

MINUTES of the FoBRA Committee on Tuesday 14th November 2017 at 6.30pm in Widcombe Junior School

- 1 Chairman** Robin Kerr, welcomed 27 members' representatives and observers (details at end). He pointed out the new banner which had been made for the Bath City Conference.....
- 2 Minutes** of the meeting on 19th September 2017, already circulated, were approved.
- 3 Tony Crombie's death** – Robin Kerr said how Tony Crombie had been a dedicated Bath conservationist who, amongst other things, had saved Green Park Station, been Chair of Sion Hill Place RA, Chair of FoBRA and had been involved with saving the Rec. Robin had attended his funeral.
- 4 Transport:** Patrick Rotheram noted FoBRA had responded to three consultations, on parking, air quality and coaches, and he was grateful to members who had commented. The coach parking strategy was deeply flawed as it envisaged coaches continuing to come into the very centre of the city, and we would be pursuing this with the Council Leader and Cabinet member for transport, Mark Shelford. The parking strategy called for priority for residents for on-street parking, which was not currently the case in the city centre. The Council had been mandated by the Government to bring air quality within the legal limit as soon as possible, and in order to achieve this traffic would need to be reduced. The draft Air Quality Action Plan was generally good, although we had made some comments. We would be discussing this with Officers at a meeting on Friday. The Chairman had written to the Council Leader and to the Chronicle about the three consultations; copies of these letters and our responses to the consultations were on the FoBRA website. The Council had to get Air Quality reduced as a priority; they therefore had to do something about traffic. There are on going discussions and letters to the Chronicle and Council Leader.

Peter Hendy had resigned from the Bath Transport Commission, which was disappointing. It remained to be seen whether the Commission would continue, and if so in what form, since it had now lost its external expert members.

West of England had proposed feasibility studies on an alternative route for the A36-A46 through traffic which was very welcome as HGV through traffic causes heavy congestion on London Road and Bathwick Street, and also leads to traffic backing up into the city centre., Unfortunately the MP has come out against a 'link road'. However there was an alternative, an upgraded route between Bathford and Beckington, which could be considered.

Trams: There was a presentation last week about trams given by Dave Andrews to Patrick, Robin Kerr and Nick Tobin, they would have to be part of an overall comprehensive plan. A presentation to the Committee could be arranged.

Lord Strasburger, who is an influential Liberal Democrat, and Patrick have talked about transport matters generally. Lord Strasburger had proposed a meeting.

Nigel Websper asked whether, since the MP appears to be against a Link Road, whether she has any alternative? Apparently not, but she should not stop the link road being part of the feasibility study. **Charles Draper** said that he thought that the MP could be 'worked on', but she is against new roads in principle. **Rachael Hushon** said she thought it was the coaches and the London Road which were the main problem with the air quality, so, dealing with the London Road would improve the air quality. **Richard Colston** felt that the cures were elsewhere; stop people driving through the city, have a freight distribution centre and reduce the coaches. Unfortunately, money is short. **Margarida Dolan** did not like the

thought that the traffic was being pushed into the suburbs ie Beechen Cliff and Alexandra Park, which are now used for parking.

Bath needs a Transport Plan with a proper team. **Liz Hallam** pointed out how old some of the buses are and the pollution which is caused by them.

Client Earth won a fight with the Government over clean air zones. Patrick had written to the council about ANPR cameras which had been set up to gather data on traffic movements, noting that there were very few in the centre, which was the likeliest place for a Clean Air Zone. It is important to know where cars are going, ie through or into the city. Moreover, there are Privacy issues with the monitoring of where cars are going, even though the ANPR cameras are recording everything

5 FoBRA meeting with Wera Hobhouse MP on 27th October 2017.

The Chairman has referred to the meeting in his Report (circulated). They discussed Party Houses. She wants to sponsor a Parliamentary debate so FoBRA has supplied information. Lord Strasburger who supports the MP actually owns a Party House in Sydney Place.

Foxhill - It appeared that the MP was riding roughshod, and had not allowed Ward Councillors at a meeting with residents.

The MP does not appear to agree with the Bath Transport Strategy, is sceptical about the A36/A46 link road and does not want it included in the feasibility study.

Charles Draper again said that one had to be 'robust' with Wera. She was used to being a Local Authority Cabinet member.

