

Federation of Bath Residents' Associations

DRAFT MINUTES

Ordinary Committee Meeting starting at 6.30pm

Thursday 13th June 2024, Widcombe Junior School

Attendees:

Rachael Hushon, FoBRA Chair (LCA); Jeremy Boss, FoBRA Vice Chair; Sylvia Sinclair, FoBRA Secretary (SJS Bath Limited); Ceris Humphreys (PERA); Elizabeth Curnow, FoBRA Treasurer (CCRA); Stephanie Higgins (LCA); Kamla Gardner (incoming Accounts Examiner); Peter Cook (Wellsway Bath); Laurence James (Wellsway Bath); Nick Tobin (AB&CPRA); Benjamin Orford (University of Bath SU); Hanna Hajzer (University of Bath SU); Laura Bold (Bath Spa SU); Matt Waldron (Bath Spa University); Rob Richardson (Avondale & Osborne Road); Malcolm Baldwin (CARA); Sabrina Earnshaw (CARA); Neil Dickinson (LCA); Mary Young (Widcombe); Jeremy Labram (Camden); Julie Ingerfield (Bloomfield); Graham Feltham (Lower Oldfield Park); Theresa Franklin (CCRA); Alasdair Barron (Bathwick Estate); Chris Meehan (Bathwick Estate); Mary Stacey (Sydney Buildings); John Rushton, outgoing Accounts Examiner (SH&SHR); J Trenchard (Bear Flat); David Morgan (Bear Flat); David Monson (UOPRA); Ian Tarr (TARA); Tony Miles (UOPRA); Joanne Johnson (SH&SHR); Caronline Greenwood (PERA); Margarida Dolan (Greenway!).

Welcome

Welcome from Chair. Reminder that we are a non political organisation and asked that if we get on to a subject of a political or party political nature, that anyone involved with a candidate running needs to recuse themselves.

Apologies:

Julia Perryman (MLMBRA); Corinne Evans (Bath Uni); Sally Parkes (SH&SHR RA); Michael Wrigley (WA); Morny Davison (Catharine Place); Richard Wales (Bathwick Hill); Claire Jackson (Bathwick Hill); Jan Shepley (WA); Mark O'Sullivan (Greenway Lane); Mark Thurstain (BERA); Liz Eyles (Bath Spa Uni); Patrick Rotherham (Vineyards).

Minutes to be approved from committee meeting March 7th:

Approved by: Nick Tobin

Seconded by: Theresa Franklin

Approved by show of hands

Introduction of Observers

Chair welcomed Peter Cool and Laurence James from Wellsway Bath Residents' Association who are looking to join FoBRA . Lawrence, Chair of Wellsway Bath spoke about how and why they have set up their new RA. Its area is defined Red Lion pub and mini Tesco's on Wellsway and has approx. 110 households. This area has not been represented in the past but is surrounded by many well established RAs. During WECA consultation they decided to form an RA. Constitution has been adopted. Chair of FoBRA mentioned that she put them in contact with local associations nearby to help form and thanked Entry Hill and Bloomfield for constructive help. Chair asked for a show of hands to approve Wellsway Bath RA joining FoBRA – Carried.

Local Plan update

Chair updated meeting in Jan Shepley's absence. Update document has been previously circulated. She mentioned that the working group was joined by Michael Wrigley who worked on this with Jan pulling the document together. A meeting with BANES planning policy officer is in the diary for 18th June to discuss procedural issues raised by FoBRA. The summary of this meeting will be shared with members following the meeting.

Milsom Quarter Consultation update

Document has been previously circulated. Chair mentioned that this consultation is at an early stage. Main concerns are around changes to arterial road network.

World Heritage Advisory Board update

Caroline Greenwood updated. The WHA Board has had a recent workshop for the development of a new WH plan. Prof Marion Harney has been appointed the new Chair replacing Barry Gilbertson who has moved away from the area. In addition, a new WHS site manager, Adrian Neilson, has been appointed. Tony Crouch, the previous WHS site manager is now the new Great Spa Towns of Europe site manager. With Bath's new double UNESCO citation, a combined management plan is now being developed. Chair asked if WH advisory board is a statutory consultatee on planning applications and local plan? Answer broadly is no but it is made up of members who are.

