agreed that developers should meet their affordable housing obligations

All agreed that brownfield sites are preferential for development before green belt release given the World Heritage setting of the city.

All member Ras were urged to spend time engaging in consultation process

Summed up: Key question is how much development can the city of Bath absorb without damaging its World heritage setting and status.

#### 6. Transport Update - by Ceris Humphreys

Circulated report with meeting papers and agenda

LN's – Report detailed the next stage in the LN programme, reaffirmed the previous FoBRA position and provided a reminder of the importance of communicating consultation stages. Report also provided a diagram to clarify the process undertaken by the Council since 2020 to present day for the benefit of new representatives seeking clarification.

WECA transport consultation – 3 separate consultations last year, awaiting next stages

No questions were raised by Committee members.

#### 7. FoBRA Hustings 2024 & political impartiality

Committee agreed that it is right for the FoBRA executive members to meet with our MP on a regular basis, however given that a general election will be held this year, a recent invite to meet with Wera Hobhouse will be politely declined until after the results of the election. At that time we will approach our elected MP to organise such future update meetings.

Committee agreed that we will extend an invite to Wera Hobhouse and other Parliamentary candidates to attend a FoBRA hustings event once details of the election are announced.

Jeremy Boss is organising the FoBRA hustings event for the PCC election on 5 May. The current plan is for a hustings on or near 16 April. Mark Shelford is the only declared candidate thus far. JB will be writing to all local parties to gauge interest. Venue tbc but will be in Widcombe.

#### 8. Noise policy for outdoor events in the City

Council policy for noise control for outdoor events has been replaced. The previous policy was detailed and clear and set maximum decibel levels with time limits and quantity of events in any given outside space. This policy has been removed from the council website and been replaced with an 8 page advisory policy that lacks clarity for residents and enables event organisers to set their own noise levels and self-regulate.

Ian Tarr recently met with councillor Roper as part of City Centre Action Group and will provide follow up guidance from this meeting as this approach has implications for parks across central Bath as well as the city centre where many residents live

#### 9. AOB

Avon & Somerset Police. Independent Advisory Group – Malcolm Baldwin

Meets on 3 monthly basis. Police present stats and general overview of nature of activities involved in. Sabrina Earnshaw from CARA will attend next meeting. Please remember to ensure any crimes are reported online.

Online Link to report crimes

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/forms/rac>

South of Bath alliance : Sulis Meadows request

A request from SOBA was discussed, FoBRA recognise that this land was already removed from the green belt. Also that it lies beyond the city boundary so outside of FoBRA boundary. Several member Associations have however objected to the expansion and development of the site on the grounds of damage to the green setting of the city as a World Heritage site. Bathwick Hill RA commented that while it might not be right for individual associations like their own to comment, his association would support FoBRA supporting the BPT's objection. There was significant agreement around the table that this approach was considered appropriate. Informal show of hands to agree this was carried. FoBRA will submit response.

David Monson Upper Oldfield Park

Homes for Ukraine Appeal – A Ukrainian citizen looking for another host family (good references available from David)

Meeting closed