Wera has been invited to speak to FoBRA and her Assistant has suggested the date of 13th February, this was agreed as a good date.

NB This date has subsequently been changed by the MP's office. The new agreed date is Monday 12th February at 6.30 in the Widcombe Junior School Hall

6 Refuse: Rachael Hushon pointed out that the new scheme was a one size fits all. She produced amazing photographs of rubbish which had not been collected outside various houses of multiple occupation in Grosvenor, Stanhope Street, Wells Road etc. The whole purpose was to save money, which inevitably it will, but whether a world heritage site should be left in such a dreadful state is another matter. Brighton has a daily collection in some areas; their priority is to keep the City clean. Apparently, rubbish had not been collected from Green Park and Cavendish Place this week: and had been reported to Council Connect who had been unhelpful. In one area, a local woman is picking up the rubbish and taking it to the tip in her car. People with problems should talk to their Ward Councillors. There was considerable discussion about various ideas, large bins at the side of the road, buried bins as in Florence etc. **Graham Feltham** pointed out that the scheme had only been working for one week.

7 Destination Management Plan: Nick explained that FoBRA, now a member of the DMP Steering Group, is committed to include residents' views and had commented in detail, raising doubts about the need for and advisability of reckless expansion of tourist numbers; the next meeting being in January 2018.. Visit Bath are moving office and are thus lacking concentration on the problems. No one else on the Steering Group has commented, so

they are either not interested or think it is perfect!. The Management plan is not on the BANES web site so the Secretary will circulate it to Members.

8 Bath City Conference (BCC) and Bath City Forum.(BCF) The Budget presentation for the BCF is open to all on 27th November. On the agenda for discussion is the Flood hazard up stream from the Churchill Bridge,as well as award of Community Infrastructure Levy money. Taking a stand at The Bath City Conference on 13th October had probably been a good thing. The debates during the afternoon went well, as had been the evening Panel Discussion with Ben Palmer, Sue Porto, Tarquin MacDonald and Tim Warren Robin had asked about compensation for Student council tax exemption. **Nigel Websper** said that BANES is losing £20 million in exempt council tax. The Government has said that councils will be compensated, but the legislation is not in place and will not be ready by 2020.(when councils' Block Grant ends). **Nigel Websper** asked whether Universities pay Council tax or whether they are exempt because of charitable status.

9 FoBRA Representatives Leads and sub Committee. Some of the names were not correct: a fresh list will be sent soon after the meeting.

Thanks to **Jan Shepley** for joining the planning sub-committee– she is a planning expert. The web site has been spring cleaned. Please every one check the members page. Governance – thanks to **Barry Henderson** for the new constitution

10 Chairman's Report. The Chairman's Report had been circulated, Robin wanted to emphasise the need to tackle the Party House nuisance, with the anonymised 'nuisance logs' using which people should feel easier to complain. Any problems please email Patrick or Nick. Many Party Houses have no fire regulations and their owners live away and have no idea what is happening. Brighton and Hove have it right, there is a hot line and Party Houses are inspected and pay business rates (though B&H seem not to be concerned about the consequential loss of city centre housing). **Nigel Websper** suggested that every nuisance log should also be sent to the fire service, Council Connect and the MP. **Rachael Hushon** said that when planning permission is given a section 106 condition could be inserted which would limit the use of the house. At the moment Party Houses are not under the same controls as guest houses or B&B.

11 Planning.

Foxhill RA. **Nola Edwards** reported that there had been a meeting between them and Curo, chaired by Wera Hobhouse who had excluded Ward Councillors, explaining that this was not for political reasons, but nevertheless not seen as helpful. With the refusal of DCLG to call in this approval of Outline Planning, all sides were considering the way forward.

Jan Shepley and Michael Wrigley offered their services which was well received, to try and get a consultation structure, with residents having a greater say. Victor da Cunha (CE CURO) has stepped back from the master plan. They will look at models elsewhere. There should be a proper partnership; there had been too many disparate groups. **Rachael Hushon** also offered her and her husband's help as he deals with this sort of development in London.

Knightstone have 13 houses in Foxhill and they have rejected Curo's request to exchange these with 13 social homes elsewhere in Bath, at the request of the tenants.

