
Federation of Bath Residents' Associations

Ordinary Committee Meeting starting 6.30pm

Thursday 12th March 2026

Minutes

Attendees:

Rachael Hushon FoBRA Chair/LDCRA, Theresa Franklin FoBRA Secretary/CCRA, Stephanie Higgins LCA, Ian Tarr TARA, Laurence James Wellsway RA, Louise Coates Ensleigh RA, Elizabeth Tayler Entry Hill RA, Jeremy Labram Camden RA, Malcolm Baldwin CARA, Sally Parkes SH&SRRA, Suzanne Chase SH&SRRA, Ghika Savva SCP, Mike Wrigley Widcombe RA, Mark O'Sullivan Greenway Lane RA, Ceris Humphreys PERA, Peter Knight PERA Tony Miles UOPRA, David Monson UOPRA, Rob Richardson Avondale and Osbourne Rd RA, Peter Knight PERA. Chris Meehan BERA,

Apologies:

Jeremy Boss, Vice Chair/Bathwick Hill, Dorigen Couchman, Sydney Buildings RA, Corinne Evans Deputy Vice Chancellor, Stephen Little RCS, Patrick Rotheram Vineyard RA, Nick Tobin Ainslie Belvedere RA, Sabrina Earnshaw CARA, Patricia Fosbury, Riverside Community Voice, Julie Ingerfield Bloomfield RA, Julia Perryman MBMLRA, Charlotte Hanna Wellsway RA.

Minutes Approved Ordinary Committee Meeting 4th December 2025

Approved by Michael Wrigley

Seconded by Jeremy Labram

Presentation "Greening of Bath" by Rob Delius

Rob delivered an engaging presentation on how Bath could move beyond the green hills surrounding the city to deliver "nature scapes" within the city. He stressed that he was keen to get local feedback and he is keen to work with local businesses and R.A.'s.

Rob showed global examples of "greening cities" including:

- Tree lined streets of Cornell and other US cities.
- Basel's, strict tree policy, which requires replacing all felled trees. Due to rising temperatures Basel is planting more heat-resistant Mediterranean type trees. It also has a pioneering policy which mandates that all new, and renovated flat roof buildings, are green roofed.
- Paris is aiming to become Europe's greenest city by 2030 through an aggressive urban transformation. Their biodiversity plan creates safe havens for local wildlife. Greening roofs. Creating schoolyards that are green "oases." Over 100,000 trees line Parisian streets, with another 50,000 planned. Parisian Residents are deeply involved in the creation of **biophilic neighbourhoods**.
- Singapore's 2030 green plan sets out to blur the lines between urban and natural spaces. Highrise buildings replace lost ground level greenery with vertical gardens. It aims to make every household within a 10-minute walk from a park.

Rob followed this global overview by focusing on areas within the centre of Bath. He showed how trees have a "civilising influence" within the city. He chose examples like Kingsmead Square.

Rob acknowledged that Bath has exquisite trees, but many have been felled, for several reasons, over many years, and never replaced. Such as the tree lined avenue of Great Pulteney street, and individual trees across the city.

He showed many photos of the extremely hard landscaping of Bath which could be softened quite easily into a "Nature-scape" with trees, green walls and by creating many green oases.

A lively conversation ensued.

The Chair drew attention to the officer responsible for trees in Bath - Jane Brewer.

Permission is required to remove or cut-back trees in Bath. The Chair suggested that RA's register on the planning portal to view all planning applications for their area. This would give RA's an insight into what is happening to local trees.

Jeremy Labram drew attention to the London Rd, well intentioned, tree planting exercise. Sadly, the trees on London Rd have not been maintained.

He asked whether Rob had thought about how the "greening of Bath" might be funded?

Mike Wrigley added that Funding, not only for planting but also maintenance is critical.

Ian Tarr said he would like to further discuss city centre buildings which could be improved by "living walls."

Ghika Savva offered to get more information on the costings for the Living Wall in Bradford on Avon.

Malcolm Baldwin suggested Rob look at the Planning Application for landscaping around The Assembly Rooms. He thought this could be a good first step, to be involved in an extremely important city asset.

The Chair said that it would be an excellent idea to include the issue of "DEGREENING" by developers in the presentation. Citing the area around Holbourne Estate as a prime example of degreening.

Planning group report

A letter was sent to Councillor Kevin Guy and Chief Executive Sophie Broadfield, before Christmas regarding the Stadium planning conditions, this will be followed up.

Transport Report March 2026

Discussion focussed on the University of Bath bus service, provided by First Bus.

S106 sites this bus as the main form of transportation from Claverton Down, to and from Bath Recreation Grounds.

The FoBRA Transport lead was concerned that vulnerable young people could be left stranded without Transport, due to increased volumes on the bus network.

The University of Bath bus service would not only serve Rugby fans (15 matches a year) but also all the other events at The Rec.

The University of Bath have not agreed to this proposal at all, and it is unlikely that First Bus will provide additional buses.

Mike Wrigley said there is a "lack of clarity" as to what has actually been proposed.

This could be a Breach of S106.

Overall, there is poor communication all round, with the University, First Bus, and Bath Residents which includes up to 29,000 students.

Laurence James asked if this was matter of process?

The Traffic Lead replied this was not about process, but about the right information being provided, especially when vulnerable young people, are involved.

Ghika Savva SCP, offered to help open lines of communication between FoBRA Transport and University of Bath.

World Heritage Site Advisory Board (WHSAB)

No Updates.

The next meeting will only take place on 15th April 2026.

The Chair commented that WHF assets were degrading. She pointed out that railings on the Weston Rd Boundary of the High Common needed attention. She said that Cllr Kevin Guy has had a meeting with Sir Keir Starmer about Tourist levy for Bath. A Tourist levy would go a long way to fund repairs of our degrading assets.

Independent Advisory Group (IAG)

Malcolm Baldwin apologised for Sabrina Earnshaw's absence.

He reported that

1. Domestic abuse awareness is very much on the agenda. This is often related to alcohol or drug abuse.
2. More reports of general theft, Car theft, and car damage within the Bath area.
3. 2 young females are attacking people late at night, police are watching this behaviour.
4. The Royal Avenue is being used by "boy racers" who speed along the avenue late at night.
5. Police encourage reporting all crimes as this helps them build crime hotspots in the area.

Malcolm added that should RA's have any questions or input for Sabrina to email them directly to her. Sabrina will be happy to raise them at the next IAG.

AOB

The Chair reminded the meeting that the FoBRA AGM would be held on Thursday 4th June 2026 at Widcombe Church School

The Chair also reminded everyone that Ghika Savva Manager at Student Community Partnership will deliver a Talk at the AGM on ***STUDENT COMMUNITY-SHARED LIVING AGREEMENT***

The Chair requested that nominations be put forward for upcoming vacant FoBRA positions, Including that of Secretary. Paul Crowsley has resigned as webmaster. He has been replaced by Alex Johnson.

Meeting ended.