Noise management policy

Chair mentioned that at last FoBRA meeting we spoke about the Council's changed noise management plan and said it would be discussed at meeting with Cllr Rigby and Cllr Guy. Ian Tarr, Malcolm Baldwin, Ceris Humphreys and Rachael Hushon have now met with Cllr Rigby and Cllr Guy. Ian Tarr updated the group that the BID have raised issues re buskers and amplification as some traders not happy with high volumes. Chair explained that the council previously had a well defined policy which provided clear protections for residents re decibel levels. This Policy appears to have been adapted with objective criteria removed. Rob Richardson said this came to their attention with a venue in their area playing amplified music and was told there was no policy. Chair said this issue will be raised again at next meeting with Cllr Rigby and Cllr Guy. Ceris Humphreys suggested it may be worth explaining

the good practice and guidelines nationally and the number of events. More events should mean noise levels should be lower. Lawrence James asked if this supercedes national policy. Jeremy Ladbrum mentioned changes to signage required to RA street parties and high costs associated as BANES now requiring their own highways officers to put up signage (approx. £850 to put 2 yellow signs). Chair will raise this at next meeting with Council.

IAG Update

Malcolm Baldwin updated meeting on the Independent Advisory Group which is a group interfacing the public and community groups with Avon and Somerset Police. Meets 3 + times a year. Extensive number of members but there is an opportunity to encourage younger residents to attend .

Malcolm mentioned Project Servator exercise which is a policing tactic which involves large numbers of police visible in an area designed to disrupt criminal activity. Police reported they have picked up suspicious characters in these recent exercises. Also drug undercover surveillance has resulted in several arrests.

Malcolm suggested the IAG would welcome a younger demographic profile to attend meetings. Sabrina Earnshaw from CARA is getting involved and Chair will contact Ghika Savva (Student Community Partnership) for student representation.

Chris Meehan – asked about new police crime commissioner and relationship with this group. Response: Crime commissioner sets budget and mission statement at macro level but not always involved at this level.

Chair also mentioned that Theresa Franklin who attends neighbourhood watch meetings at St Stephen's Church for Bath Lansdown area will join Sabrina as a FoBRA representative at IAG meetings. Laurence James asked if there is a neighbourhood watch meeting south of the river. Chair recommended looking online on how to set up neighbourhood watch. Mary Young said Sydney Buildings has just set up neighbourhood watch and was told to go to St Stephens meeting. Malcolm Baldwin and Chair said recommendation is to form neighbourhood watch groups in your area and always report crime online to ensure statistics are accurate.

Ceris asked about PACT (Police and Community Together) meetings and are they still happening? Ian Tarr said no. Chair to check what this has been replaced with and provision for residents in the city centre. Ian Tarr said TARA liase with BID but there is no independent committee as far as he is aware.

Planning Report

Circulated previously. No updates.

Rob Richardson asked about consultation regarding moving the recycling centre to Locksbrook site and raised his RAs concerns regarding flow of traffic and parking and also Bath Spa site. Chair responded that we will send out consultation link to members.

Transport Report

Circulated previously. No updates.

A.O.B

1. Chair raised that Patrick Rotherham has raised a query regarding vehicle speeds as well as weight and width restriction which is in place but not being enforced impacting on the city. Patrick would like more enforcement and wants this raised with council.
2. A resident in Lansdown contacted the Chair – The Resident's occupational therapist said a fire safety officer can visit to see if any issues in their property and conduct a risk assessment. Carbon monoxide alarms are provided for free in certain circumstances. Chair felt that RAs should inform their members of this assessment service being offered.
3. Chair attended Civic Agreement reception with Council, Bath spa Uni, Uni of Bath and RUH. This group has joined in a civic agreement to work together in a more joined up way where services overlap.
4. Jeremy Labram raised that Camden has a company for insurance for entertainment and events. Specialty company and premiums reasonable compared to larger insurers. Jeremy will share details to FoBRA secretary.
5. Mary Stacey mentioned issue of flooding at the Cleveland Pools. Sadly closed 2 x over winter. This year flooding has become problematic. Independent investigators appointed to review.
6. Laura Bold, Bath Spa SU mentioned that on Sat 15th – Sat 22nd June the Art and design students undergrad degree show is open to the public. Laura will send flyer to FoBRA secretary for distribution.

Meeting ended 7.30pm