Cricket Club. The Cricket club has proposed that they build student accommodation on their car park in order to pay for indoor training facilities. Should FoBRA object? A resounding

approval was given to this, the plans should be objected to as they are considered the wrong place and unnecessary. Nick reported that he had attended a Property symposium about Bath Quay North and South which will offer office space and accommodation. **Patrick Rotheram** said that Bath Quay would not be a Georgian pastiche. The parking spaces will be 320 + 60 residents. There are 800 at the Avon Street. This reduction was in line with the Bath Transport Strategy. We must watch out for attempts to increase the parking as the project proceeds..

Richard Colston said that considering there were 350 coffee shops and restaurants in Bath were more really needed or were they just for the workers in the Quay area? Would they not compete with the centre of Bath. **Graham Feltham** said that BANES would issue outline planning then developer would be offered 125 year Freehold. Rachael Hushon added that there should be a design code that locks developers into building quality.

Christmas Market: The people of Bath are invited to a preview on 22nd November free or with discounts for discovery card holders. From 5 – 7 pm

Bath Rugby: 20th November there is to be a meeting with the latest expansion thoughts.

. **Winter Reception 6th February.** Notice has been sent out to all members. The Reception is a good time to meet Councillors and Bath leaders and opinion formers. To be held at the Victoria Art Gallery.

12 **The Treasurer** asked the meeting to vote that **Barry Henderson's** name should be removed and the Hon Secretary, **Kirstie Rowlandson's** name be added to the bank's signatories for the signing of cheques. This was agreed.

13 Functions and Forward Dates:

- a. **Next Committee** is on Tuesday 18th January 2017 at 6.30pm in Widcombe Junior School.
- b. **Scheduled Committee dates in 2018** are:
Tuesday 20 March and Monday 14th May (incorporating the AGM).
- c. **Briefing from Police Inspector on 'Prevent'** on 18th January during the meeting.
- d. **Wera Hobhouse** 12th February 2018 for a general meeting Widcombe Junior School.
(This is a change asked for by Wera Hobhouse's office) from the 13th February.

Attendance details and Apologies for absence on next page

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Present:

Robin	Kerr	Lansdown Crescent Association	FoBRA Chairman
Neil	Barnes	Lansdown Crescent Association	FoBRA Treasurer
Barry	Henderson	Riverside Community Voice	Rep
Nick	Tobin	Vice Chairman Ainslie's Belvedere & CPRA	Rep/Chairman
Charles	Draper	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	Chairman
Patrick	Rotheram	Vineyards RA	Chairman
Richard	Brown	Circus Area Residents Association	Traffic/Representative
Nola	Edwards	Foxhill Residents Association	Chair
Margarida	Dolan	Greenway	Chair
Diana	Lockwood	Hensley & Egerton Rd Residents Association	Representative
Rachael	Hushon	Lansdown Crescent Association	Representative
Michael	Wrigby	Widcombe	Representative
Jo	Simmonda	Bath Spa Student Union	
Liz	Hallam	Lower Oldfield Park Residents Association	Secretary
Caroline	Kilner	Pulteney Estate Residents Association	Representative
Paul	Sandford	Upper Oldfield Park Residents Association	Chairman
Richard	Colston	Green Park RA	Rep/Chair
Graham	Feltham	Lower Oldfield Park Residents Association	Chairman
Jan	Shepley	Widcombe Association	Representative
Colin	Clark	Bathwick Hill	Representative
Kirstie	Rowlandson	FoBRA and UOPRA	Secretary/Secretary
Julie	Trollop		Observer
Nola	Wright	Bathwick Estate	
Nigel	Websper	Pulteney Estate Residents' Association	Chairman
Nicola	Isherwood	Royal Crescent Society	Representative
John	Rushton	Sydney Buildings Householders Association	Representative
Janet	Anderson	Camden Residents Association	Secretary
Jeremy	Labram	Camden Resident Association	
	Observer		

Apologies

Ben	Palmer	Bath University Students Union	Community Officer
Barry	Gilbertson	Circus Area Residents' Association	Chairman

Morny Van Jeremy Alison Stephen Ryan Stephen Clyde	Davison DuBose Boss Paine Hurd Lucas Little Hunter	Catharine Place Residents' Association St. James's Square Limited	Secretary Representative
		Royal Crescent Society Bear Flat Association	Treasurer Represtativ