

Federation of Bath Residents' Associations

Ordinary Committee Meeting starting at 6.30pm

Thursday 13th March 2025, Widcombe Junior School

Attendees

Rachael Hushon, Chair (LCA); Sylvia Sinclair, Secretary (SJS Bath Limited); Stephanie Higgins (LCA); Ceris Humphreys (PERA); Theresa Franklin (CCRA); Tony Miles (UOPRA); Liz Tayler (EHCA); Morny Davison (CPRA); Julie Ingerfield (BBRA); Malcolm Baldwin (CARA); Sabrina Earnshaw (CARA); Hakam Aysan (ERA); Elizabeth Curnow, Treasurer (CCRA); Jeremy Boss, Vice Chair (Widcombe); Jeremy Labram (CRA); Jill Kingaby (Bear Flat); Michael Wrigley (Widcombe); Suzanne Chase (SH&SR); Sally Parkes (SH&SR); Nick Tobin (AB&CPRA); Richard Wales (Bathwich Hill); Patrick Rotheram (Vineyards); Chris Jones (PERA); Corinne Evans (University of Bath); Liz Eyles (Bath Spa University).

Apologies

Mike Elliott (Sydney Buildings); Graham Feltham (LOFP); Ghika Savva (University Partnership); Paul Crowsley (SH&SHR); Laurence James (Wellsway); Poppy Laycock (Bath Spa SU); David Morgan (Bear Flat); Rob Richardson (Avondale & Osborne Road); Julia Perryman (MBMLRA), Ian Tarr (TARA); David Monson (UOFPPRA), Mark O'Sullivan (Greenway Lane).

Minutes to be approved from committee meeting December 5th 2024

Proposer – Malcolm Baldwin

Secunder – Tony Miles

Vote to welcome new Committee members. Enleigh Residents

Association

Show of hands - Passed

Chair welcomed Enleigh and Hakan Aysan to FoBRA.

Introduction from Lucia Chadwick - Focus Bath

Focus Bath is a mental health charity in Bath established in 1999. It works with local health providers, schools etc and offers affordable service which is not means tested. In 2024 it conducted 10,000 counselling services. It has 36 paid qualified councillors and 15 trainees. In Bath they operate from their new Gay Street premises. Focus Bath needs to raise £80k a year for their service to operate. Lucia asked members to let their residents know about Focus Bath and their service and also any help with donations and/or fundraising is greatly received. www.focusbath.com or email Lucia@focusbath.com

IAG meeting update

Sabrina Earnshaw attended the quarterly IAG meeting last week. She said there is currently no new information regarding the recent serious sexual assault in Charlcombe Lane. With regards to violent crime, she said that hammer attacks are on the increase

in the City centre (night-time economy). Nick Tobin mentioned a serious drug dealing problem Hedgemoor Park and asked Sabrina to raise issue at next meeting. Chair reminded meeting that residents need to file report re all crime/drug dealing etc online on this link: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/crime-or-incident/#/>

Sabrina said that at every IAG meeting drug dealing comes up as it is a big issue in Bath. Corinne Evans, University of Bath said that students receive regular SMS safety updates from the Uni but messaging needs to be a balanced approach so not to overwhelm students and cause anxiety.

Planning Group report

Chair thanked planning group for all work in recent months on pulling papers together. Jan Wrigley spoke to the report and mentioned that the Local Plan has been stepped back because of the recent change in Govt policies. Main change is increase in number of housing supply obligation notably in Somer valley, Keynsham area and edge of Bristol key areas. Widcombe experience has shown there is a need for a policy on Co-living developments as it is clear that this is not addressing affordable housing issue in Bath. She mentioned the Rugby stadium development and the FOBRA consultation response. Ceris Humphreys said PERA comments are now on the planning portal and recommend looking at noise consultant report PERA commissioned in particular. Nick Tobin asked when decision is likely to be made on rugby planning application and Jan replied that no date is known at this stage. Chris Jones said the revised planning application of Dec 2024 is now twice as long as the previous application and has a new noise consultant. He said there is a lot of new info in revised application to work through. Richard Wales mentioned the link to events noise policy FoBRA secretary sent out is not working. Chair is aware and has raised with Council.

Transport Group report

Ceris Humphreys summary of report. Since writing the report, the major news is the recent Government study recommendation to make the designated main route from M4 to the Dorset coast use the A350 and not through Bath over Cleveland Bridge. Very good news for Bath. Wiltshire will get road upgrades on new designated route. Patrick Rotherham asked if there a timescale for this change. Ceris replied that this is unknown yet with new secretary of state Heidi Alexander coming in.

World Heritage Advisory Board update

Jeremy Boss – no meetings since last meeting. Jeremy to write and ask for when new plan will be confirmed. 25th April is date for next WHAB meeting.

Noise management policy update

Chair will chase Council to fix link to new policy.

AGM reminder

FoBRA AGM is 12 June 2025

A.O.B

Patrick Rotheram mentioned his concerned about the impact of speeding and HGV on historic buildings in the city and on the Paragon in particular. It was suggested that 20mph across entire city would help address this issue affecting important historic building fabric. Under road historic vaults also an issue with vibration and heavy traffic as well as poor road surface an issue and no enforcement of speeding and weight limit. Suzanne Chase said that Sion Hill strongly support this issue. Transport group will write to Paul Roper and Manda Rigby regarding this city wide issue. Chair proposed looking at examples in other WHS and how they protect their assets from this sort of damage. Jeremy Boss to take the issue forward with Transport Group to the next WHAB meeting.

Jeremy Labram mentioned a video of virtual tour around vaults of Bath.

Hakam Aysan asked if any other RA have a share of estate managed by a managing agent. Chair will contact Hakam with contacts she is aware of in local and neighbouring community.

Meeting ended.